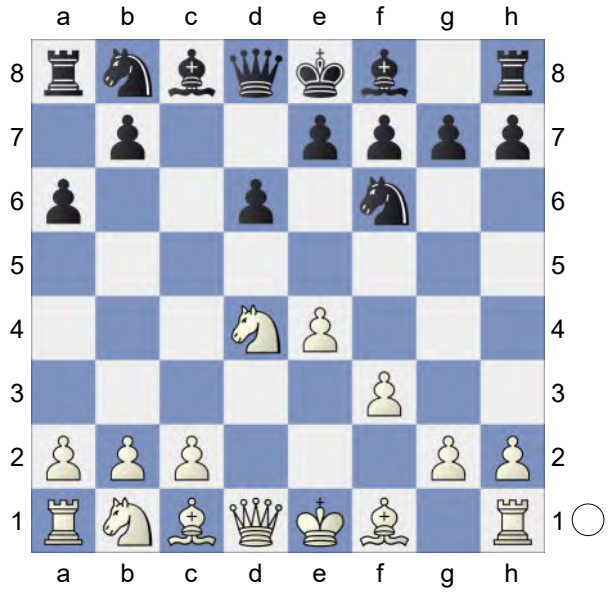
Chess Notes 2025

THE PRINS VARIATION ANTI - SICILIAN

1 **B54**
□ **Komododragon** **3522**
■ **Scorpionn** **3496**
TCEC 20 Premier 2020 (33.2) 06.01.2021
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6

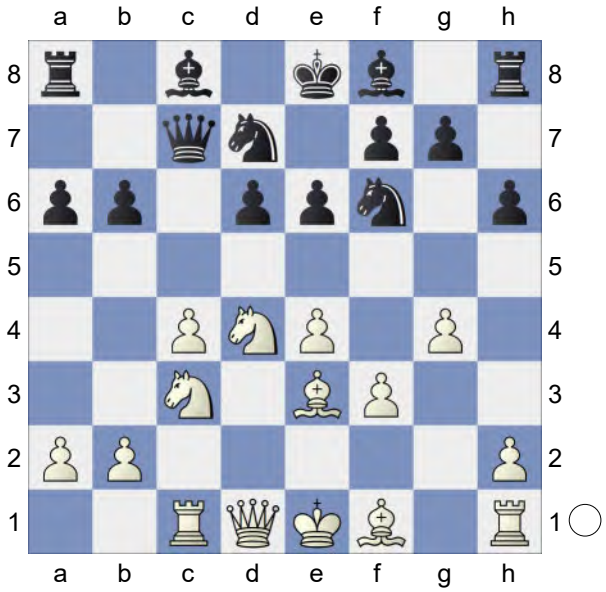


6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Qc7N

[7...Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Qc7 *(11...Nbd7 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson]*)* 12.Rac1 *(12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2 Bc6* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53) *)* 12...Nbd7 13.Rfd1 Rac8 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Nc2 Rfe8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bf4 Ne5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Qd6 Bc7 20.Qa3 Rcd8 21.b4 Bd6 22.Qb2 Chumichev,G (2416)-12.0-0 b6 13.Rad1 Bb7 (2599) Moscow 2012 CBM 017 [Ham/Harding] 0-1 (46)]

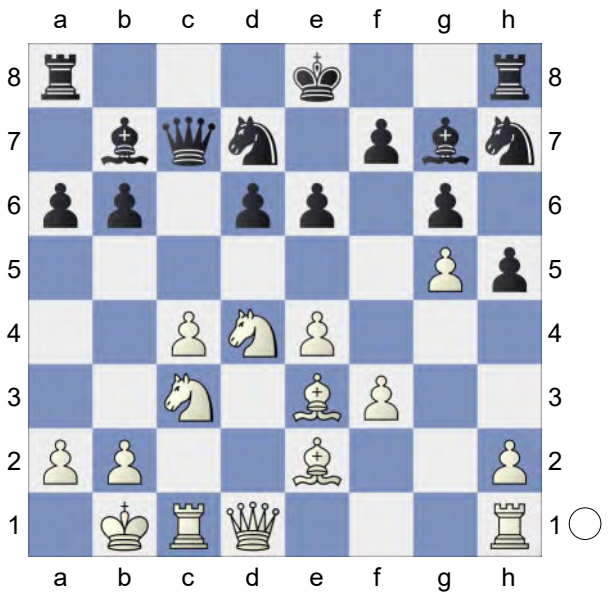
[7...b6 8.Be3 Bb7 9.Be2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Be7 11.a4 Ne5 12.a5 bxa5 13.Qa4+ Qd7 14.Qxa5 Nc6 15.Qa2 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 0-0 17.Rfd1 Qc7 18.Rac1 Nd7 19.b4 Rfc8 20.Na4 Qb8 21.Qa1 Bf8 22.Rb1 Chapter-Games Game 2 (42)]

8.Be3 Nbd7 9.Rc1 White is slightly better. **9...b6 10.g4 h6**

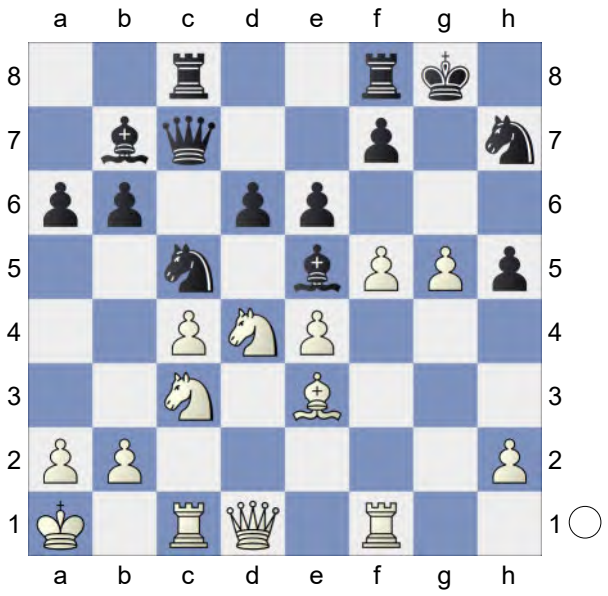


11.Kd2 g6 12.Kc2 Bg7 13.Be2 Bb7 14.Kb1 h5 15.g5 Nh7

(Diagram)

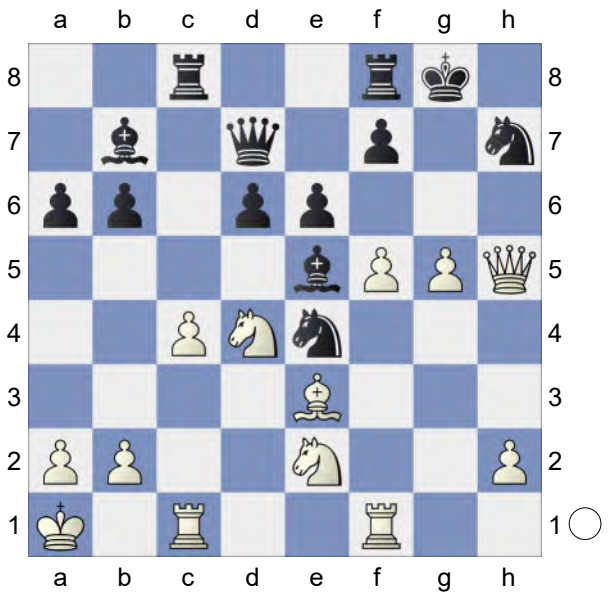


16.f4 &Bianco is more active. **16...Nc5 17.f5 Be5 18.Ka1 Rc8 19.Rf1 0-0 20.Bxh5** 0.01/21 **gxh5=**

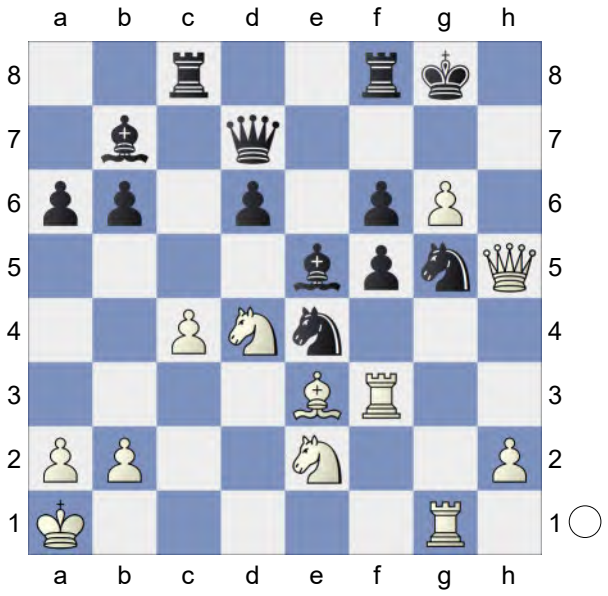


21.Qxh5 Threatens to win with f6.
21...Nxe4 22.Nce2 Qd7 0.83/22
[22...Nc5= 0.08/21 keeps the balance.]

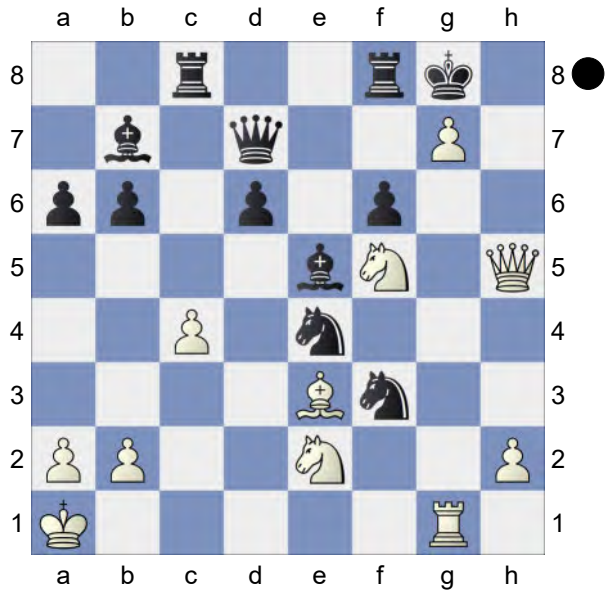
(Diagram)



23.Rf3!± exf5! 24.Rg1 0.33/21
[24.Rh3± 0.91/22 f6 25.g6]
24...f6? 3.16/21 This costs Black the game.
[24...Rxc4? 25.Rh3 Rfc8 26.Qxh7+ Kf8 27.g6+- *(27.Nxf5 Bxb2+ 28.Kb1 Qb5)*]
[24...Bxd4 25.Bxd4]
[24...Kh8± 0.33/21]
25.g6+- Nhg5



26.Nxf5 Nxf3 27.g7
[And not 27.Nh6+ Kg7 28.Nf5+ Kg8 29.Nh6+ Kg7 30.Nf5+ Kg8=]



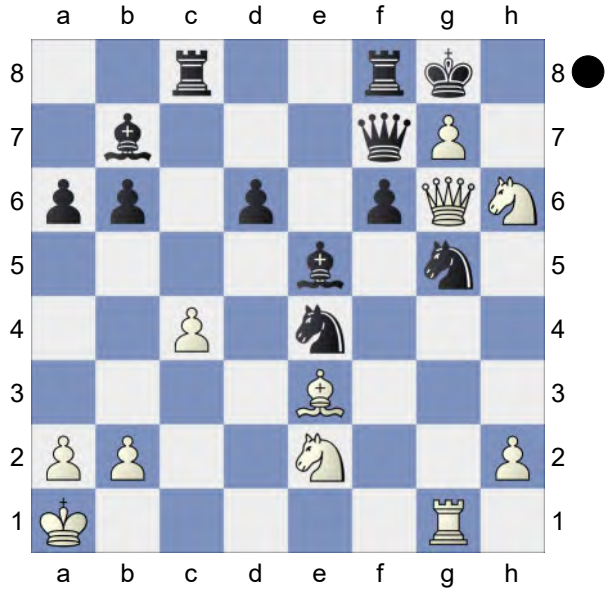
Threatening mate with Nh6+. Chess con chili. **27...Nfg5?** 6.89/23

[27...Neg5 3.81/23 28.Qg6 *(28.Qh8+? Kf7-+)* 28...Qxf5 29.gxf8Q+ Kxf8 30.Qxf5 Nxg1]

28.Qg6

[Weaker is 28.Qh8+ Kf7 29.gxf8B Rxf8∓]

28...Qf7 29.Nh6#



Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.68

1-0

2 **B54**

□ **AllieStein v0.8-120f959_net-1** **3509**

■ **Ethereal Tcec S20 Divp** **3482**

TCEC 20 Premier 2020 (40.1) 08.01.2021

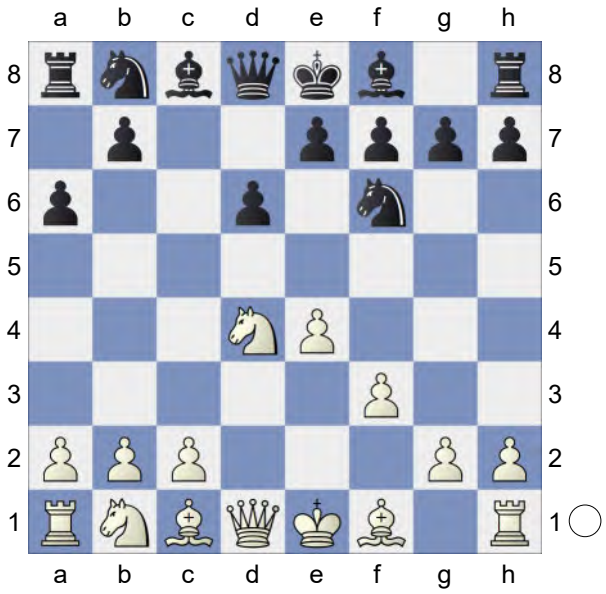
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

In this chapter we will examine 5...a6!?, a variation which is seen in practice from time to time, especially at club level. The reasons for choosing 5...a6 can be the desire to enter a Hedgehog position or simply to play the Najdorf move anyway. In my opinion, neither are dangerous for us, and we have good prospects of achieving an opening advantage.

We reach our initial position after the following moves:

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6



6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 Nbd7N

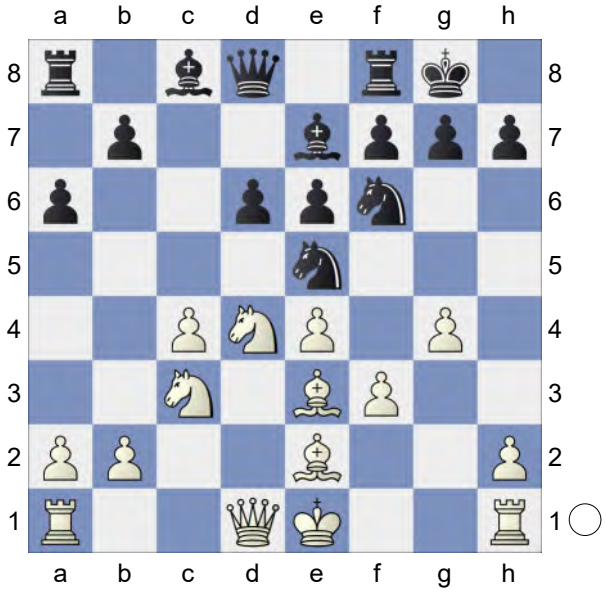
[8...0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Qc7 *(11...Nbd7 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8*

18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.Rad1 Qb6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] *)* 12.Rac1 *(12.Rfc1 Nbd7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4* 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] 1-0*)* 12...Nbd7 13.Rfd1 Rac8 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Nc2 Rfe8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bf4 Ne5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Qd6 Bc7 20.Qa3 Rcd8 21.b4 Bd6 22.Qb2 Nd7 23.Rd2 Chumichev,G (2416)-12.0-0 b6 13.Rad1 Bb7 (2599) Moscow 2012 CBM 017 [Ham/Harding] 0-1 (46)]

9.g4 0-0 10.Be2 White is slightly better.

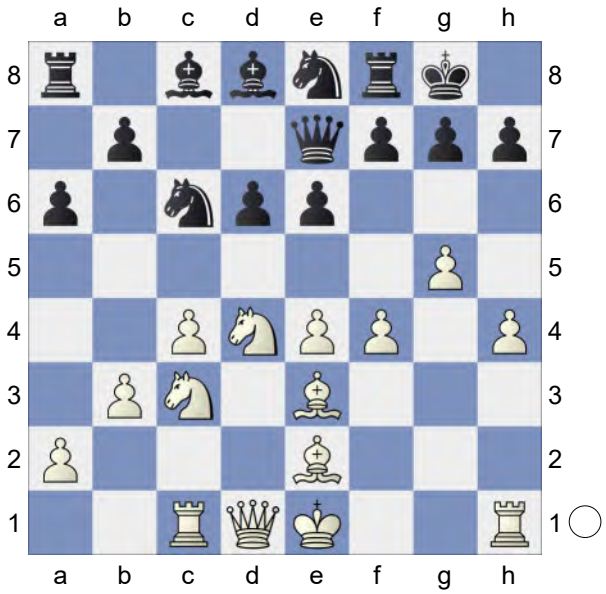
10...Ne5 0.57/19

[10...d5= 0.24/21]



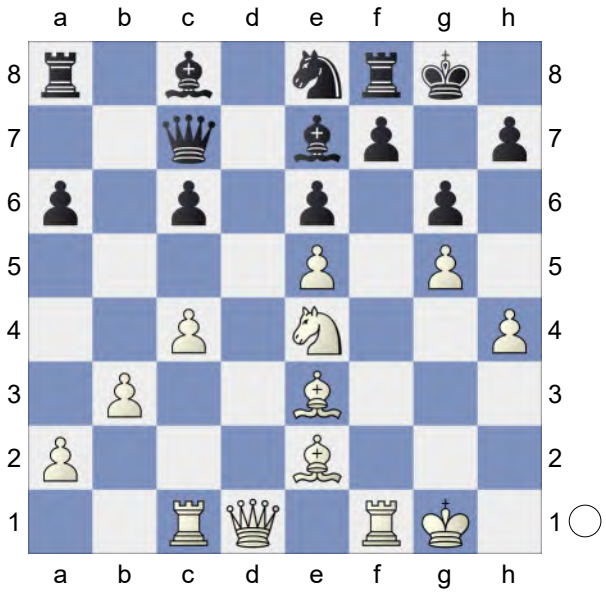
11.g5± Ne8 12.h4 Qc7 13.Rc1 Bd8 14.b3 Nc6 15.f4 Qe7

(Diagram)



16.0-0 g6 17.Nxc6 bxc6 18.e5 Qc7 19.Ne4 dxe5 20.fxe5 Be7 0.91/20

[20...Qxe5± 0.49/20 feels stronger. 21.Qd4 *(21.Qxd8 Qxe4 22.Qd4 Qxd4±)* 21...Qxd4 22.Bxd4 Ng7]



White now steadily converts the win.

21.Bf4± a5 22.h5 Kh8 1.42/18

[⌓22...Qa7+ 0.89/18 23.Kg2 Bb7]

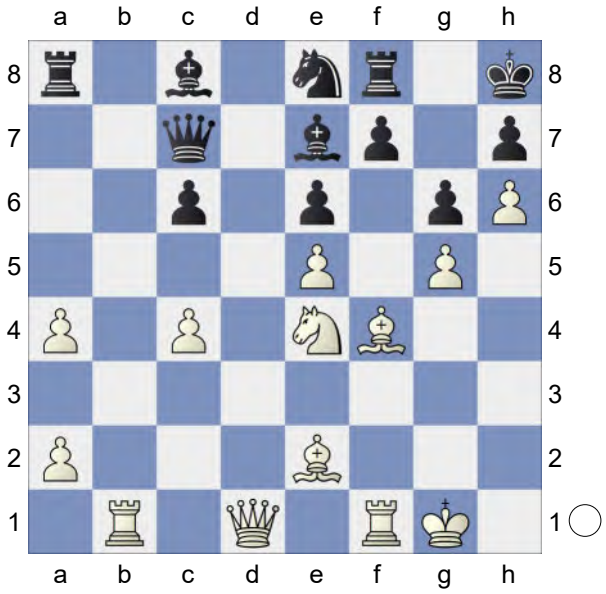
23.h6 a4 24.bxa4 Rb8 1.77/20

[24...Kg8± 1.31/20 25.Rf2 Qa7]

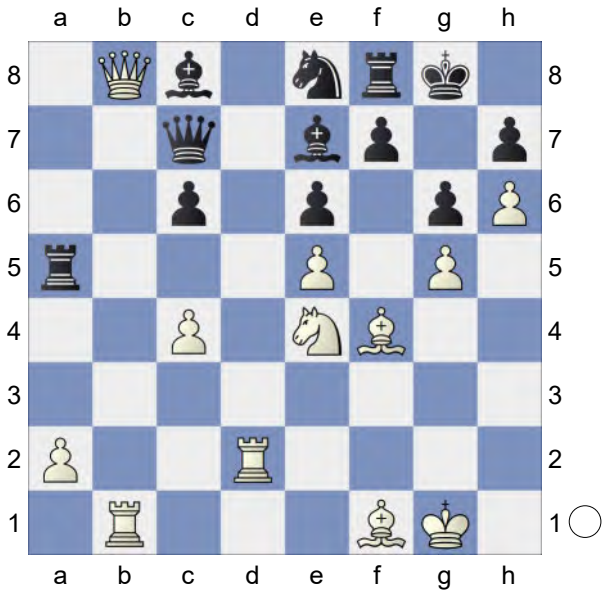
25.Rb1+- Ra8 2.11/21

[⌓25...Rxb1 1.71/22 26.Qxb1 Qa7+

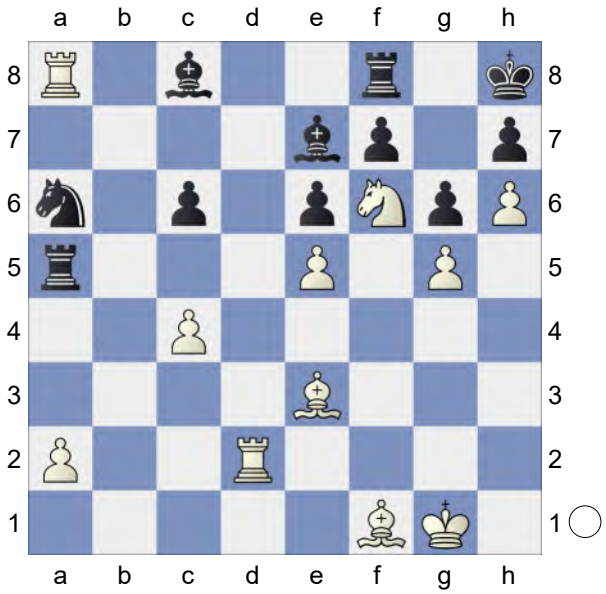
27.Rf2 Qxa4]



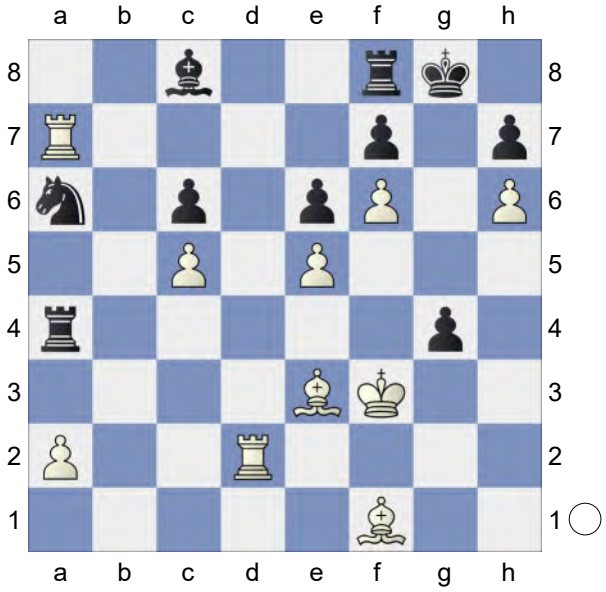
26.Rf2 Kg8 27.Bf1 Ra5 28.Qb3
[Resist 28.Nd6?! Qd8±]
28...Ra7 29.Qb8 Nf6+ is the strong threat. **29...Rxa4 30.Rd2 Ra5** 3.35/24
[30...c5 2.33/23 might work better. 31.Nd6 Rb4 32.Rxb4 cxb4 33.Qxb4 *(33.Qxc8 Qa7+ 34.Kh2 Nxd6∓)* 33...Bd7]



31.Qxc7 Nxc7 32.Rb8 Na6 33.Ra8 Ra4 34.Be3 Ra5 35.Nf6+ Kh8

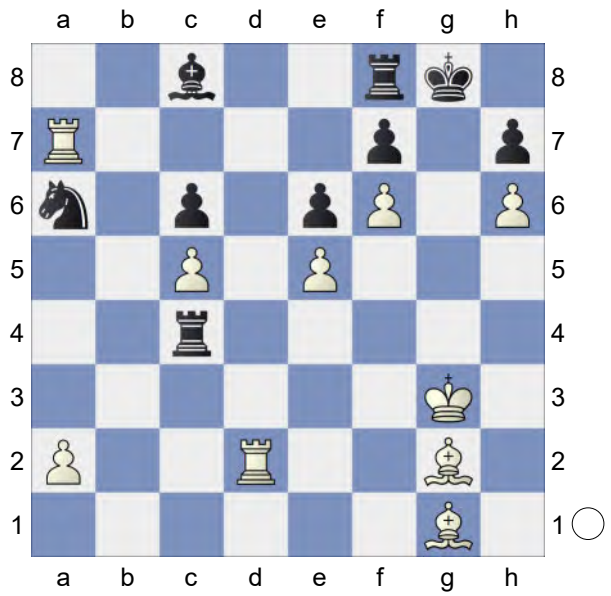


36.c5 Ra4 37.Ra7 Bxf6 38.gxf6 Hoping for Rxf7!
[Less strong is 38.exf6 Kg8 39.Be2 Re8+-]
38...Kg8 39.Kf2 g5 40.Kf3 g4+

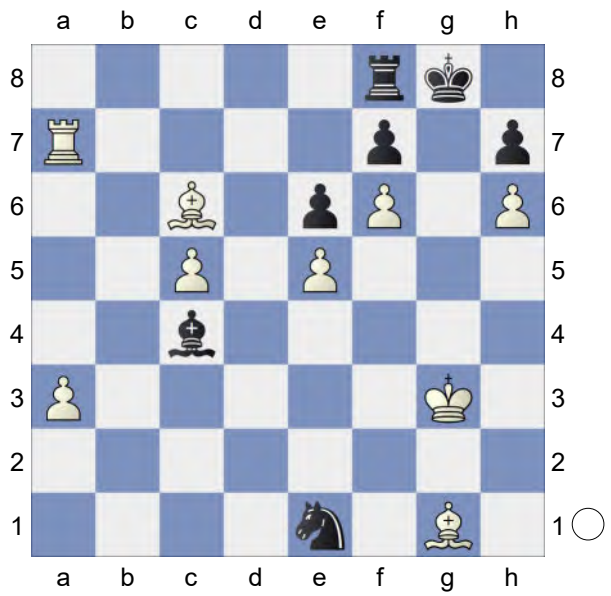


41.Kg2 Ra3 42.Bf2 Active counter play! **42...g3 43.Bg1 Ra4 44.Kxg3 Rb4 45.Bg2 Rc4**

(Diagram)

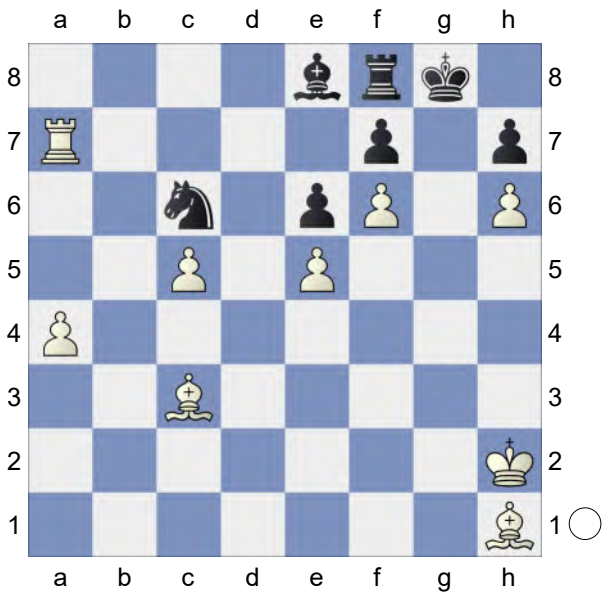


46.Bf3 Nb4 47.Rd4 Ba6 9.18/25
[⌓47...Rxd4 5.12/22 48.Bxd4 Kh8]
48.a3 Nc2 49.Rxc4 Bxc4 50.Bxc6 Ne1

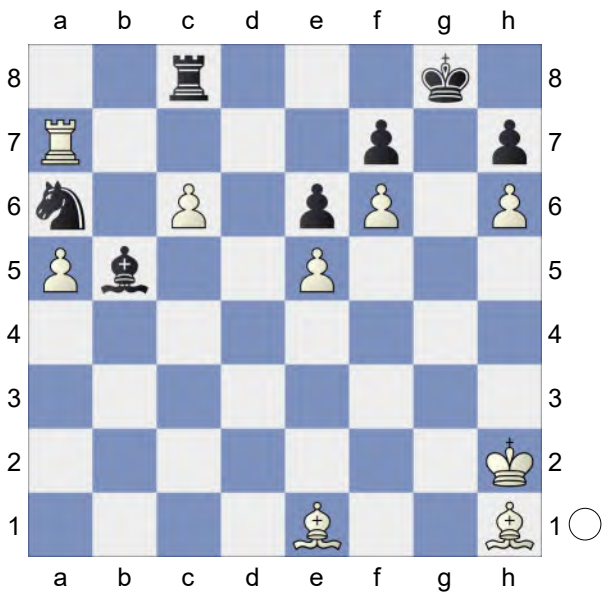


51.Bh1 Nd3 52.Bd4 Bb5 53.a4 Be8 54.Kh2 Nb4 55.Bc3 Nc6

(Diagram)

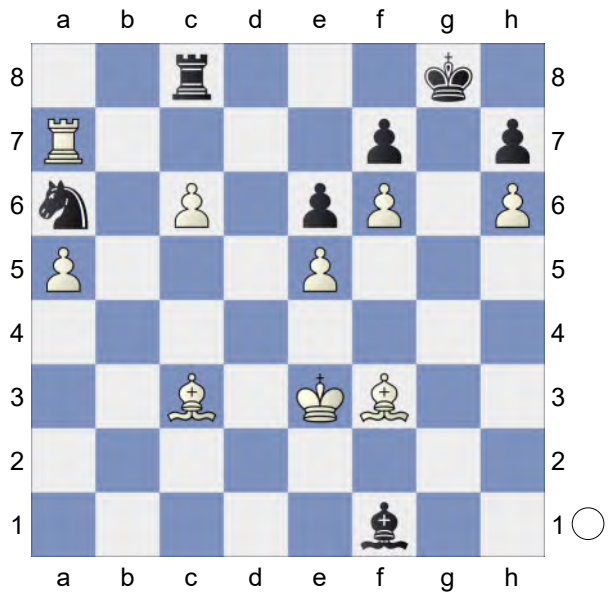


56.Rc7 Nb8 57.a5 8.99/26
[⌓57.c6 18.13/26 Kh8 58.Rc8]
57...Bb5 58.Be1 Na6 59.Ra7 Rd8 60.c6 Rc8

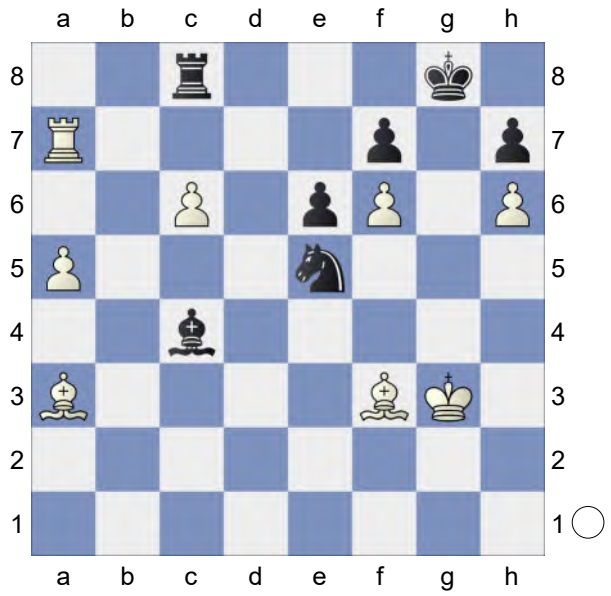


61.Kg1 Be2 62.Kf2 Bb5 63.Bf3 Nc5 64.Ke3 Na6 65.Bc3 Bf1

(Diagram)

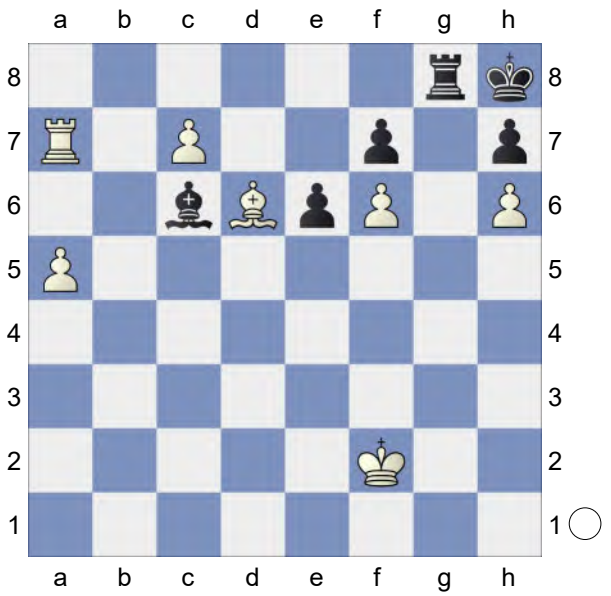


66.Kf2 Bd3 67.Bd4 Bc4 68.Bb2 Nb4 69.Ba3 Nd3+ 70.Kg3 Nxe5



71.c7 Bb7 would kill now. **71...Bb5 72.Bb7 Nc6 73.Bxc6 Bxc6** KRB-KRB **74.Bd6 Kh8 75.Kf2 Rg8**

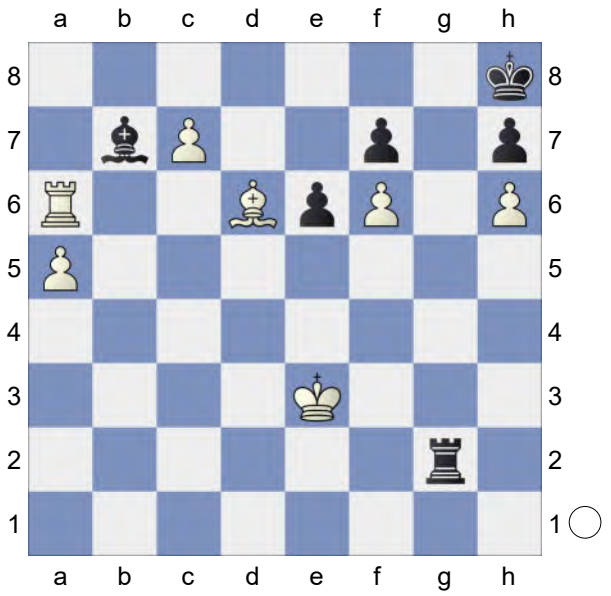
(Diagram)



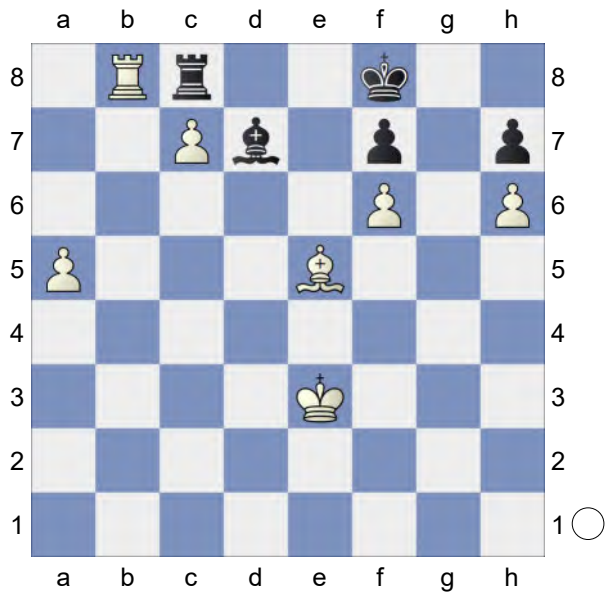
76.Ke3 15.45/20

[⌓76.Ra6 #10/22 Rg2+ 77.Ke3 Bb7 78.Ra8+!! Rg8 79.Bf8! Rg3+ 80.Kf4 Rf3+ 81.Kg4]

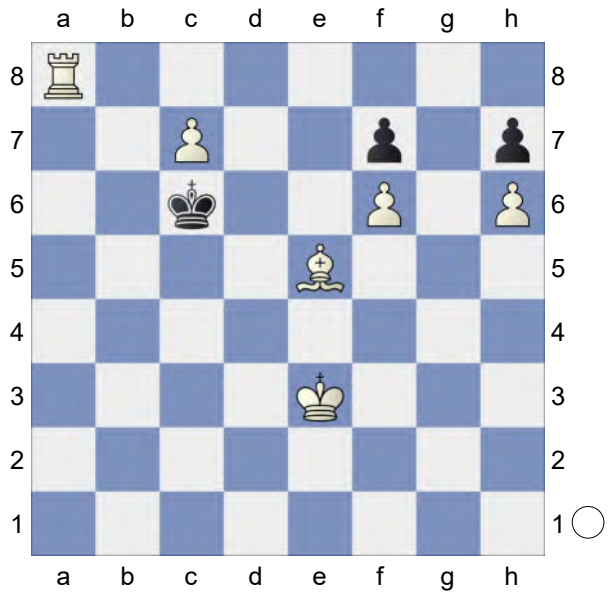
76...e5 77.Bxe5 Rc8 78.Ra6 Bd7 79.Rb6 Kg8 80.Rb8 Kf8



(Diagram)

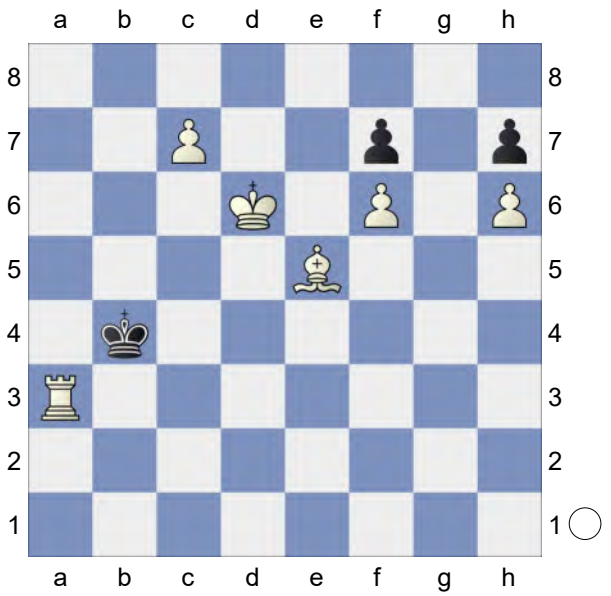


81.a6 Ke8 82.a7 Bc6 83.a8Q Bxa8 84.Rxc8+ Kd7 85.Rxa8 Kc6

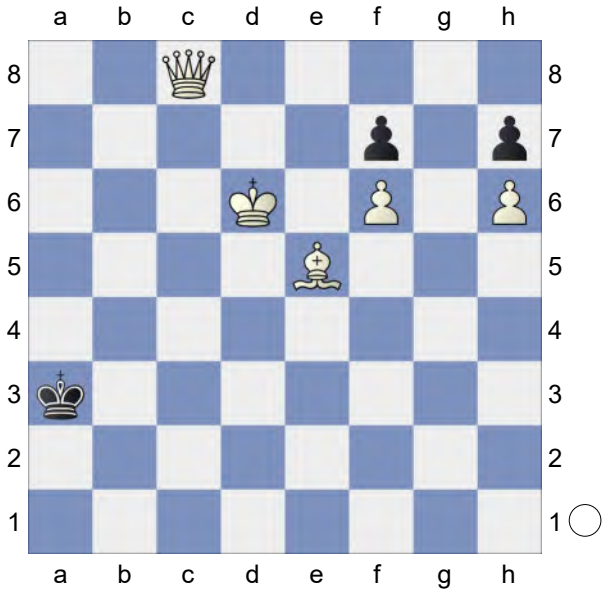


86.Ke4 Kb5 87.Kd5 Kb4 88.Kd6 Kc4 89.Ra3 Kb4

(Diagram)

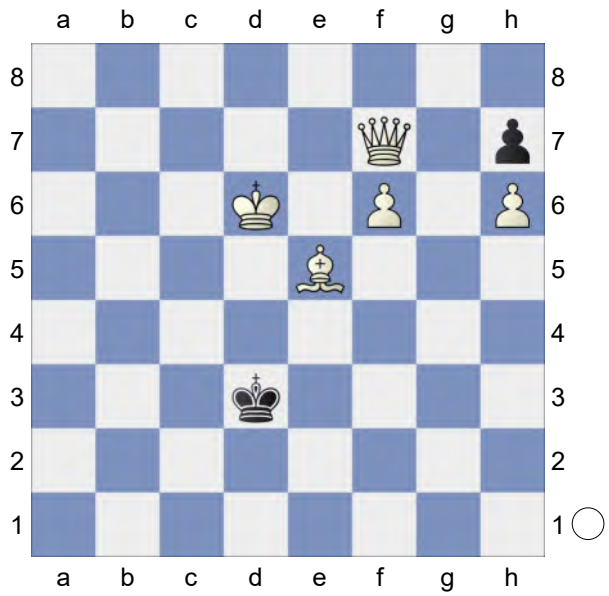


90.c8Q! 17.93/5 **Kxa3**

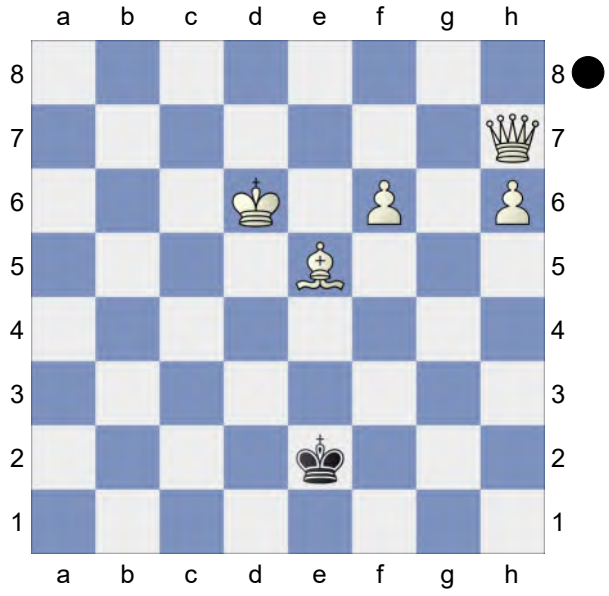


91.Qc7 White mates. **91...Kb3 92.Qd7 Kc2 93.Qe7 Kb3 94.Qe8 Kc2 95.Qxf7 Kd3**

(Diagram)



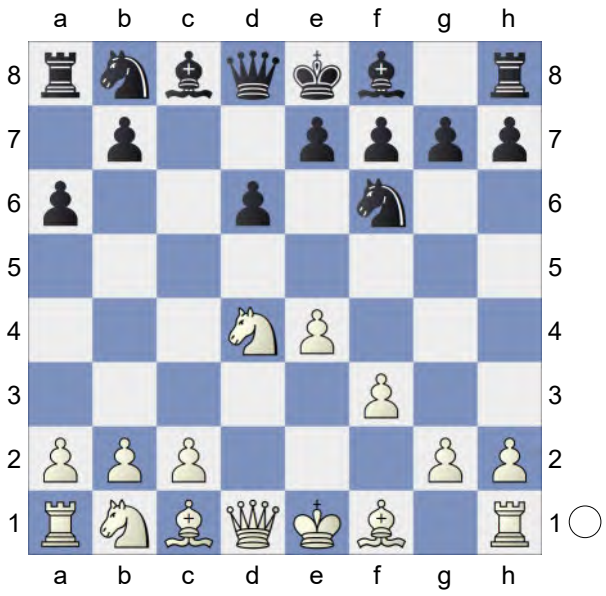
96.Qg8 Ke2 97.Qxh7



Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.24 (precise)
1-0

3 **B54**
□ **Scorpionn** **3496**
■ **Komododragon** **3522**
TCEC 20 Premier 2020 (40.2) 09.01.2021
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6

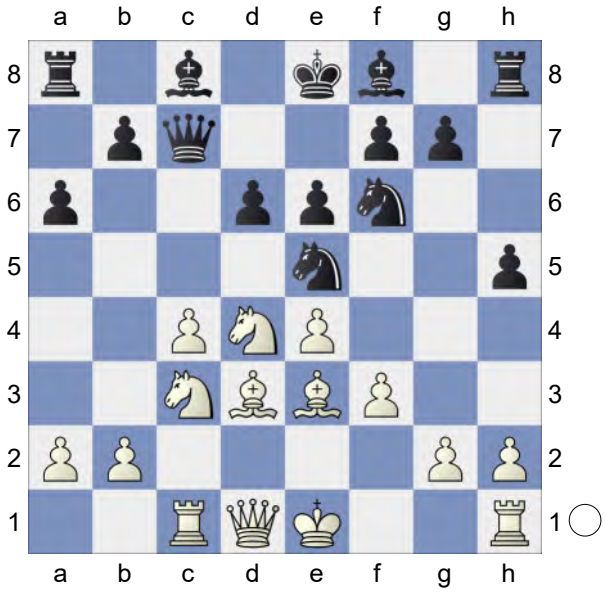


6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Qc7N
[7...Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Qc7 *(11...Nbd7 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 ½-½* (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson]*)* 12.Rac1 *(12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2 Bc6* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022

Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)) 12...Nbd7 13.Rfd1 Rac8 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Nc2 Rfe8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bf4 Ne5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Qd6 Bc7 20.Qa3 Rcd8 21.b4 Bd6 22.Qb2 Chumichev,G (2416)-12.0-0 b6 13.Rad1 Bb7 (2599) Moscow 2012 CBM 017 [Ham/Harding] 0-1 (46)]

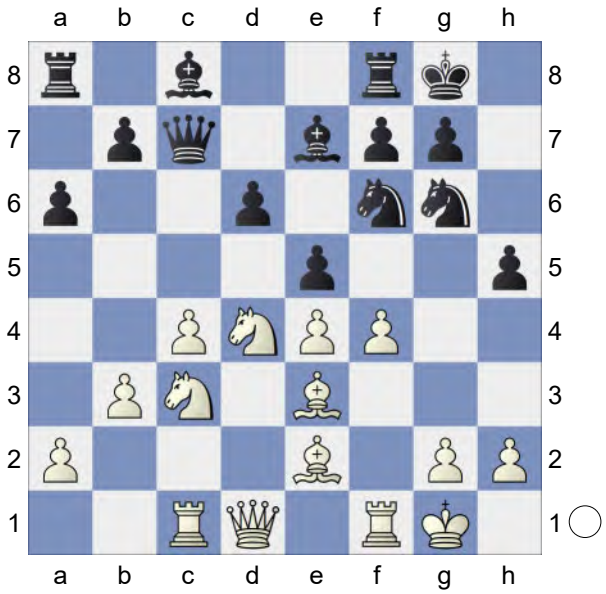
[7...b6 8.Be3 Bb7 9.Be2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Be7 11.a4 Ne5 12.a5 bxa5 13.Qa4+ Qd7 14.Qxa5 Nc6 15.Qa2 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 0-0 17.Rfd1 Qc7 18.Rac1 Nd7 19.b4 Rfc8 20.Na4 Qb8 21.Qa1 Bf8 22.Rb1 Chapter-Games Game 2 (42)]

8.Be3 Nbd7 9.Rc1 White is slightly better. **9...h5 10.Bd3 Ne5**



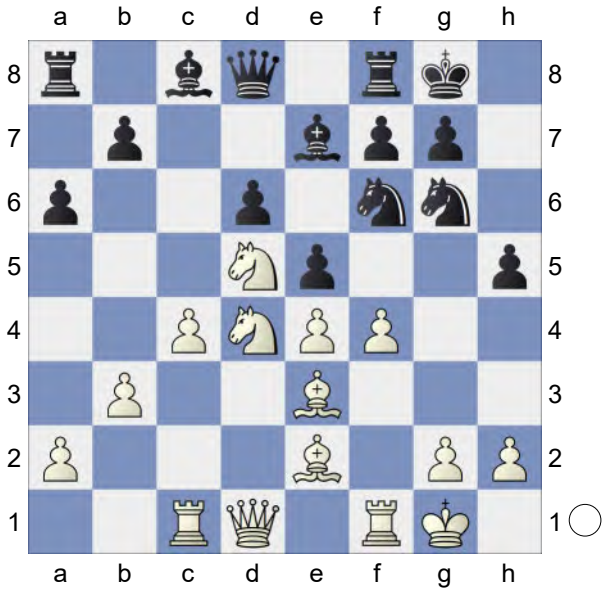
11.Be2 Be7 12.0-0 0-0 13.b3 Ng6 14.f4 e5

(Diagram)



15.Nd5! Qd8

[15...Nxd5 16.cxd5]

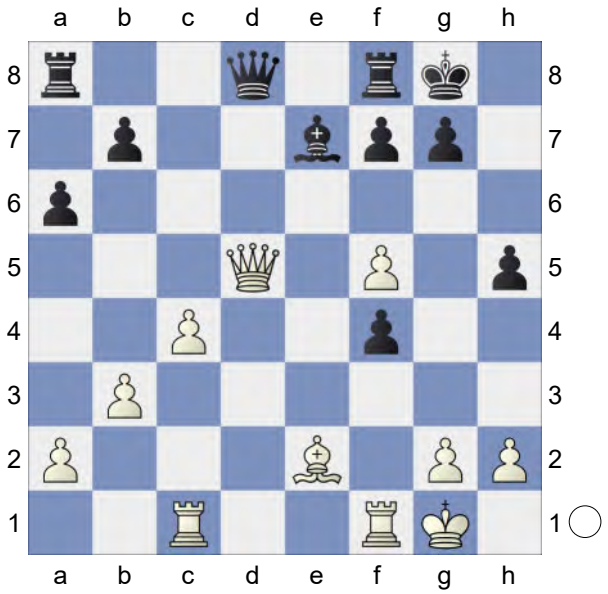


16.fxe5 dxe5 17.Nf5 0x0.00209a826646dp-1022s more active pieces. The black rooks are badly placed. **17...Nxd5 18.Qxd5**

[18.cxd5 looks sharper. Bg5 19.Kh1 Bxe3 20.Nxe3 Qg5 21.Nc4]

18...Bxf5 19.exf5 Nf4 20.Bxf4 exf4

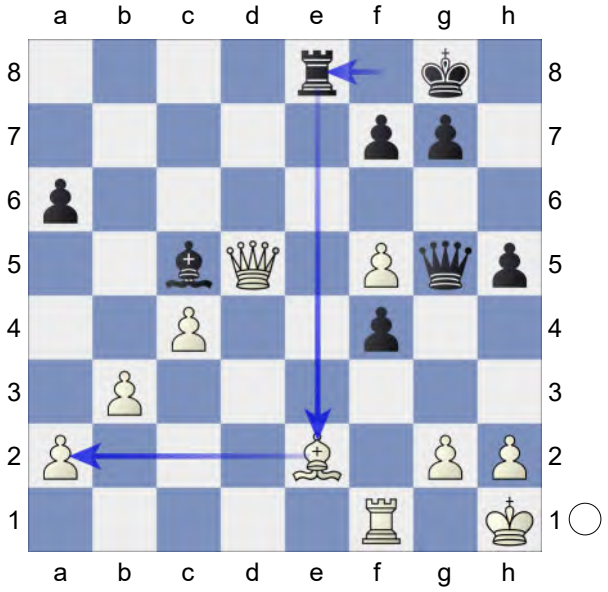
(Diagram)



21.Qxb7 Bc5+ 22.Kh1 Qg5 23.Rcd1 Rad8 24.Rd5 0.69/20

[Better is 24.Rxd8± 1.14/21 Qxd8 25.Bxh5 *(25.Qxa6 Re8=)*]

24...Rxd5± 25.Qxd5 Re8!

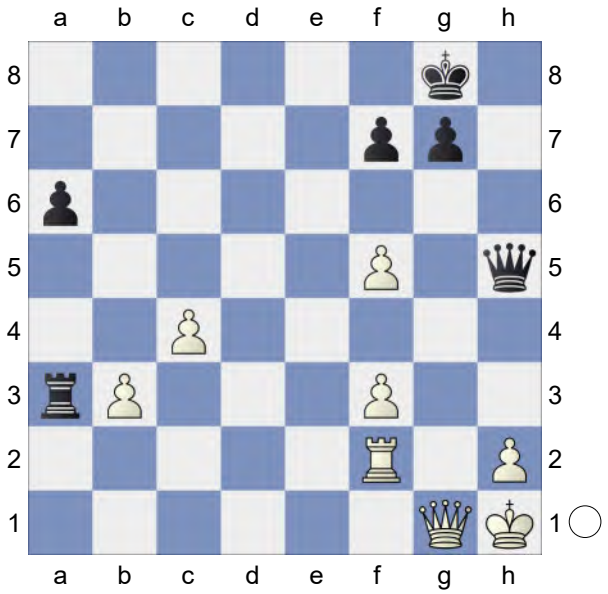


26.Bxh5 0.01/21 **Qxh5=** The position is equal. **27.Qxc5±** Endgame White wants to play h3. KQR-KQR **27...f3 28.gxf3 Re2** Against Qf2 **29.Qg1 Rxa2 30.Rf2**

[Don't take 30.f6 g6±]

30...Ra3

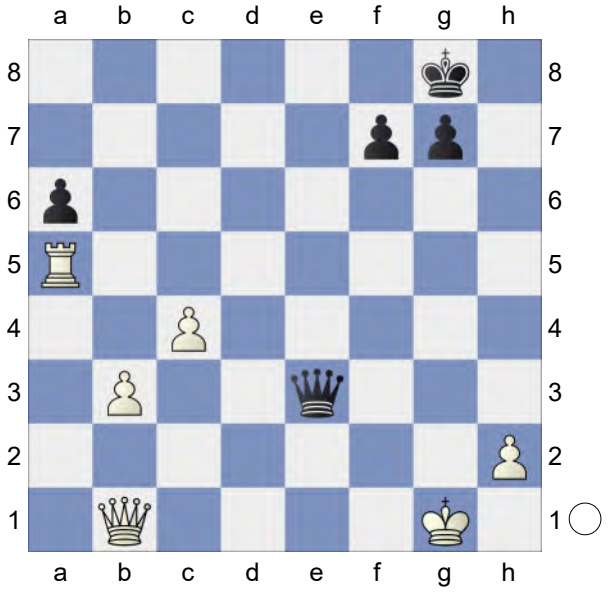
(Diagram)



31.Qb1 Ra5 32.f6 Qe5 33.Ra2 Inhibits Ra1.

[Don't blunder 33.fxg7? Ra1 34.Qxa1 Qxa1+ 35.Kg2 Qxg7+ 36.Kh3 Qc3 37.Rg2+ Kf8-+]

33...Qxf6 34.Rxa5 Qxf3+ 35.Kg1 Qe3+



36.Kg2 Qd2+

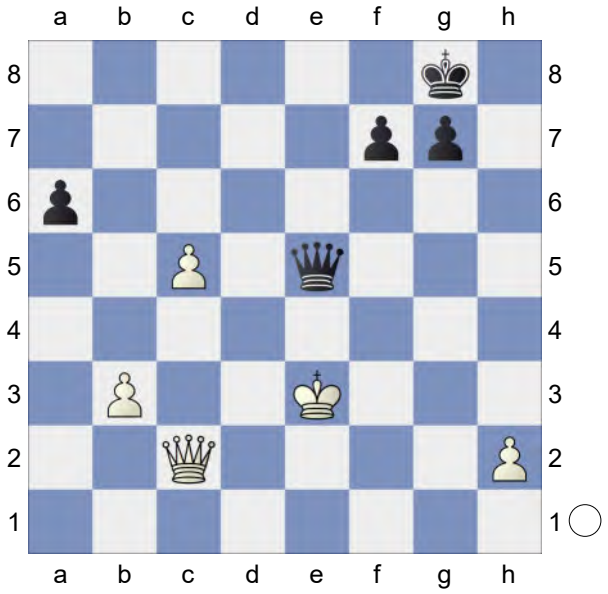
[36...Qe2+ is interesting. 37.Kg3 Qe3+ 38.Kg4 Qe2+]

37.Kf3 Qxa5= KQ-KQ **38.Qc2 Qa1 39.c5**

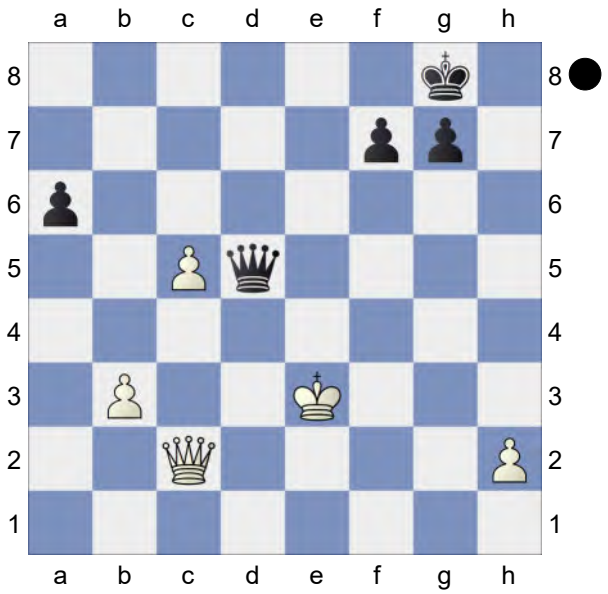
[39.Ke4 keeps more tension. Qf6

40.Kd5 Qb6 41.c5]

39...Qf6+ 40.Ke3 Qe5+



41.Kd3 Qf5+ 42.Kd2 Qg5+ 43.Kd3 Qd5+ 44.Ke3



Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

½-½

4 **B54**

□ **Ethereal Tcec S20 Divp** **3482**

■ **AllieStein v0.8-120f959_net-1** **3509**

TCEC 20 Premier 2020 (33.1) 06.01.2021

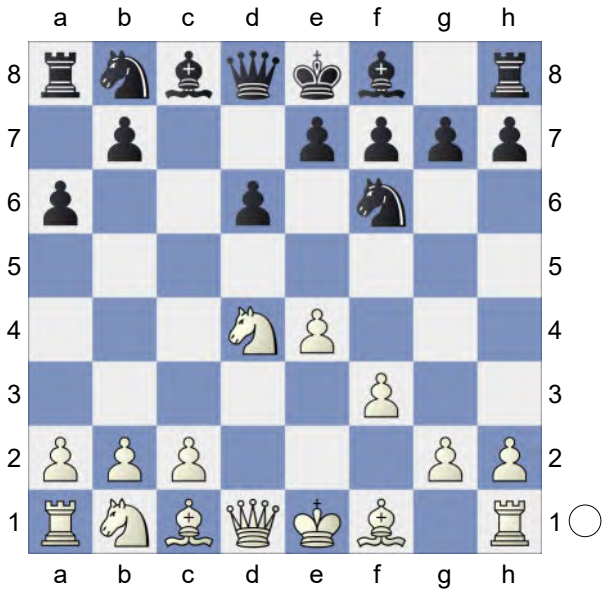
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

In this chapter we will examine 5...a6!?, a variation which is seen in practice from time to time, especially at club level. The reasons for choosing 5...a6 can be the desire to enter a Hedgehog position or simply to play the Najdorf move anyway. In my opinion, neither are dangerous for us, and we have good prospects of achieving an opening advantage.

We reach our initial position after the following moves:

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6

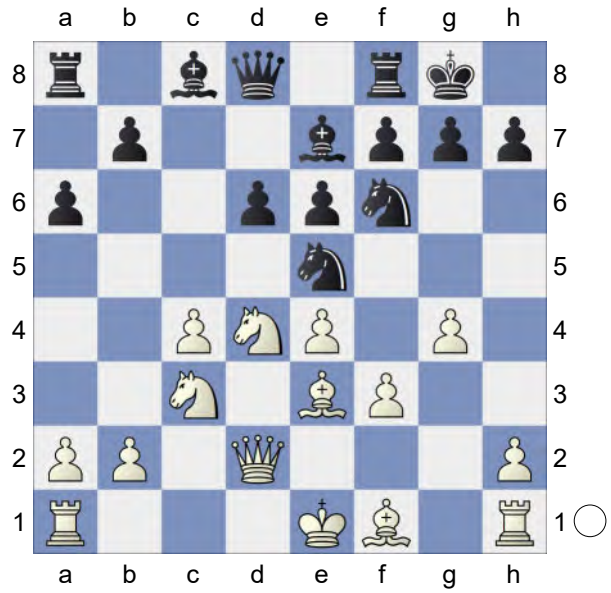


6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 Nbd7N

[8...0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Qc7 *(11...Nbd7 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8*

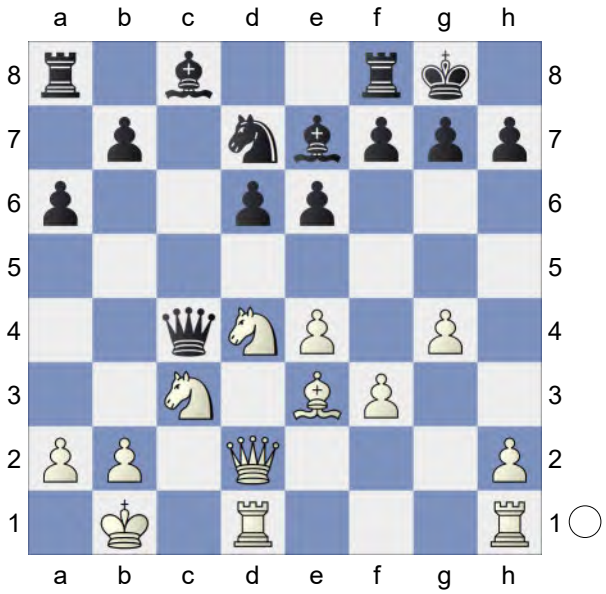
18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.Rad1 Qb6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson]) 12.Rac1 *(12.Rfc1 Nbd7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] 1-0)* 12...Nbd7 13.Rfd1 Rac8 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Nc2 Rfe8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bf4 Ne5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Qd6 Bc7 20.Qa3 Rcd8 21.b4 Bd6 22.Qb2 Nd7 23.Rd2 Chumichev,G (2416)-12.0-0 b6 13.Rad1 Bb7 (2599) Moscow 2012 CBM 017 [Ham/Harding] 0-1 (46)]

9.g4 0-0 10.Qd2 White is slightly better. **10...Ne5**

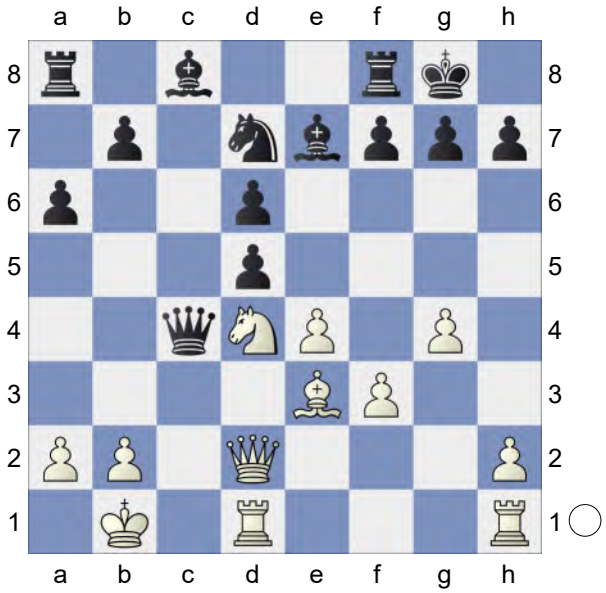


11.Be2 Nfd7 12.0-0-0 Qc7 13.Kb1 Nxc4 14.Bxc4 Qxc4

(Diagram)

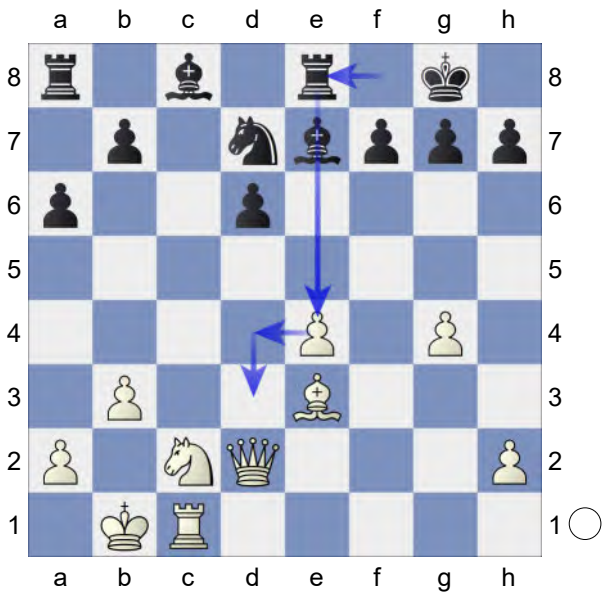


15.Nd5! exd5

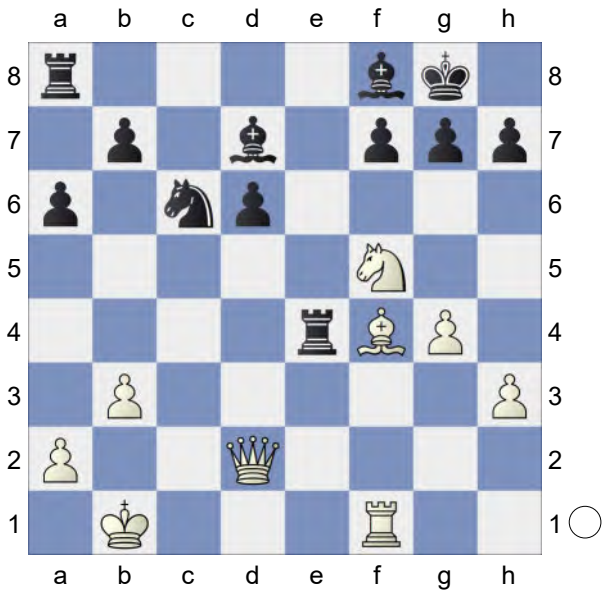


16.Rc1 Qa4 17.b3 Qa3 ...Bd8 is the strong threat. **18.Nc2 Qxc1+ 19.Rxc1 dxe4 20.fxe4 Re8**

(Diagram)



21.Rf1 White has compensation. **21...Ne5 22.h3 Bd7 23.Nd4 Bf8 24.Bf4 Nc6** Inhibits Qa5. The position is equal. **25.Nf5 Rxe4**

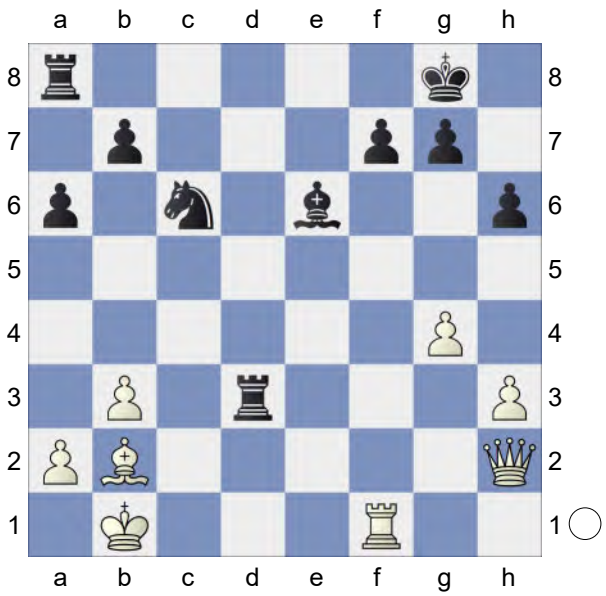


26.Nxd6

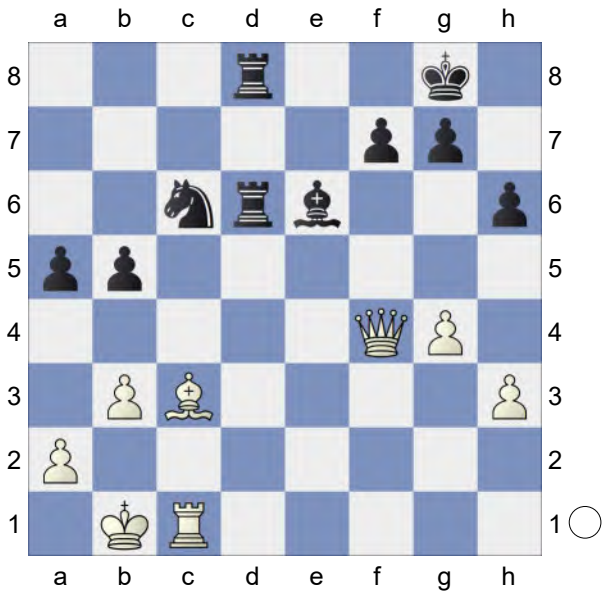
[Wrong is 26.Bxd6? Bxf5 27.gxf5 *(27.Rxf5? Rd4-+)* 27...Rd4-+]

26...Rd4 27.Qh2 Bxd6 28.Bxd6 h6 29.Ba3 Be6 30.Bb2 Rd3

(Diagram)

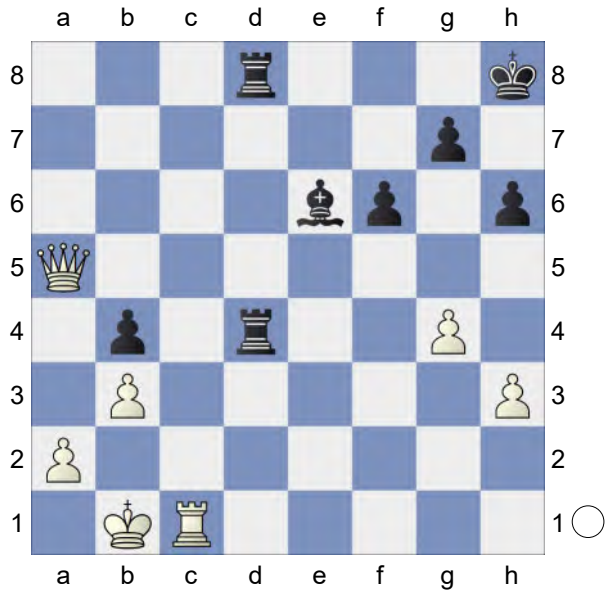


31.Qc7 Rd7 32.Qf4 Rad8 33.Bc3 a5 34.Re1 b5 35.Rc1 Rd6

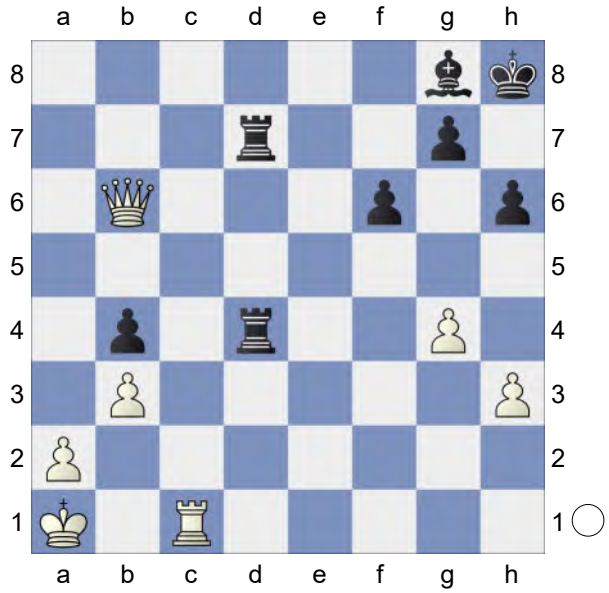


36.Bb2 f6 37.Qf1 b4 38.Qb5 Nd4 39.Bxd4 Rxd4 40.Qxa5 Kh8

(Diagram)

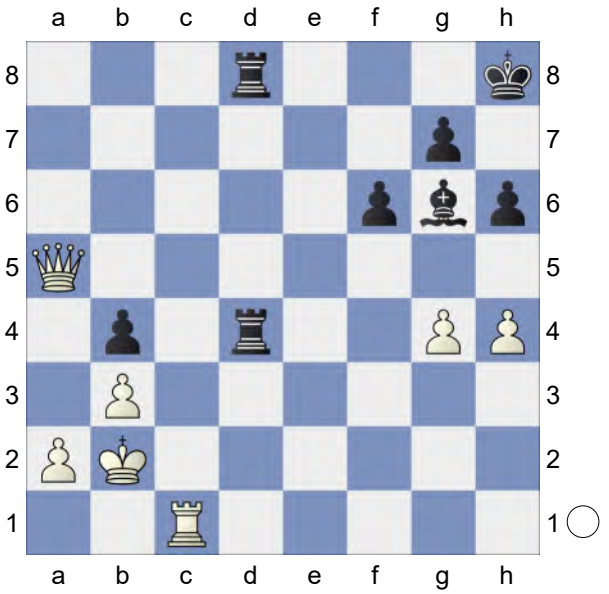


41.Qb6 Bf7 42.Ka1 R8d7 43.Qc5 Bg8 44.Qb5 Rd8 45.Qb6 R8d7

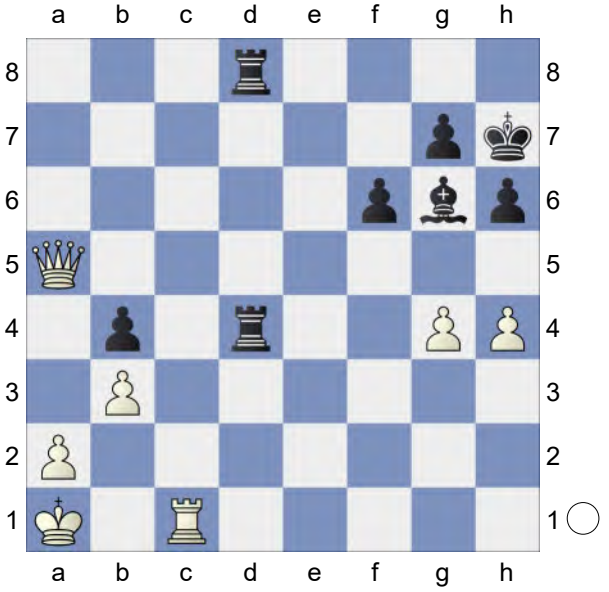


46.Kb2 Bf7 47.Qc5 Rd8 48.Qf5 Inhibits Bg6. **48...Bg8 49.Qa5 Bf7 50.h4 Bg6**

(Diagram)

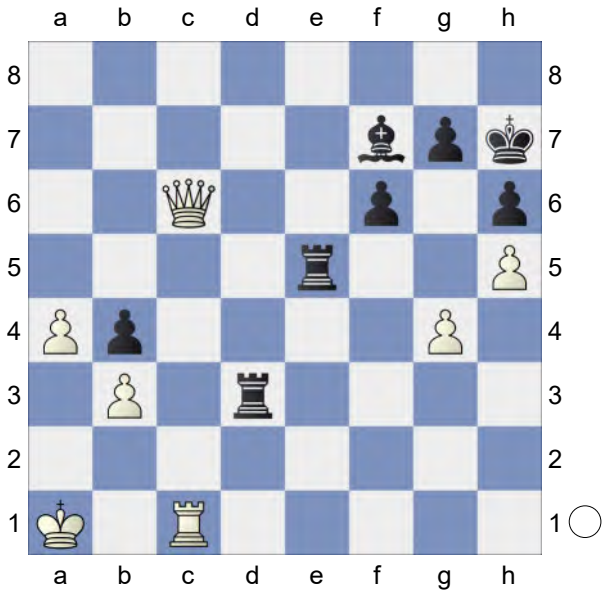


51.Ka1 Kh7

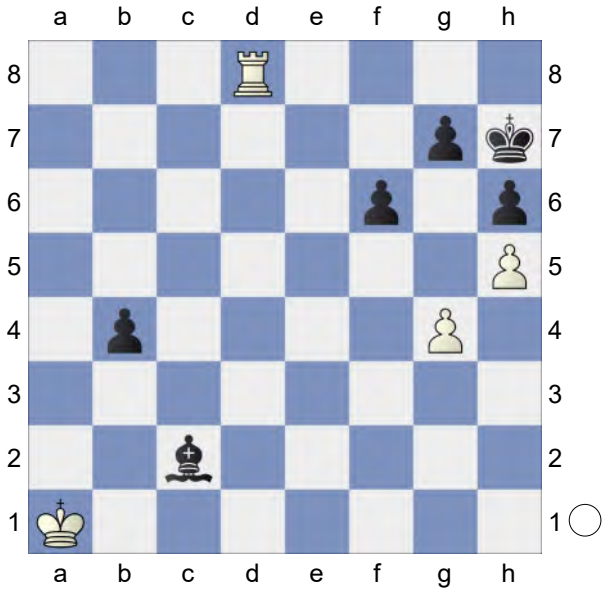


White must now prevent ...Rd1. **52.a4 R8d5 53.Qa8 Rd3 54.Qc6 Re5 55.h5! Bf7**

(Diagram)

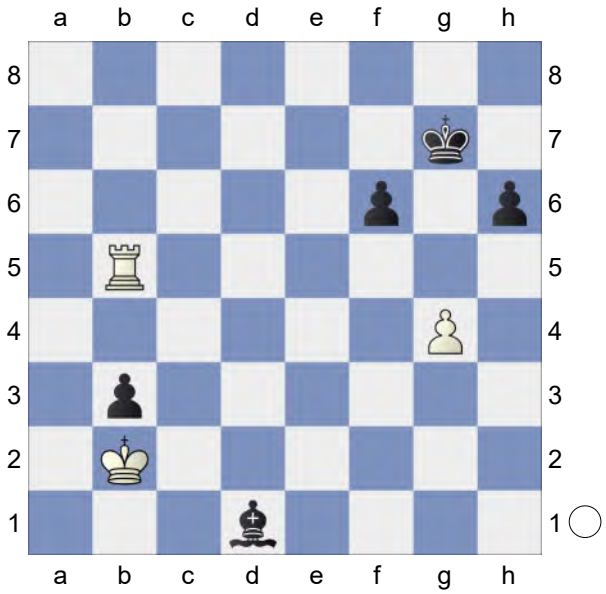


56.Qc2 Ree3 57.Rd1 Bxb3 58.Qxd3+ Rxd3 59.Rxd3 Bxa4= Endgame KR-KB **60.Rd8 Bc2**

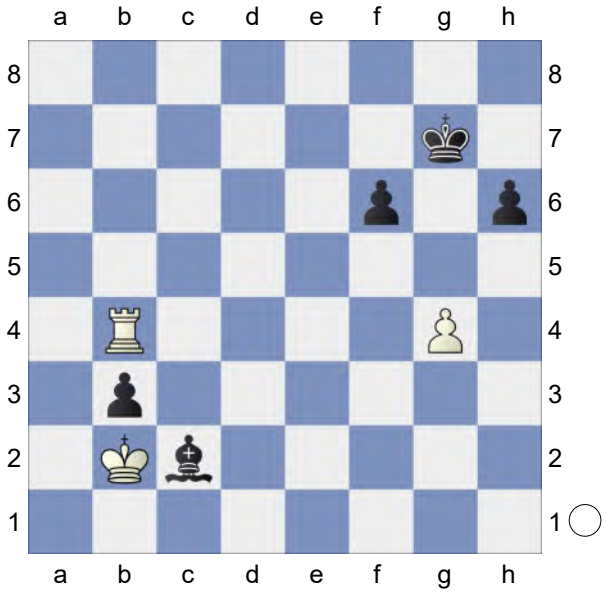


61.Rb8 b3 62.Rb4 g6 63.hxg6+ Kxg6 64.Rb5 Bd1 65.Kb2 Kg7

(Diagram)



66.Rb4 Kg6 67.Rb5 Kg7 68.Rb4 Bc2

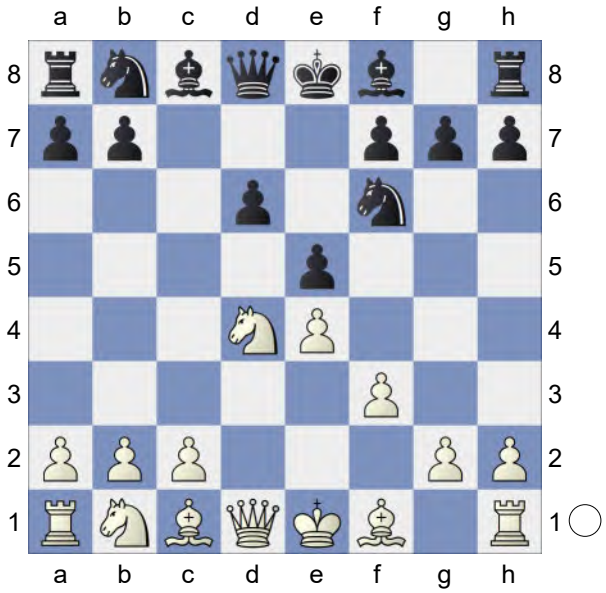


Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

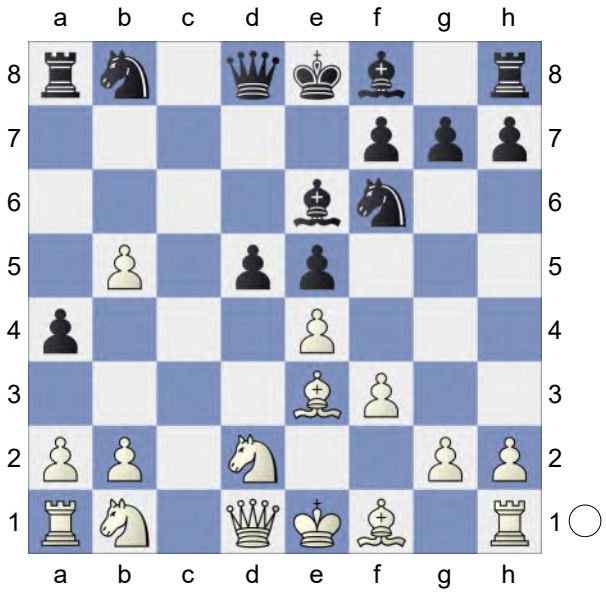
½-½

5 **B54**
□ **Drnykterstein** **3163**
■ **Miawlet** **3023**
Blitz 16.11.2021
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

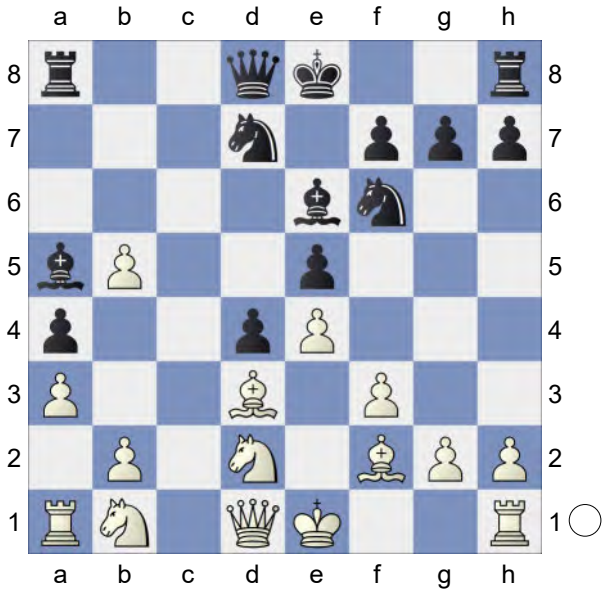


6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 a5
[7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]
8.Be3 b5 9.cxb5 0.02/19
[9.Nc3± 0.37/19]
9...a4= The position is equal. **10.N3d2** White wants to play Nc3. **10...d5**

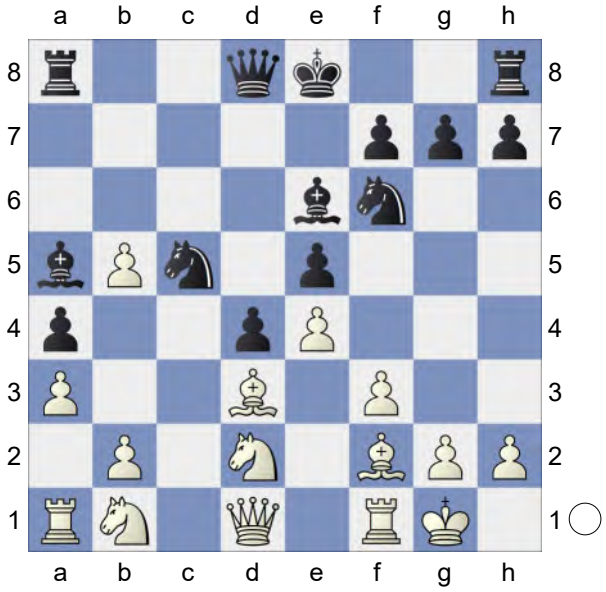


11.Bf2
[Of course not 11.b6 d4 12.b7 *(12.Bb5+ Nfd7∓)* 12...Ra7∓]
11...Bb4 0.32/19
[11...Nbd7= -0.01/18]

12.a3± Ba5 13.Be2 -0.46/20
[13.Nc3= 0.23/18]
13...d4∓ Black has compensation.
14.Bd3 Nbd7!

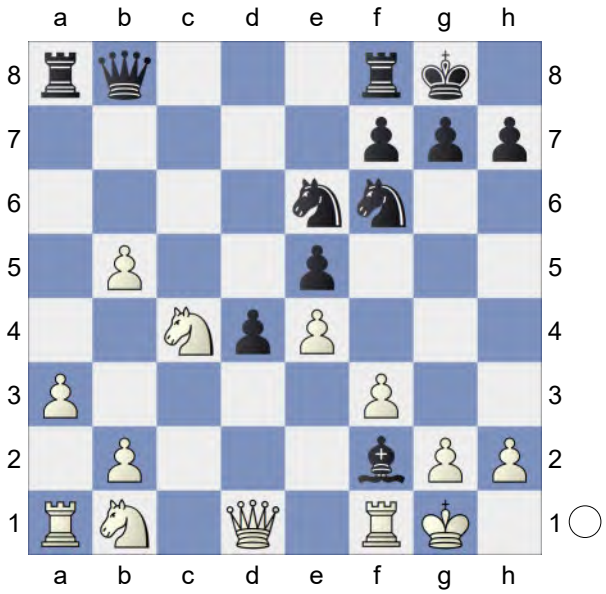


White must now prevent ...Nc5. **15.0-0 Nc5**

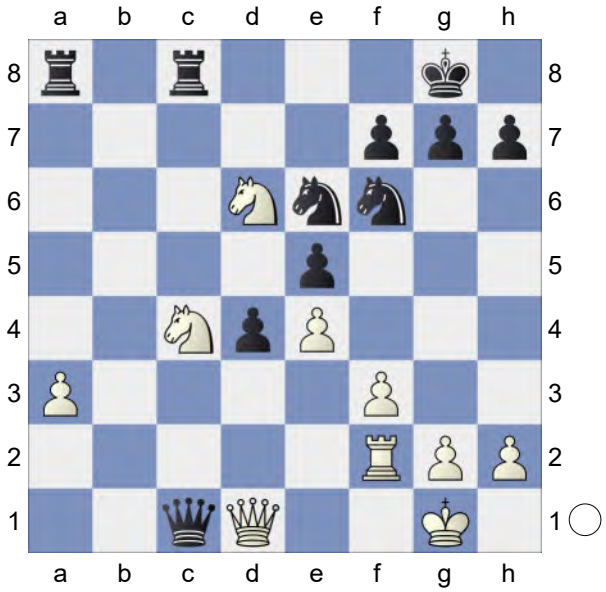


16.Bc4 0-0 0.32/20
[16...Qb6∓ -0.65/19]
17.Bxe6!± Nxe6 18.Nc4 Qb8 19.Qxa4 Be1 20.Qd1 Bxf2+

(Diagram)

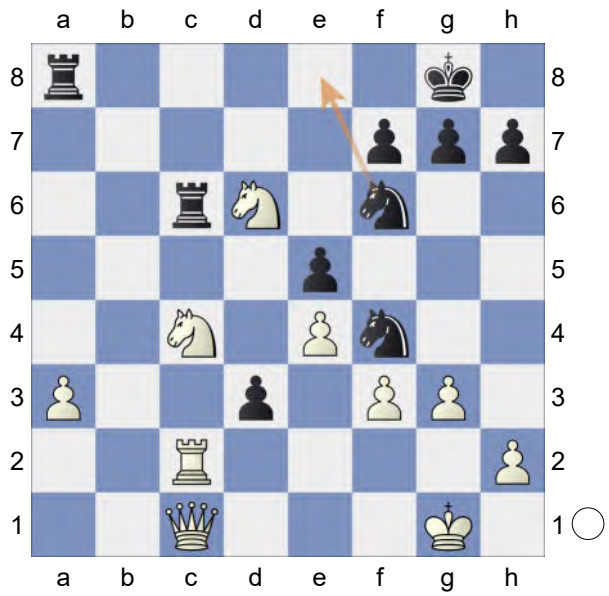


21.Rxf2 a4 is the strong threat.
21...Qxb5 22.Nbd2 Rfc8? 1.82/19
[22...Nd7= 0.00/18]
23.Nd6!↑ White is really pushing.
23...Qxb2 3.99/19 This costs Black the game.
[23...Qc5± 1.52/17 24.Nxc8 Rxc8]
24.N2c4 Qc3 25.Rc1 White is clearly winning. **25...Qxc1**

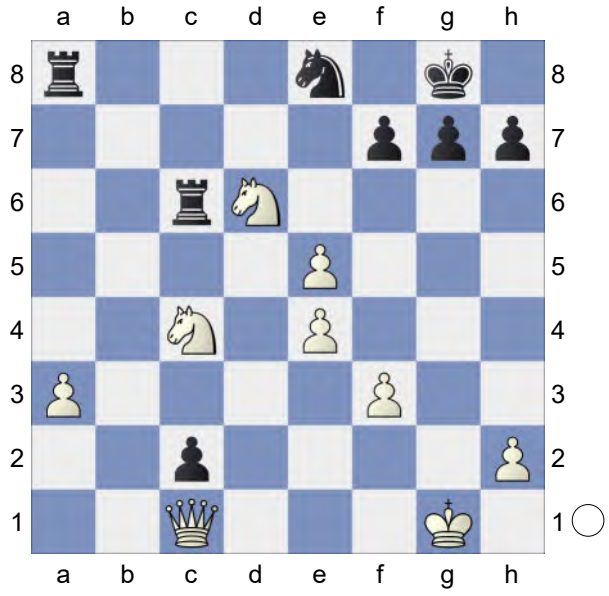


26.Qxc1 Rc6 27.Rc2 Nf4 28.g3 d3

(Diagram)

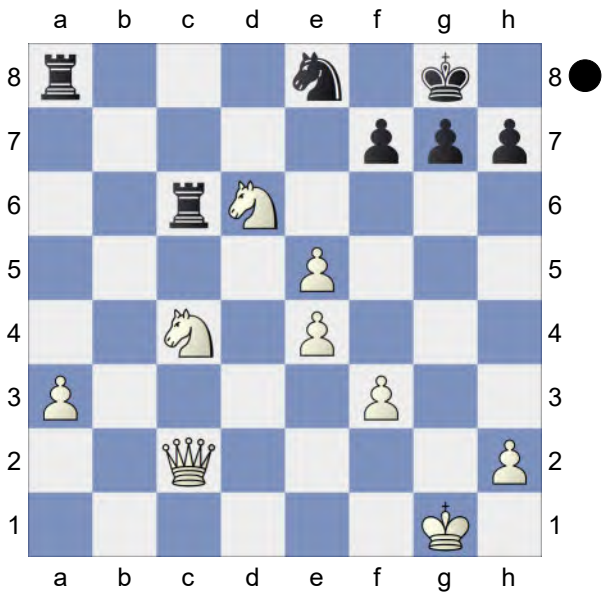


29.gxf4! dxc2 30.fxe5 Ne8



Strongly threatening ...Nxd6. **31.Qxc2**

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.49

1-0

6	**B56**
☐ **Drnykterstein**	**3163**
■ **May6Enexttime**	**3001**
Blitz	16.11.2021
[Kitty Kat]	

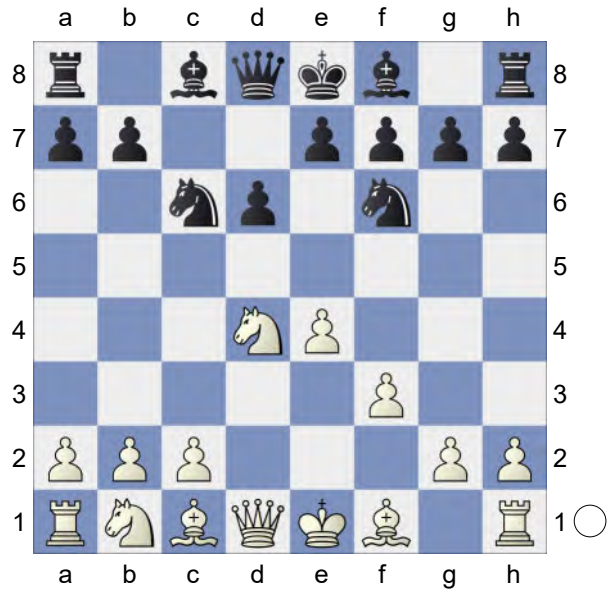
Blitz 3min

B56: Classical Sicilian: Unusual Lines

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N

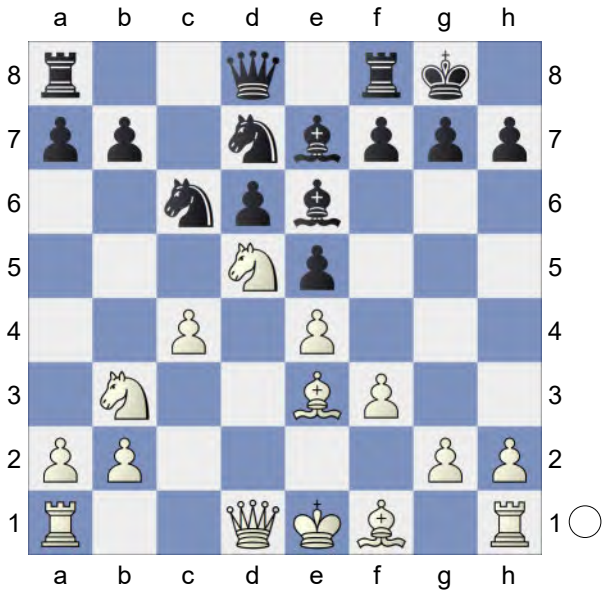
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-

Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

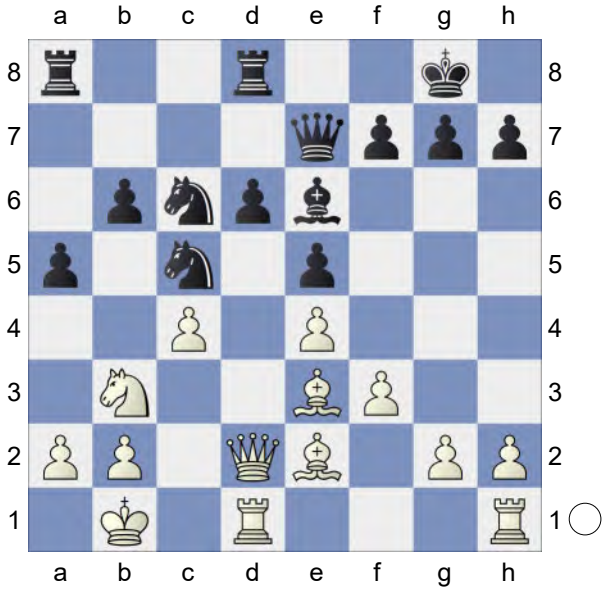


6.Nc3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 Be6 9.Nd5 0-0 10.c4 Nd7

(Diagram)

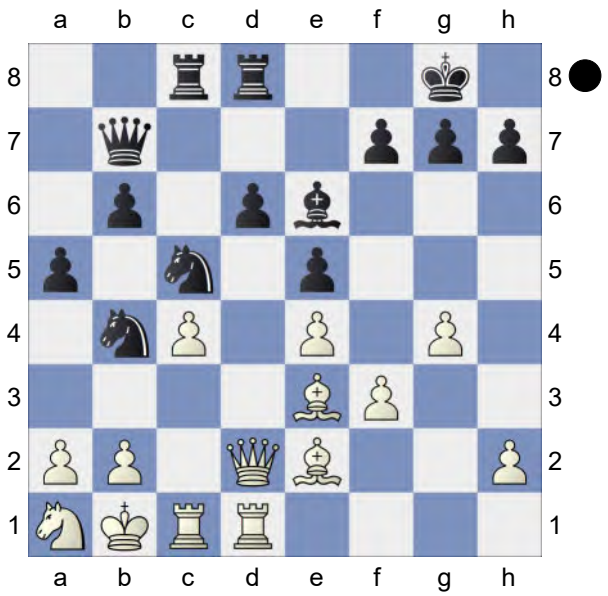


11.Qd2 Nc5 White has an edge. **12.Nxe7+ Qxe7 13.Be2 a5 14.0-0-0** -0.29/18
[14.Rd1 0.20/17 might be stronger.]
14...Rfd8= 15.Kb1 b6

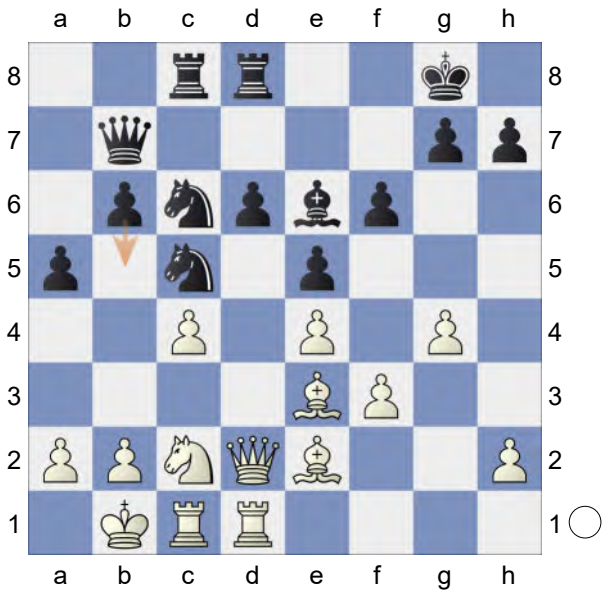


16.g4 Rac8 0.30/19
[⌓16...a4 -0.17/19 17.Na1 f6]
17.Na1 Nb4 18.Rc1 Qb7 Strongly threatening ...Nxe4! **19.Rhd1** -0.71/19
[19.Nc2± 0.36/19]

(Diagram)

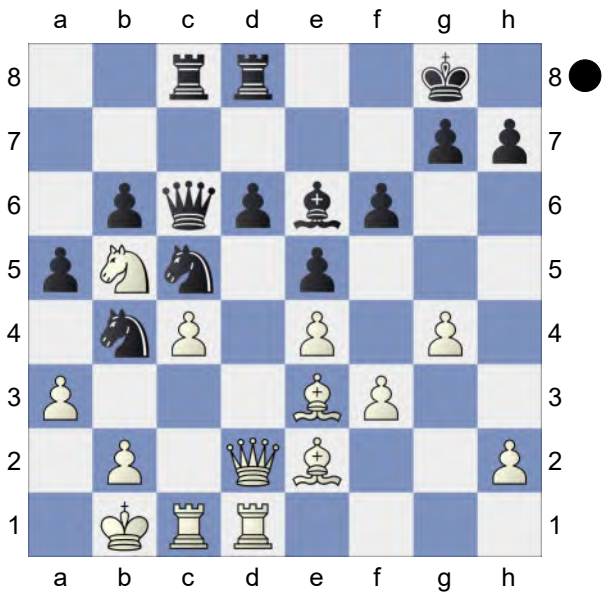


19...f6 0.42/17
[19...Nxe4!∓ -0.71/19 20.fxe4 Qxe4+ 21.Bd3 Nxd3 22.Qxd3 Qxg4]
20.Nc2 Nc6

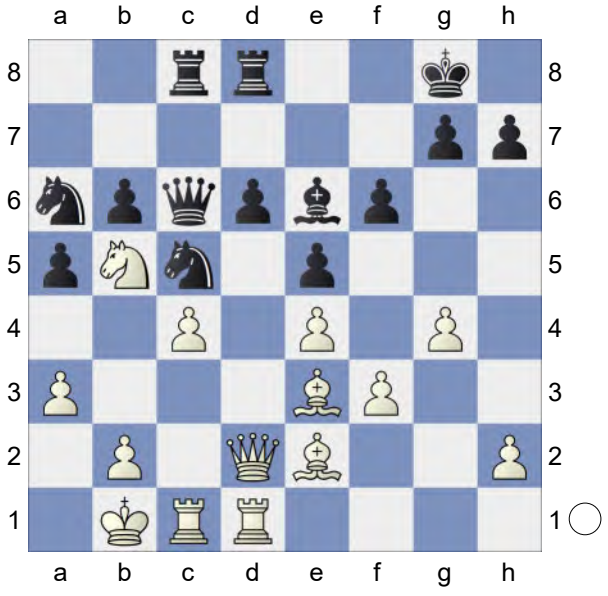


21.Na3 Nb4 22.Nb5 Qc6 aiming for ... Qxb5! **23.a3?** -0.96/22
[23.b3± 0.71/15]

(Diagram)



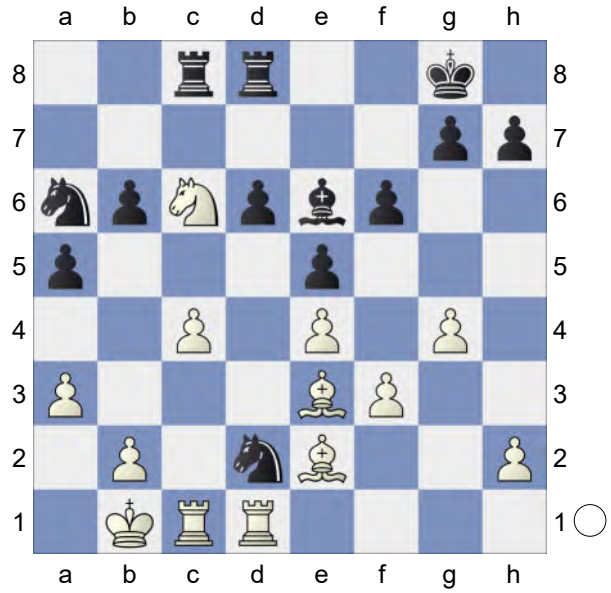
23...Nba6? 1.37/19
[23...Nb3 24.Qc3 Nxc1 25.Qxc1±]
[23...Qxb5!∓ -0.96/22 keeps the pressure on. 24.axb4 *(24.cxb5? Ba2+ 25.Ka1 Nb3#)* 24...Qxb4 25.Qxb4 axb4]



Pair of Knights! **24.Na7!±**
[Avoid the trap 24.Nxd6? Rc7 25.Qc3 Rxd6-+]
24...Nb3 2.81/22
[24...Qa8± 1.57/21]
25.Nxc6 1.41/21

[25.Qc2+- 2.81/22 Qb7 26.Qxb3 Qxa7 27.Qxb6 Qxb6 28.Bxb6]

25...Nxd2+

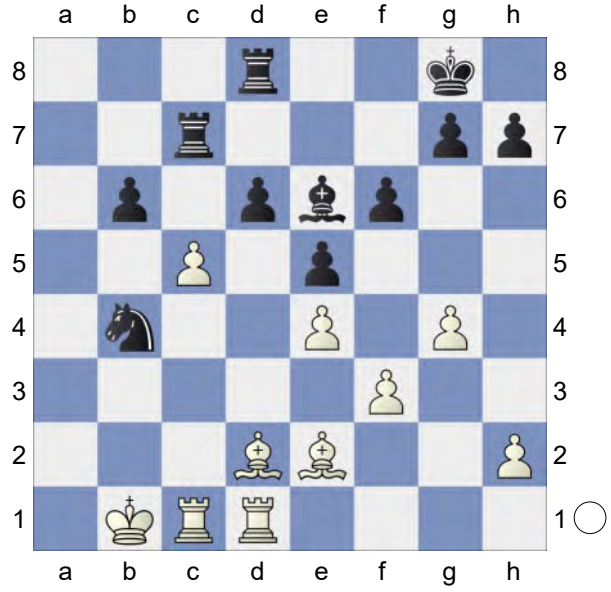


26.Bxd2

[Resist 26.Rxd2?! Rxc6 27.Bd1 Rdc8±]

26...Rxc6 27.b4 Inhibits Nc5. **27...axb4 28.axb4** Threatens to win with b5.

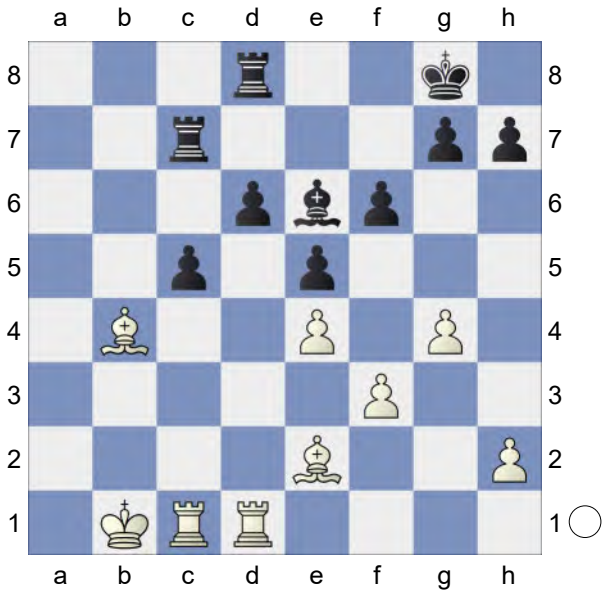
28...Rc7 29.c5 Nxb4 2.60/21



30.Bxb4 1.22/21

[30.cxd6!+- 2.60/21 is the precise move to win. Rxc1+ 31.Rxc1]

30...bxc5



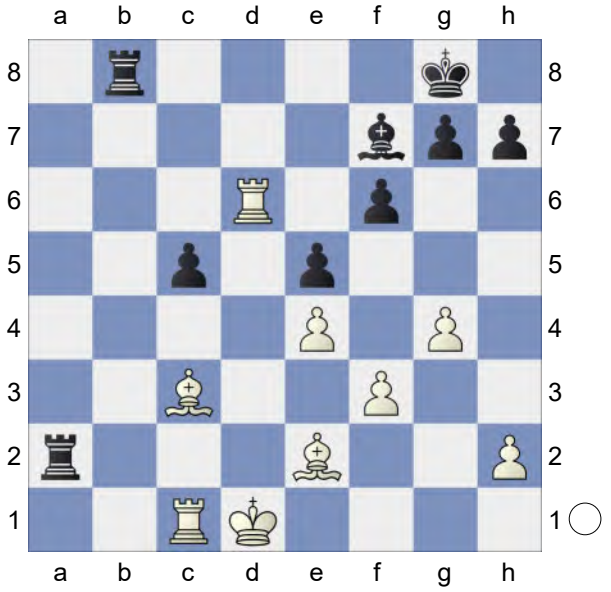
31.Bc3 Hoping for Kc2. **31...Ra7** 2.05/21

[31...Rb8+± 1.14/20 32.Bb2 Rb6]

32.Rd2 Rda8? 3.43/21

[32...Bb3 1.71/19 was necessary. 33.g5 Rb8]

33.Rxd6+- Rb8+ 34.Kc2 Ra2+ 35.Kd1 Bf7

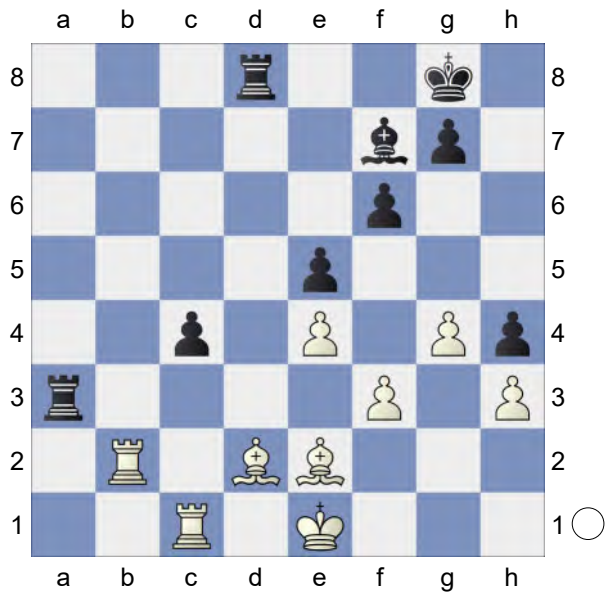


36.Ke1 h5 37.h3 h4 38.Rd2 Ra3 39.Rb2 Rd8 4.06/22

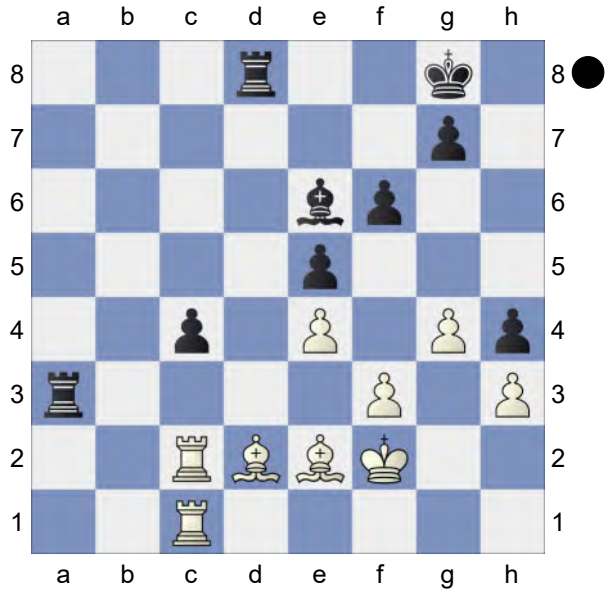
[⌓39...Rxb2 2.70/22 40.Bxb2 Ra2]

40.Bd2 White is winning. **40...c4**

(Diagram)



41.Rbc2 Be6 42.Kf2



Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.51

1-0

7 **B80**

□ **Drnykterstein** **3159**

■ **May6Enexttime** **3004**

Blitz 15.11.2021

[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min

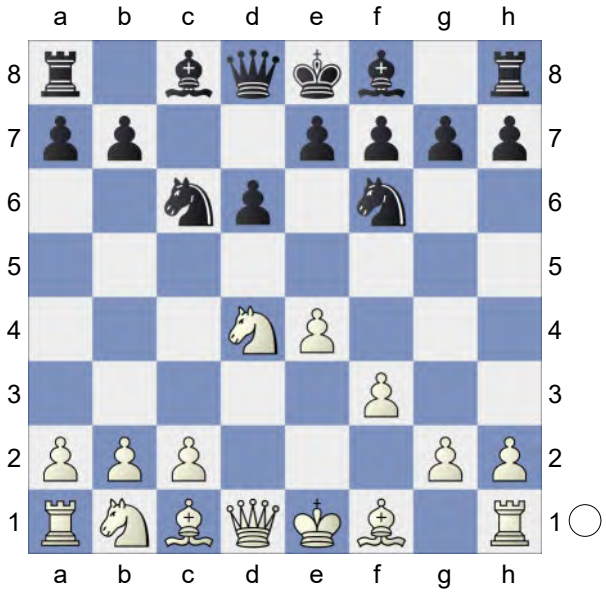
B80: Sicilian Scheveningen: 6 g3 and 6 Be3, including English Attack

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N

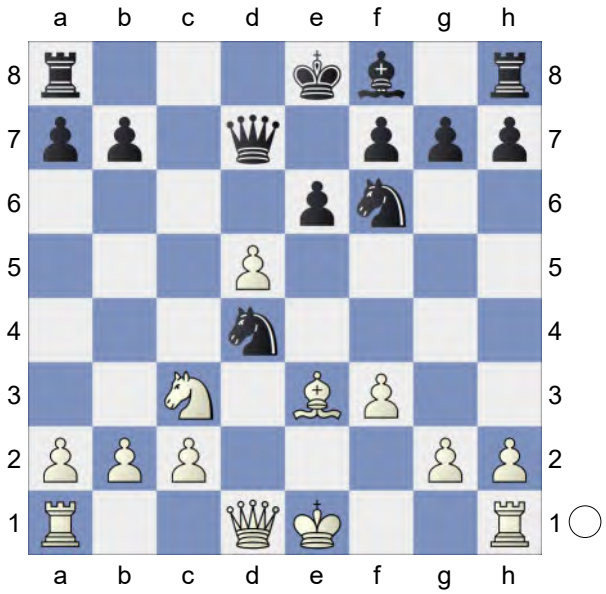
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244

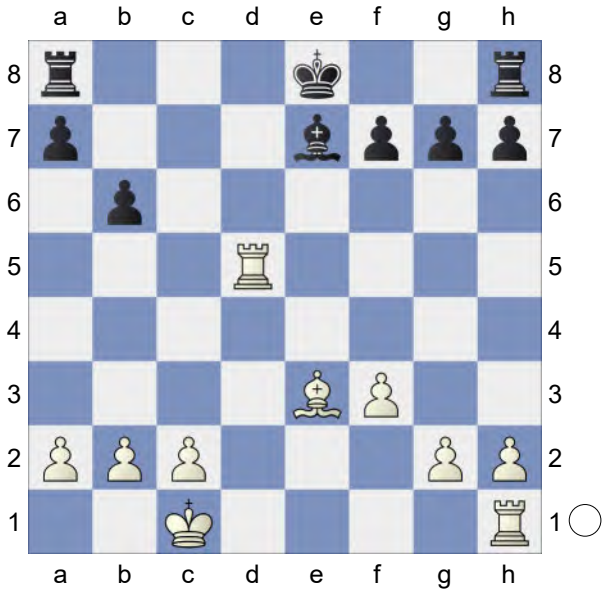
1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



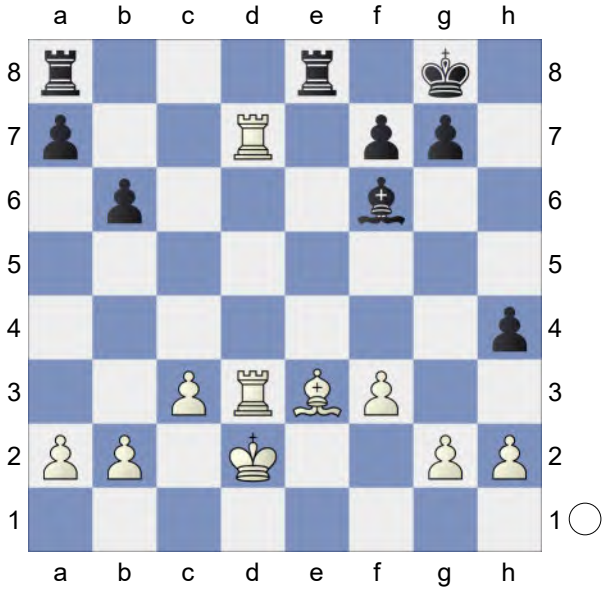
6.Nc3 e6 7.Be3 d5 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.exd5 Nxd4 1.46/21
[9...Nxd5= 0.18/18 keeps the balance. 10.Nxd5 exd5]
10.Bxd7+±
[Of course not 10.Bxd4?! Bxb5 11.Nxb5 Qa5+ 12.Nc3 Nxd5=]
10...Qxd7



11.Qxd4
[Reject 11.Bxd4?! Nxd5 12.0-0 Rd8=]
11...exd5 1.81/20
[11...Be7± 1.47/19]
12.0-0-0+- Be7 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.Qxd5 Qxd5 15.Rxd5 b6

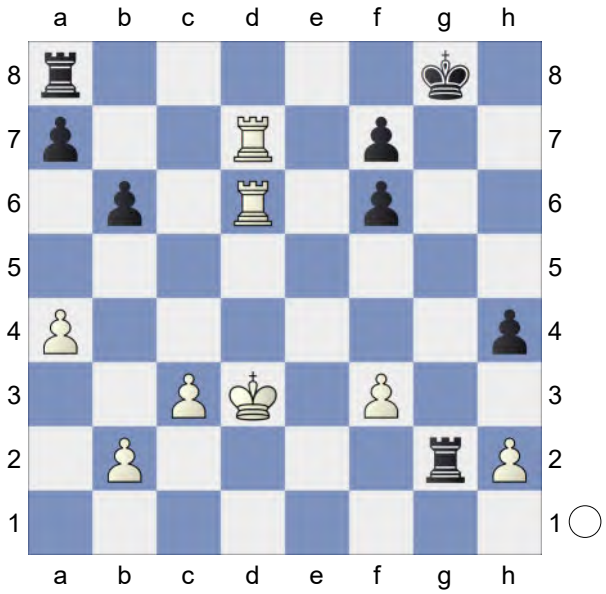


16.Rhd1 0-0 17.Rd7 Rfe8 18.R1d3 h5 19.c3 h4 20.Kd2 Bf6



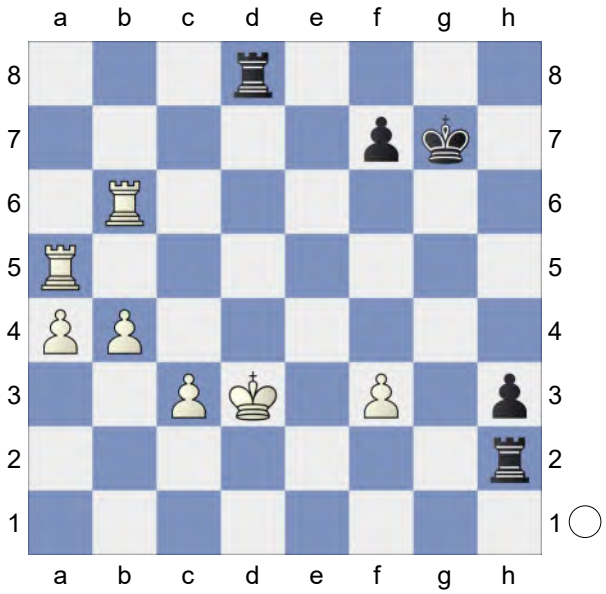
21.a4 Re6 22.R3d6 1.31/21
[22.f4+- 1.78/20]
22...Re5 1.82/20
[22...Rxd6+± 1.31/21 23.Rxd6 Be5]
23.Bd4 1.05/23
[Better is 23.Kd3+- 1.82/20]
23...Rg5± 24.Bxf6 &Bianco is more

active. **24...Rxg2+ 25.Kd3 gxf6**

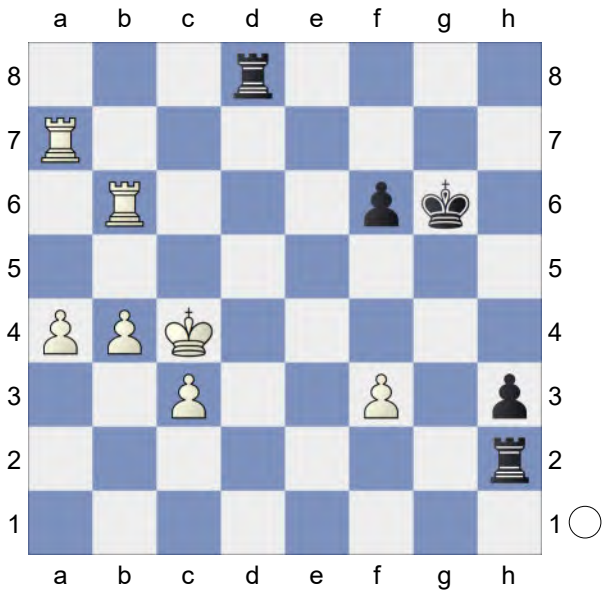


26.Rxf6± Endgame KRR-KRR **26...Rf8** 1.37/19
[26...Rxb2± 0.51/20 27.Rfxf7 Rxh2]
27.b4 1.00/22
[⌓27.Rf4 1.37/19]
27...Rxh2 1.43/21
[⌓27...h3 1.00/22]
28.Rxa7 0.81/20
[⌓28.Rf4 1.43/21]
28...h3± 29.Rxb6 0.01/21
[White should play 29.Rh6± 1.12/20]
29...Kg7? 2.43/20
[29...Rd8+= 0.01/21 30.Ke3 Rc8]
30.Ra5!+- aiming for Rg5+. **30...Rd8+**

(Diagram)

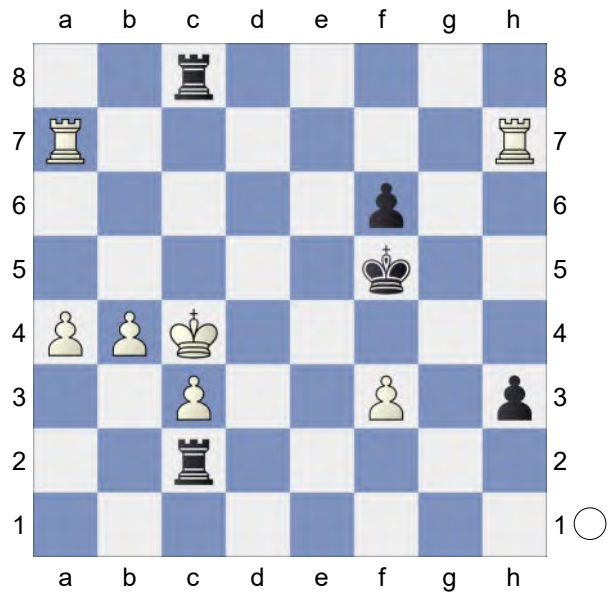


31.Kc4! Hoping for Rg5+. **31...f6** Inhibits Rg5+. **32.Ra7+** 1.07/20
[32.Rh5+- 2.30/20 is more deadly.]
32...Kg6±

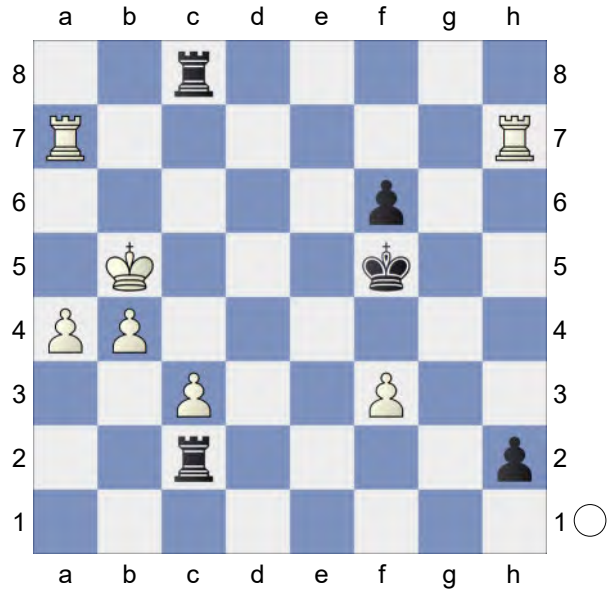


And now ...Rg2 would win. **33.Rbb7!** Strongly threatening Rh7. **33...Rc2?** 3.00/22
[33...Rc8+± 1.33/19 34.Kd3 Rh1]
34.Rg7+ Kf5 35.Rh7 Rc8+

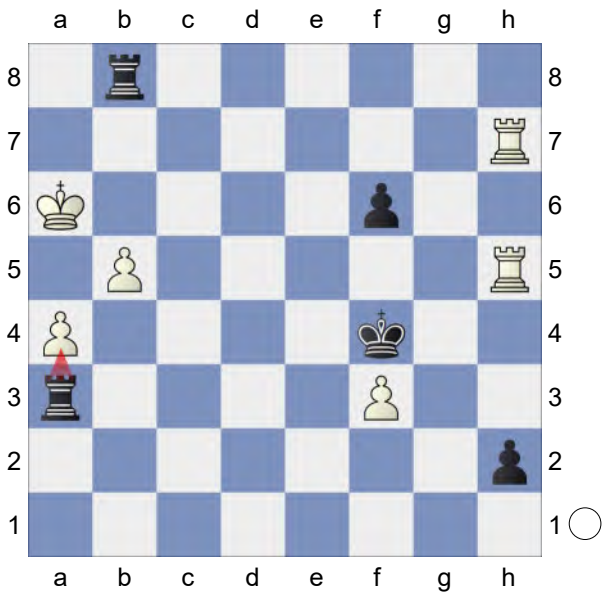
(Diagram)



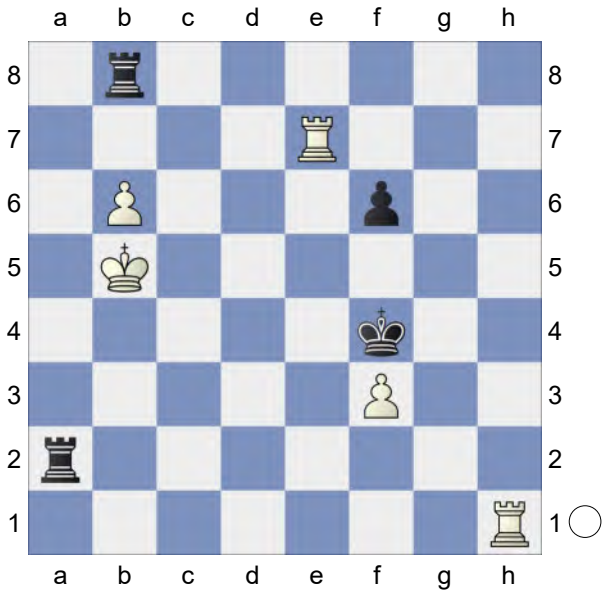
36.Kb5 h2



37.Rh5+ 1.45/21
[37.a5!+- 2.73/20]
37...Kf4 2.61/21
[37...Kg6± 1.45/21 38.Rh3 *(38.Rah7 Rb8+ 39.Ka5 Ra8+ 40.Kb6 Rxc3±)* 38...R8xc3]
38.Rah7+- Rb8+ 39.Ka6 Rxc3 3.33/19
[39...Ra8+ 1.88/20 was necessary. 40.Kb7 Rxa4]
40.b5 1.87/18
[⌓40.Rxh2 3.33/19 Ra3 41.a5]
40...Ra3



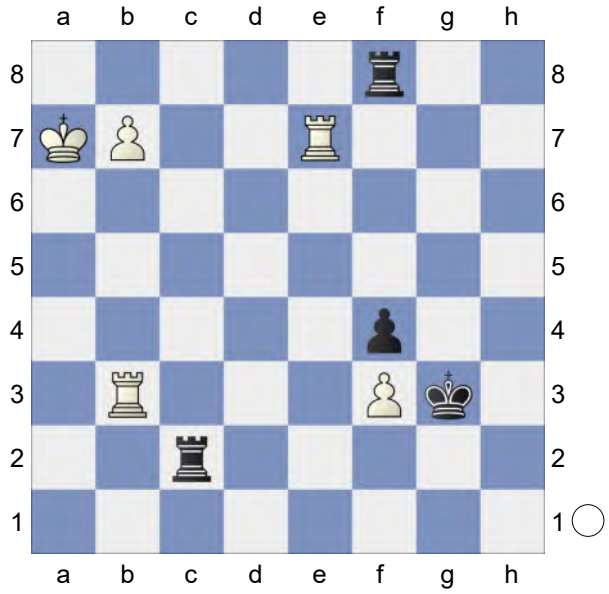
41.Rh4+ Ke3 42.b6 Rb4 is the strong threat. **42...h1Q** 3.06/21
[⌓42...Ra8+ 1.72/21 43.Kb7 R3xa4]
43.Rxh1 Rxa4+ 44.Kb5 Ra2 45.Re7+ Kf4 3.23/20
[⌓45...Kxf3 2.28/22 46.Rf1+ Kg2 47.Rxf6 Rb2+ 48.Kc5 Rc2+ 49.Kd4 Rd8+ 50.Ke3 Rc3+ 51.Ke4 Rc4+ 52.Ke3 Rc3+ 53.Ke4 Rc4+ 54.Kf5 Rb4]



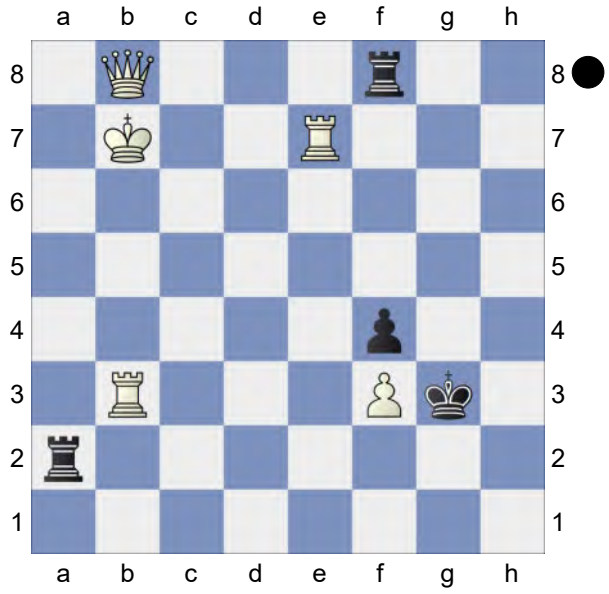
46.Rb1 f5 47.Rb3 Rc2 48.b7 Kg3 49.Kb6 f4 8.47/19

[⌓49...Rcc8 4.21/21 50.Rf7 f4]

50.Ka7 Rf8



51.b8Q Ra2+ 52.Kb7



Weighted Error Value: White=0.29 (precise) /Black=0.47

1-0

8 **B56**

□ **Drnykterstein** **3159**

■ **May6Enexttime** **3004**

Blitz 15.11.2021

[Kitty Kat]

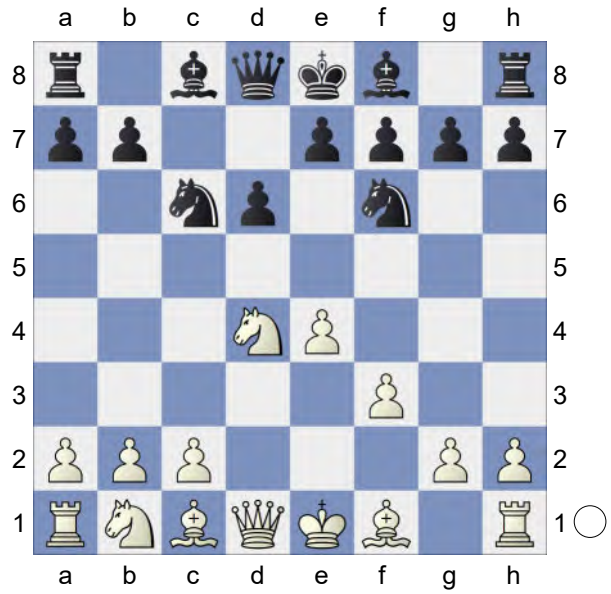
Blitz 3min

B56: Classical Sicilian: Unusual Lines

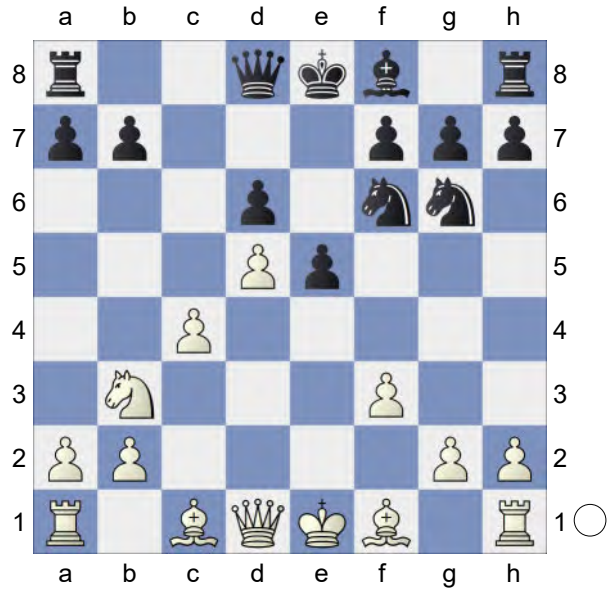
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N

[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



6.Nc3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Nd5 Bxd5 9.exd5 Ne7 10.c4 Ng6



White is slightly better. **11.Be3 Be7 12.g3 0-0 13.Be2 Nd7 14.h4 h6** 0.85/17

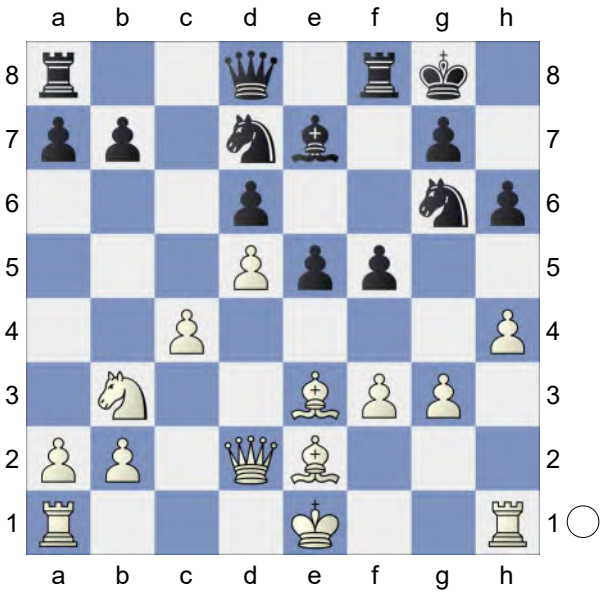
[14...f5± 0.44/16]

15.Qd2 0.44/18

[15.h5± 0.85/17 Nh8 16.0-0]

15...f5±

(Diagram)



16.Bf2 -0.40/18 &Bianco is more active.

[16.Qc2± 0.64/16]

16...b6 0.43/17

[16...f4∓ -0.40/18]

17.0-0-0 Nc5 18.Kb1 f4 0.80/18

[18...Bf6± 0.38/17 is more appropriate.]

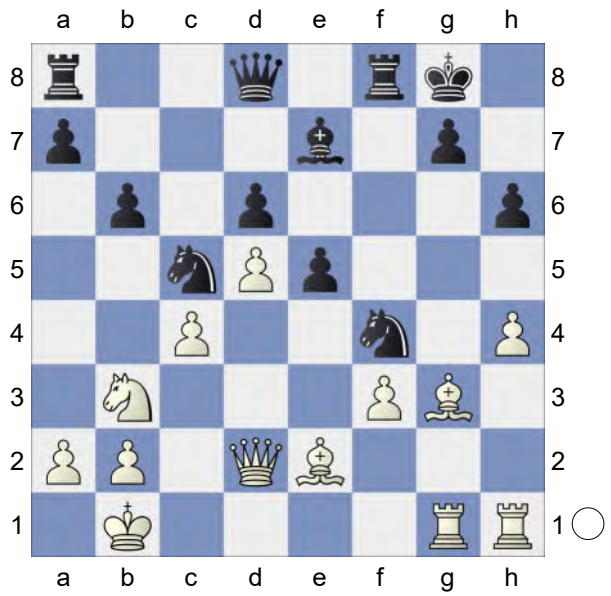
19.Rdg1 0.46/16

[19.Bxc5± 0.80/18 Threatens to win with Qd3! bxc5 20.Bd3]

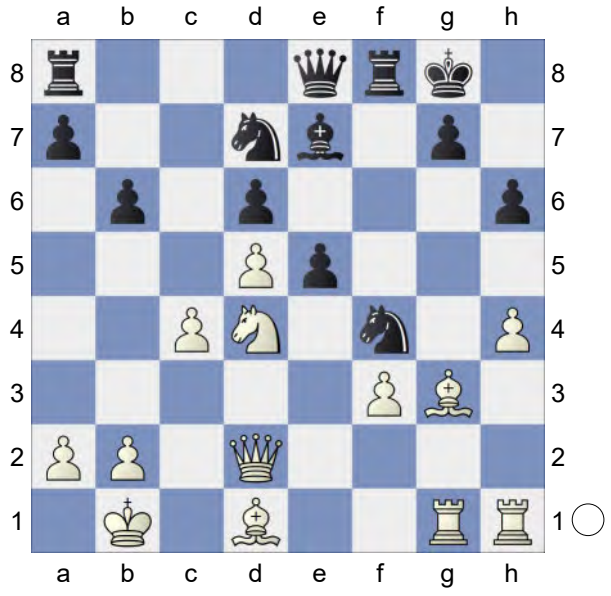
19...fxg3! 20.Bxg3 Nf4 0.91/19

[20...Nxb3!= 0.24/19 keeps the balance. 21.axb3 Kh8]

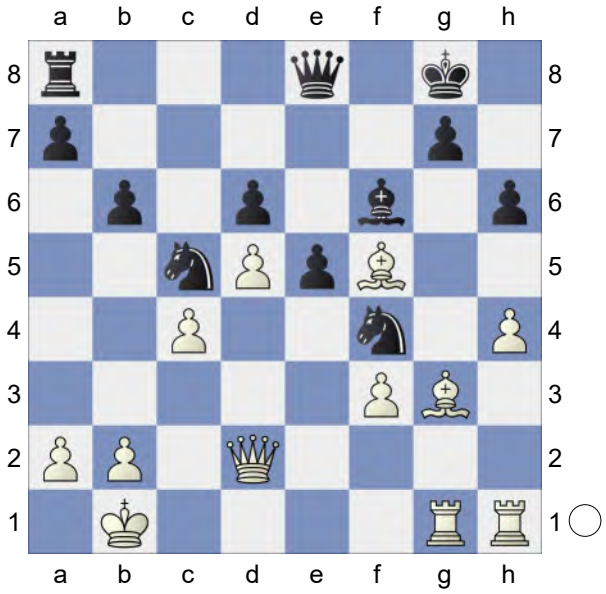
(Diagram)



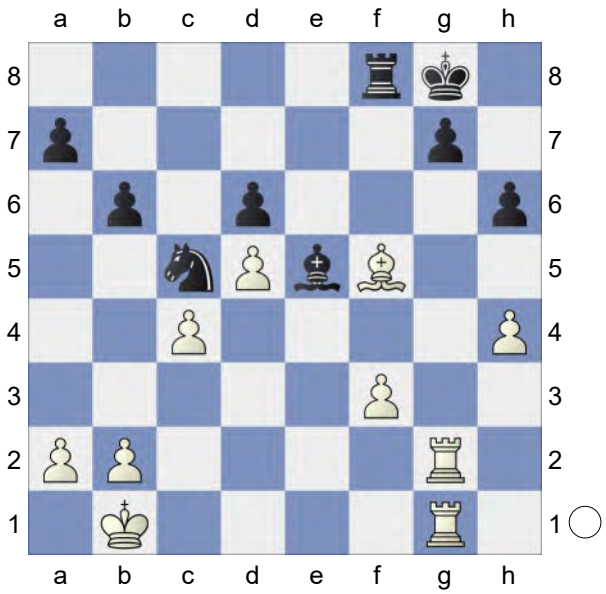
21.Bd1 0.24/19
[21.Nxc5± 0.91/19 bxc5 22.Bd1]
21...Nd7? 1.80/20 This move loses the game for Black.
[21...Nxb3!= 0.24/19 and Black is okay. 22.axb3 Kh8]
22.Nd4+- Qe8 2.64/22
[⌓22...Qc8 1.91/19 23.Bxf4 exf4]



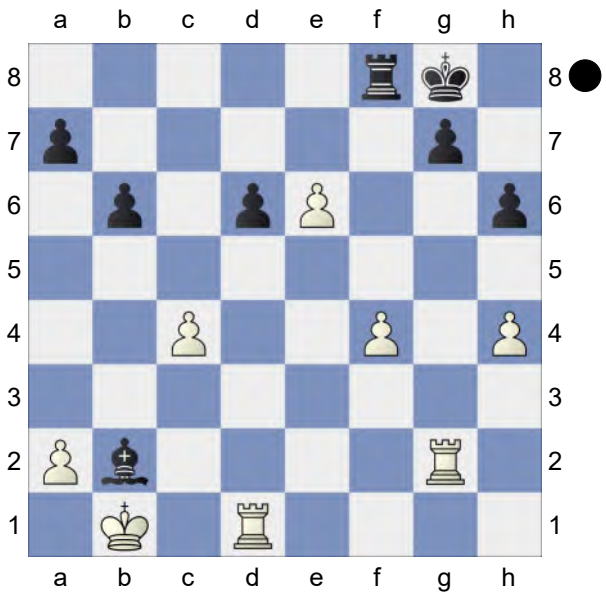
23.Bc2! aiming for Ne6. **23...Nc5** Inhibits Ne6.
[23...Qh5 24.Bxf4]
24.Nf5 Rxf5 25.Bxf5 Bf6 2.60/20
[⌓25...Qf7 1.82/20]



26.Bxf4 exf4 27.Qxf4 Qe2 28.Rh2 Qe5 29.Qxe5 Bxe5 30.Rhg2 Rf8



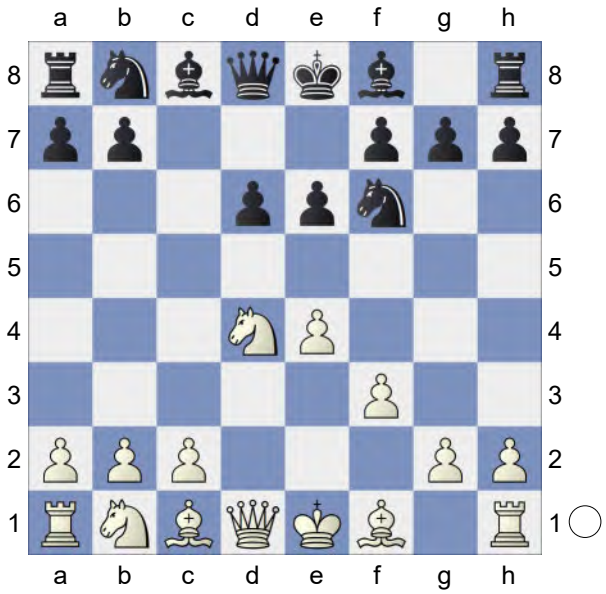
31.f4! Bd4 32.Rd1 Bxb2 4.32/22
[32...Be3 2.62/22]
33.Be6+
[Not 33.Kxb2 Rxf5 34.Rdg1 g5 35.fxg5 h5+-]
33...Nxe6 34.dxe6
[Weaker is 34.Kxb2 Nxf4 35.Rg4 h5±]



Weighted Error Value: White=0.22 (precise) /Black=0.44
1-0

9 **B54**
□ **Drnykterstein** **3158**
■ **Feokl1995** **2981**
Blitz 19.08.2021
[Kitty Kat]

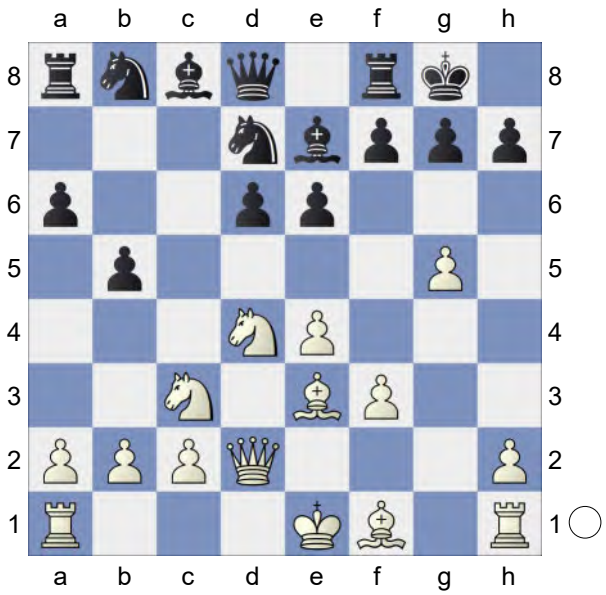
Blitz 3min
B80: Sicilian Scheveningen: 6 g3 and 6 Be3, including English Attack
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e6
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 *(12.Rac1 Rc8 13.Rfd1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Kh8 17.b4 Rg8 18.Nb3 Bc7 19.Qg1 g5 20.Bd3 Qa8 21.Nd2 Rg7 22.Bd4 Rcg8 23.Na4 g4 24.f4 Qd8 25.Bb1 g3 26.h3 b5* Chapter-Games Game 5 (54) *)* 12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



6.Be3N
[6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 Qc7 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya

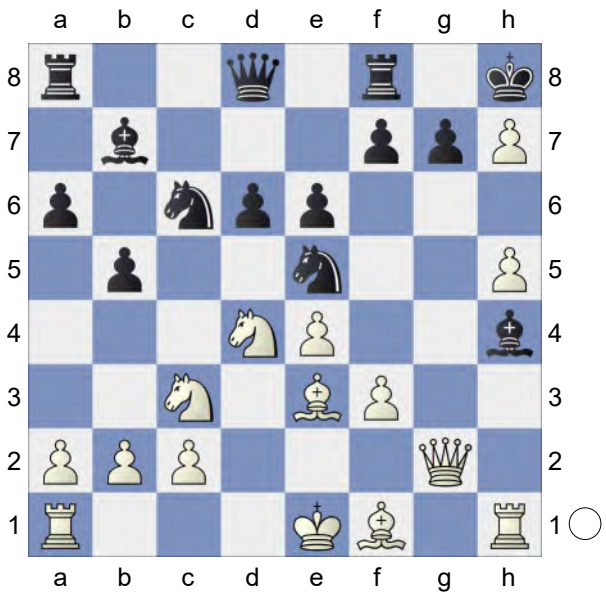
Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

6...Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Qd2 a6 9.g4 b5 10.g5 Nfd7



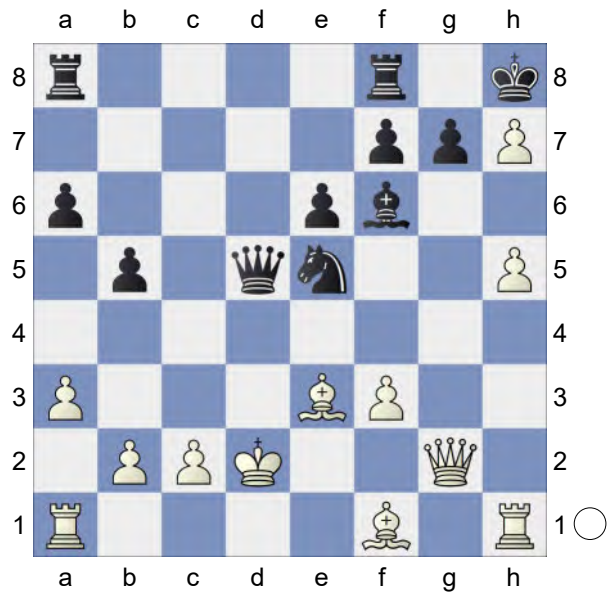
11.h4 White is slightly better. **11...Bb7**
12.h5 0.06/19
[12.a3± 0.56/19]
12...Ne5 0.62/18
[12...b4= 0.06/19 13.Nd1 a5]
13.g6 -0.12/19
[13.0-0-0± 0.62/18]
13...Nbc6 14.gxh7+ Kh8 0.37/18
[14...Kxh7= -0.16/21 15.Be2 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 Bh4+ 17.Kd1 Rc8]
15.Qg2 -0.82/19
[15.h6± 0.37/18 stays ahead. Bh4+ 16.Bf2 Bxf2+ 17.Qxf2]
15...Bh4+∓

(Diagram)



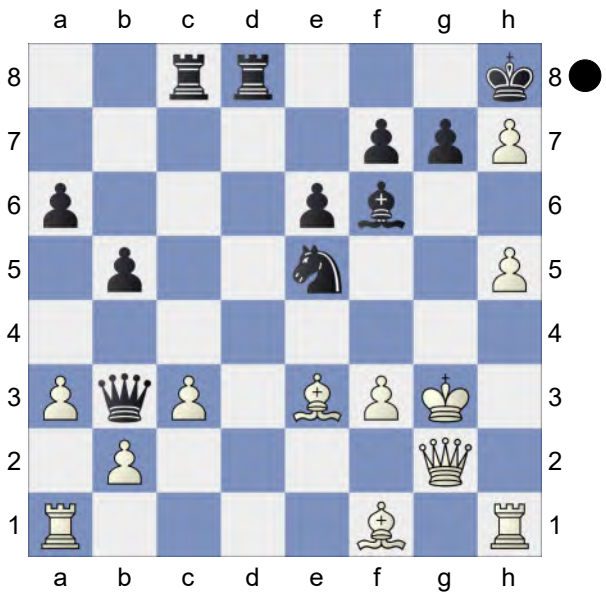
16.Kd2 -1.10/18
[16.Kd1!∓ -0.36/18]
16...Bf6 -0.26/18
[16...b4∓ -1.10/18 17.Na4 Nxd4 18.Bxd4 Bf6]
17.Nxc6= Bxc6 18.a3 -1.34/20
[18.f4∓ -0.39/17 b4 19.Nd1]
18...d5↑ And now ...d4 would win. Black is on the roll. **19.exd5** -1.81/20
[19.Ke1∓ -1.32/19]
19...Bxd5 -1.19/21
[19...exd5-+ -1.81/20 20.Bf4 Nc4+ 21.Bxc4 bxc4]
20.Nxd5 Qxd5+

(Diagram)

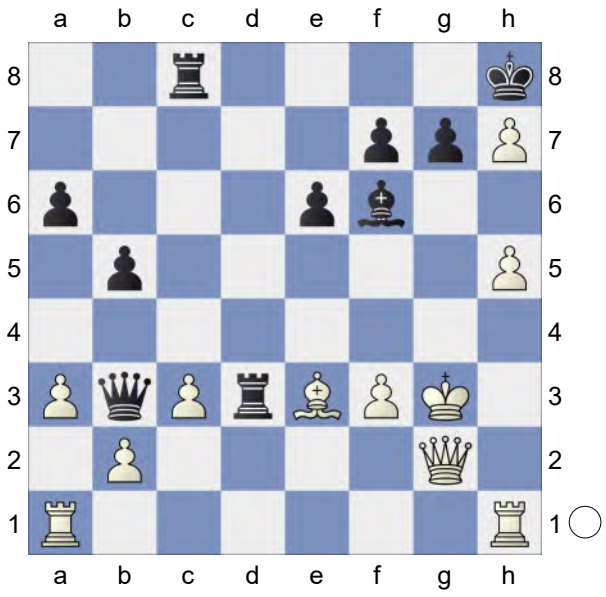


21.Ke1 -1.91/20
[21.Kc1∓ -1.21/22]
21...Rac8-+ Black has strong compensation.
[21...Qxf3 22.Qxf3 Nxf3+ 23.Ke2∓]
[21...Nxf3+ 22.Kf2 Ne5 23.Qxd5 exd5 24.Kg3∓]
[21...Kxh7 22.Rd1 Qxf3 23.Qxf3 Nxf3+ 24.Ke2∓]
22.c3 Rfd8
[22...Qxf3 23.Qxf3 Nxf3+ 24.Kd1∓]
[22...Nxf3+ 23.Kf2 Ne5 24.Qxd5 exd5 25.Bh3∓]
23.Kf2 -2.65/18
[⌓23.h6 -1.95/20 g6 24.Kf2]
23...Qb3 Chess con chili.
[23...Kxh7 24.f4 Nd3+ 25.Bxd3+ Qxd3 26.Rad1∓]
24.Kg3 -3.23/20
[⌓24.Bc1 -2.08/19]

(Diagram)



24...Nd3 -1.76/19
[24...Kxh7 25.Re1∓ *(25.f4 Nc4∓)*]
[⌓24...Rxc3! -3.23/20 25.bxc3 Qxc3]
25.Bxd3 Rxd3



26.Rhe1 -2.70/19
[⌓26.Qe2 -1.97/19 Rxe3 27.Qxe3 Qxb2 28.Rac1]
26...Qd5 White must now prevent ... Qe5+.
[Inferior is 26...Kxh7 27.Qe2 Qc4 28.Rad1∓]
27.Qe2 Rd8 Strongly threatening ... Qe5+.

[Stronger than 27...Kxh7 28.Rad1 Rxd1 29.Qxd1∓]

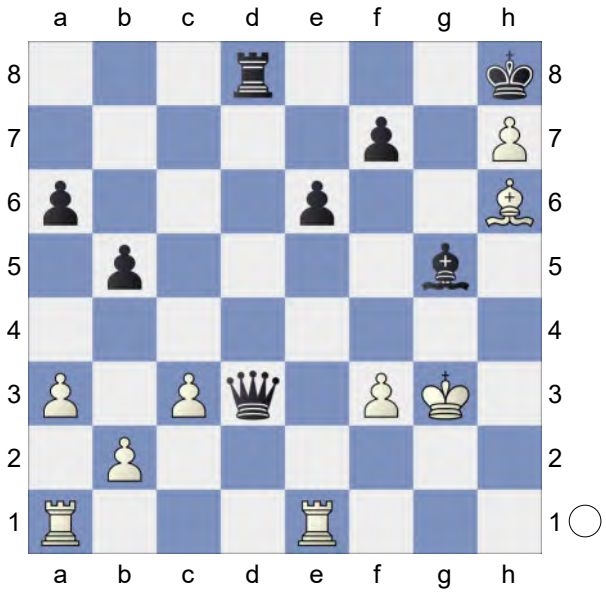
28.h6 gxh6

[Worse is 28...Kxh7 29.hxg7 Kxg7 30.Rh1∓]

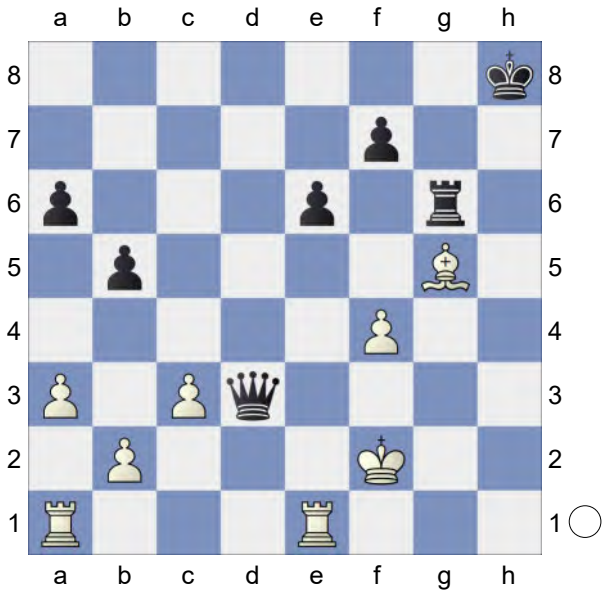
29.Bxh6? -5.26/20

[29.Bf4 -1.70/20]

29...Bg5 30.Qxd3 Qxd3

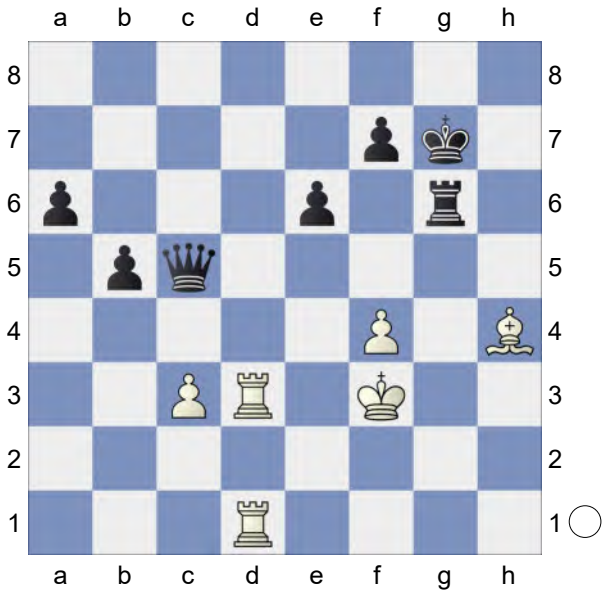


31.Bxg5 Qg6 32.Kh4 Qxh7+ 33.Kg3 Rg8 34.f4 aiming for Rh1. **34...Qd3+ 35.Kf2 Rg6**

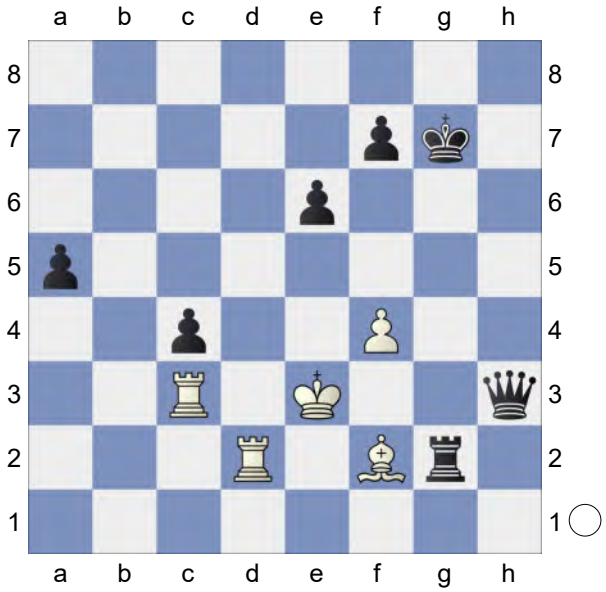


Threatens to win with ...f6. **36.Rad1 Qc2+ 37.Kf3 Qxb2 38.Re3 Kg7**

39.Red3 Qxa3 40.Bh4 Qc5

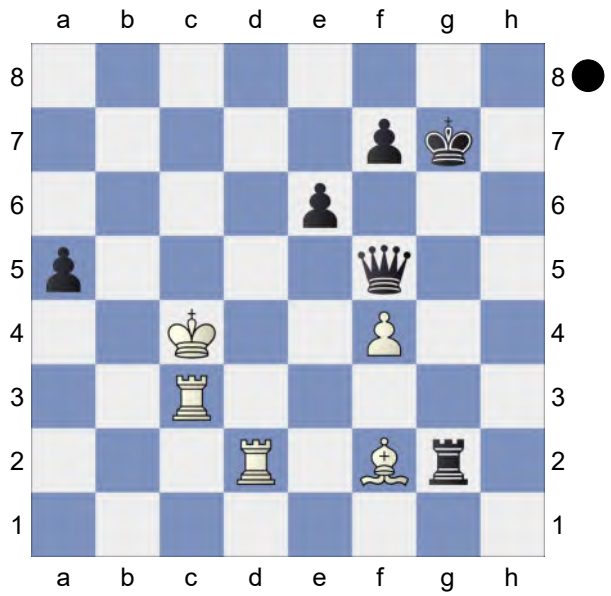


41.Bf2 Qh5+ 42.Ke3 Rg2 43.R1d2 a5 44.c4 bxc4 45.Rc3 Qh3+

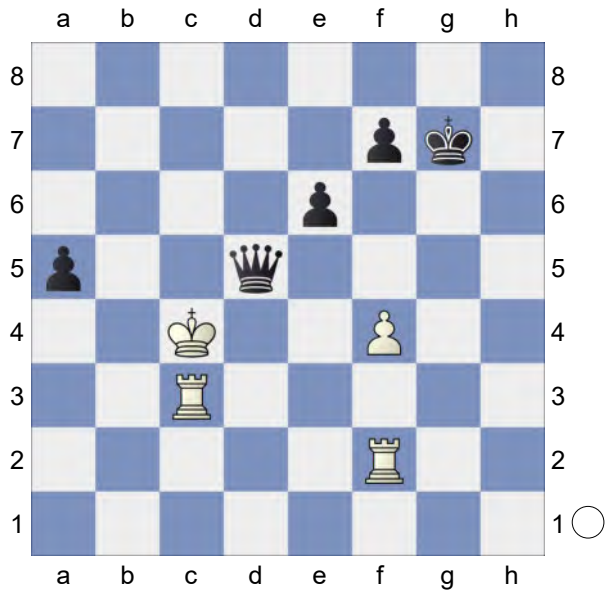


46.Kd4 Qf5 47.Kxc4

(Diagram)



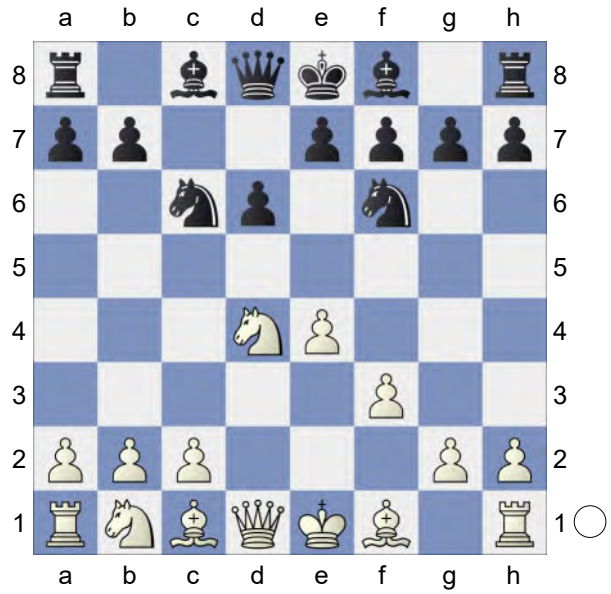
Rxf2! 48.Rxf2
[48.Rg3+ Kf6]
48...Qd5#



Weighted Error Value: White=0.68/ Black=0.31
0-1

10 **B56**
□ **Sicilian Drakon** **3059**
■ **Temp006** **2858**
Blitz 05.01.2022
[Kitty Kat]

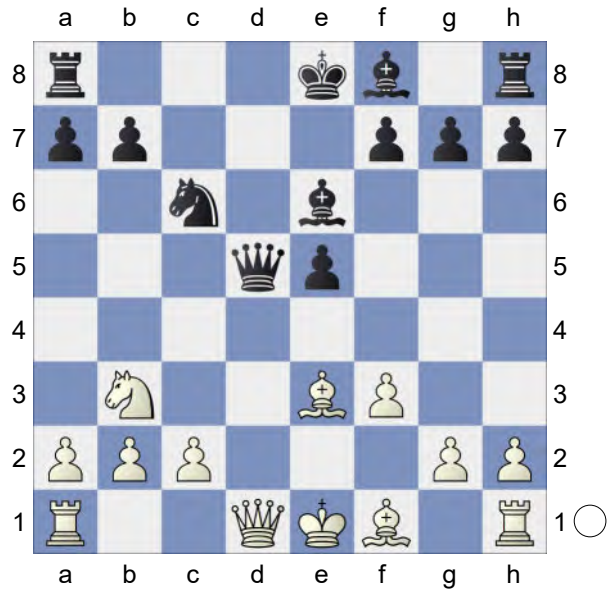
Blitz 3min
B56: Classical Sicilian: Unusual Lines
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/ Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/ Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



6.Nc3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Be3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5

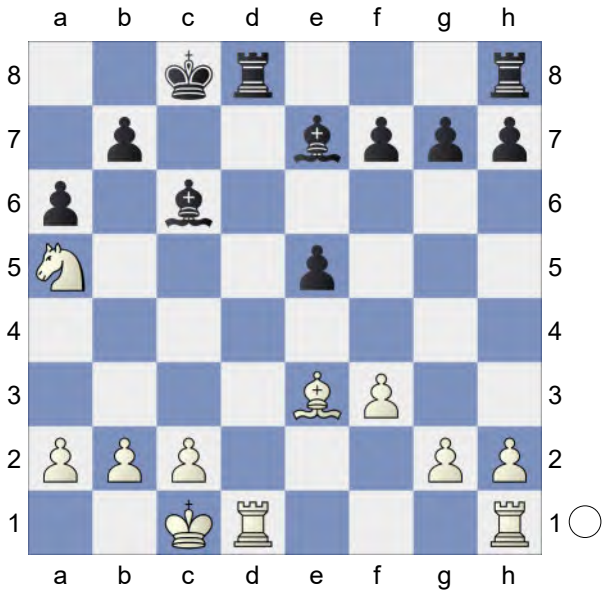
[9...Bxd5 looks sharper. 10.Qd3 a6 11.0-0-0 Nb4]

10.Nxd5 Qxd5

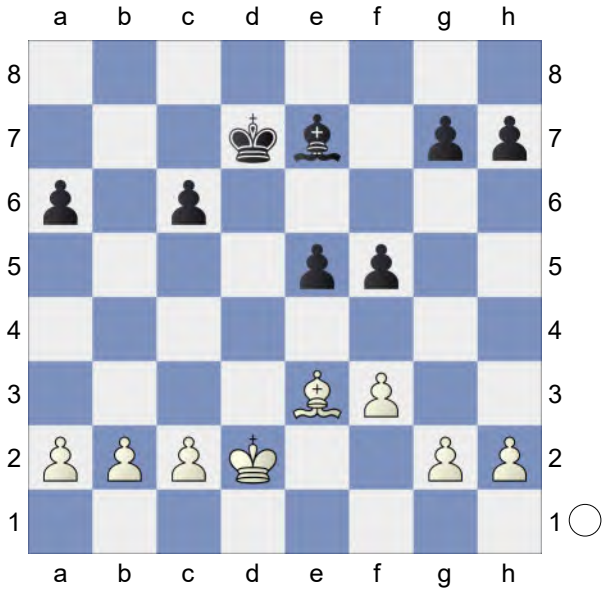


White is slightly better. **11.Qxd5 Bxd5 12.0-0-0 0-0-0 13.Bb5 a6 14.Bxc6 Bxc6 15.Na5 Be7**

(Diagram)



16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.Rxd8+ Rxd8 18.Rd1 Rxd1+ 19.Kxd1= Endgame KB-KB **19...f5 20.Kd2 Kd7**



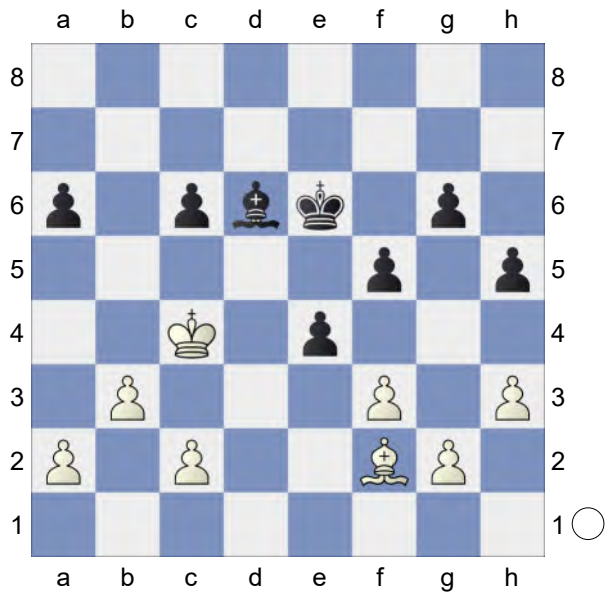
21.Kd3 Ke6 22.Kc4 Bd6 23.h3 h5 24.Bf2 0.01/19

[24.c3± 0.35/20 feels stronger.]

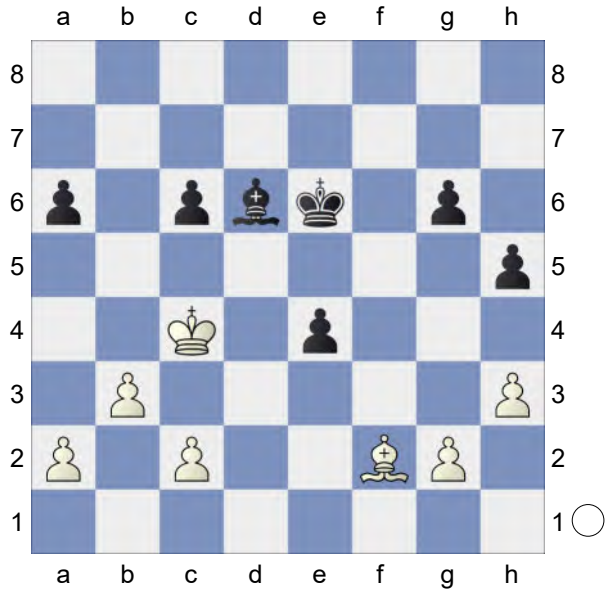
24...g6 25.b3 e4 0.91/23

[25...Kf6= 0.27/21]

(Diagram)

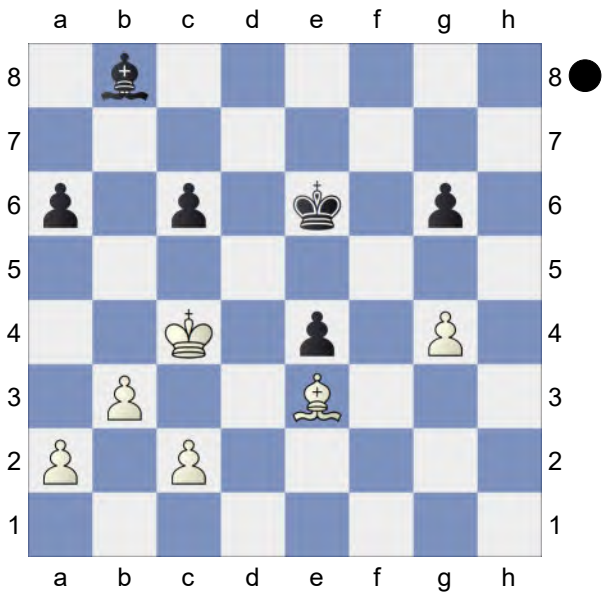


26.fxe4± White is better. **26...fxe4**



27.g4 hxg4 28.hxg4 Bb8 1.14/27
[⌓28...Be5 0.80/23]
29.Be3

(Diagram)

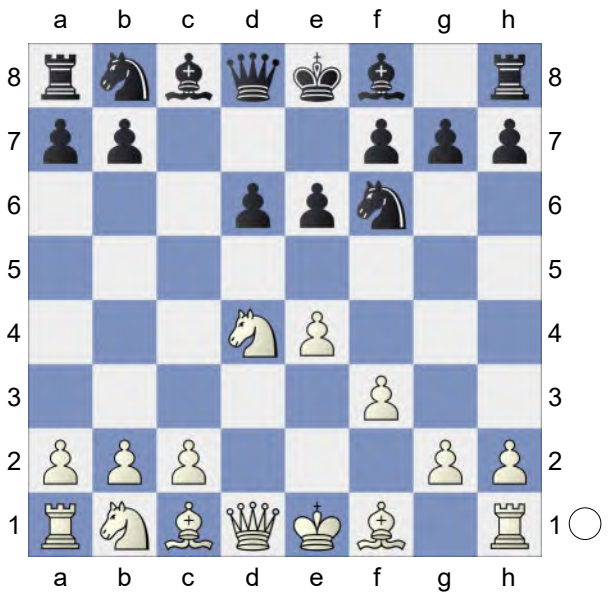


Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.15 (very precise)
1-0

11 **B54**
□ **Saysomething12** **3014**
■ **Sber1** **2825**
Blitz 21.05.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e6

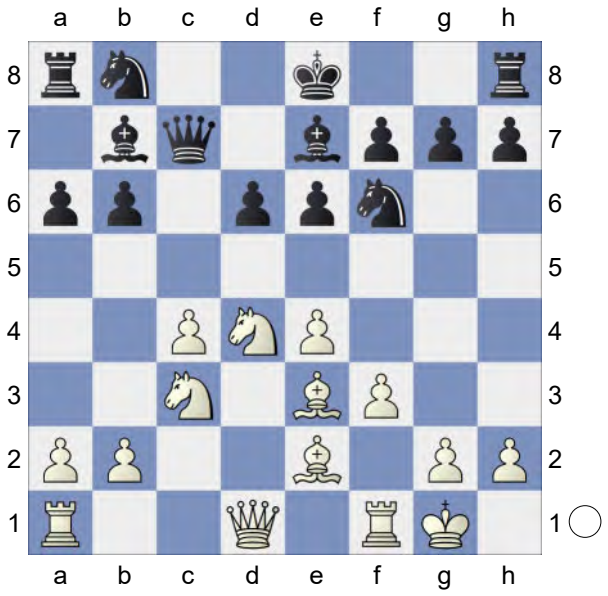
(Diagram)



6.c4 a6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 b6 9.Be2 Bb7 10.0-0 White is slightly better.

10...Qc7

[10...0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson]]



11.Rc1

[11.Qd2 0-0 12.Rfc1 Nbd7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] 1-0]

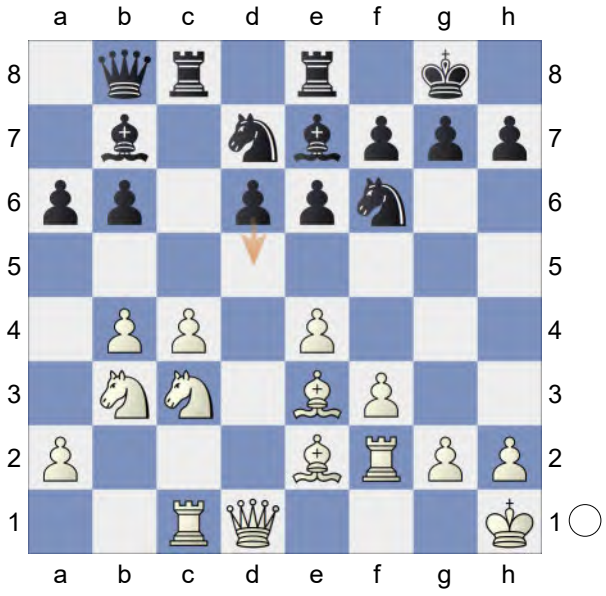
11...0-0 12.Kh1N

[12.Qd2 Nbd7 13.Rfd1 Rac8 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 *(15...Rfe8 16.b4 Bd8 17.Nb3 Bc7 18.g3 Ne5 19.Nd2 d5 20.Bxb6 Bxb6 21.Qxb6 dxe4 22.fxe4 Red8 23.Qe3 Nfg4 24.Qf4 h6 25.h4 Qd6 26.Nf3 Qxb4 27.Nxe5 Qc5+ 28.Kg2 Nxe5 29.Rxd8+ Rxd8 30.Rd1* Chapter-Games Game 12 (40)) 16.Kh1 Bc7 17.Nde2 Kh8 18.Bd4 Bc6 19.Be3 Ne5 20.b3 h6 21.Nd4 Bb7 22.Be2 Ng6 23.Qg1 Rfe8 24.Nc2 d5 25.exd5 exd5 26.Bxb6 Bf4 Chapter-Games Game 7 (40)]

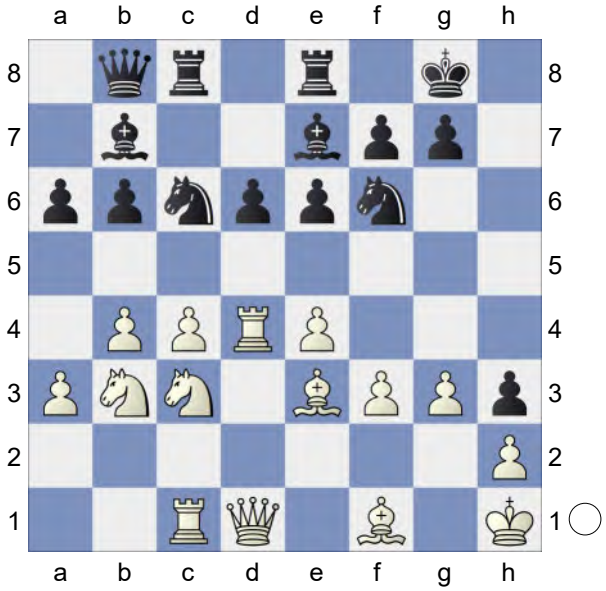
12...Re8 13.b4 Nbd7 14.Nb3 Rac8 15.Rf2 -0.01/19

[15.Qd4± 0.40/16]

15...Qb8=

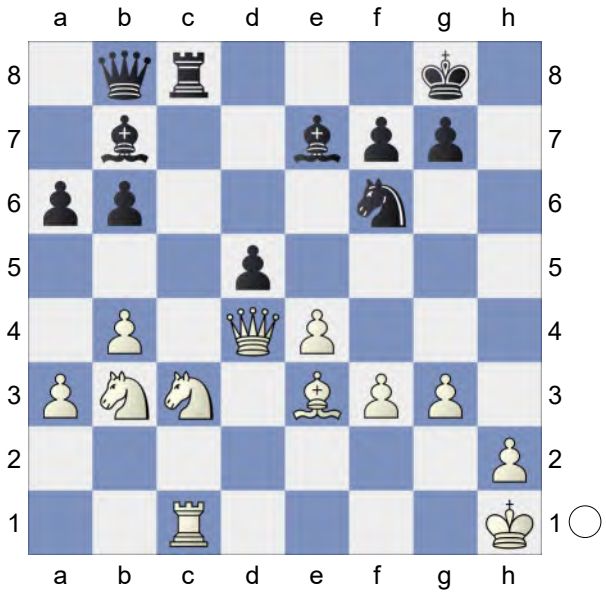


16.Bf1 -0.57/20
[16.Bf4= -0.06/19]
16...h5 0.06/18
[16...d5!∓ -0.57/20 17.cxd5 exd5]
17.a3 h4 18.Rd2 h3
[18...d5!?]
19.g3 Ne5 20.Rd4 Nc6

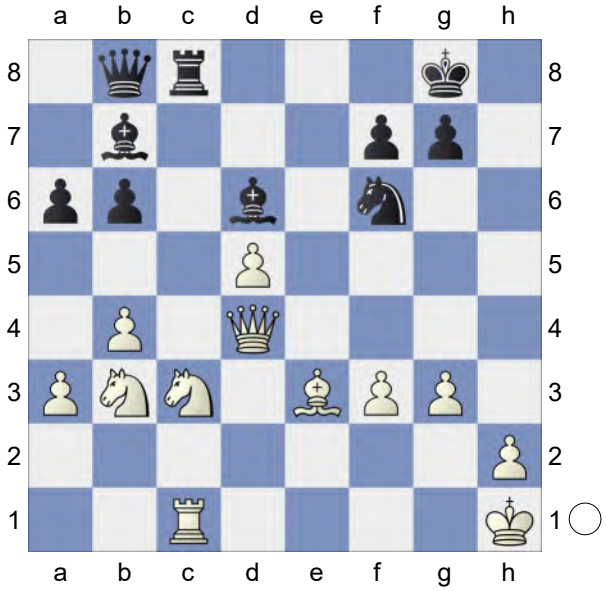


21.Bxh3 -1.32/20
[21.Rd2= -0.01/20 keeps the balance.]
21...Nxd4∓ 22.Qxd4 d5? 0.74/20
[22...Nd7!∓ -0.99/19 White must now prevent ...Bf6. 23.Bf1 Bf6]
23.cxd5± exd5 24.Bxc8 &Bianco is more active.
[24.Nxd5? Rxc1+ 25.Nxc1 Nxd5 26.exd5 Bf6-+]
[24.Qxb6 Rxc3! 25.Rxc3 dxe4∓]
24...Rxc8

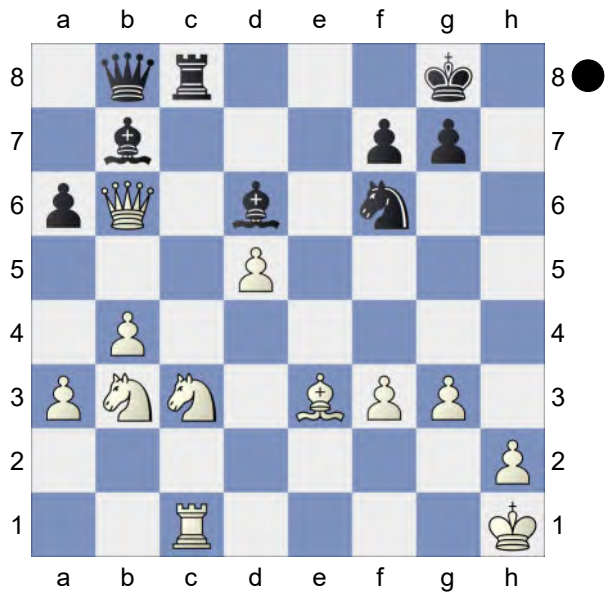
(Diagram)



25.exd5 0.21/20
[25.Bf4!± 0.79/21 Qa8 26.e5 *(26.Qxb6 dxe4 27.Na5 Bd5∓)*]
25...Bd6 0.54/20
[25...Qa8= 0.21/20 might be stronger.]

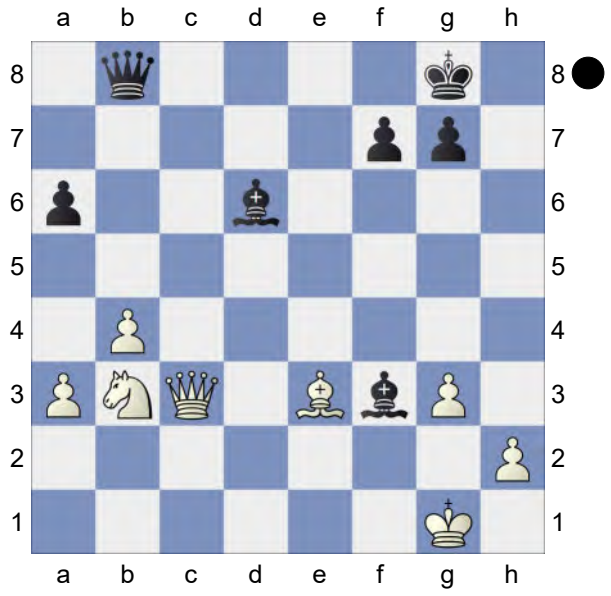


26.Qxb6? -1.22/23
[26.Ne4± 0.54/20 keeps the upper hand. Rxc1+ 27.Bxc1 *(27.Nxc1 Nxd5 28.Nxd6 Qxd6±)* 27...Nxd5 28.Nxd6 Qxd6 29.Qd3]



26...Rxc3!∓ Remove Defender, Decoy **27.Rxc3 Nxd5 28.Qd4** And now Rd3 would win. **28...Be5** -0.01/24 This bishop pair is nice.

[28...Nxc3∓ -1.49/24 29.Qxc3 Bxf3+ 30.Kg1



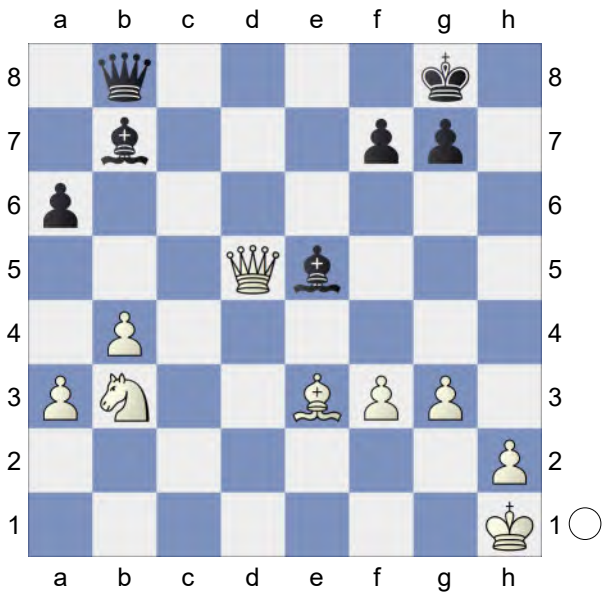
Bxg3!]

29.Rc8+!= Bxc8 1.01/23

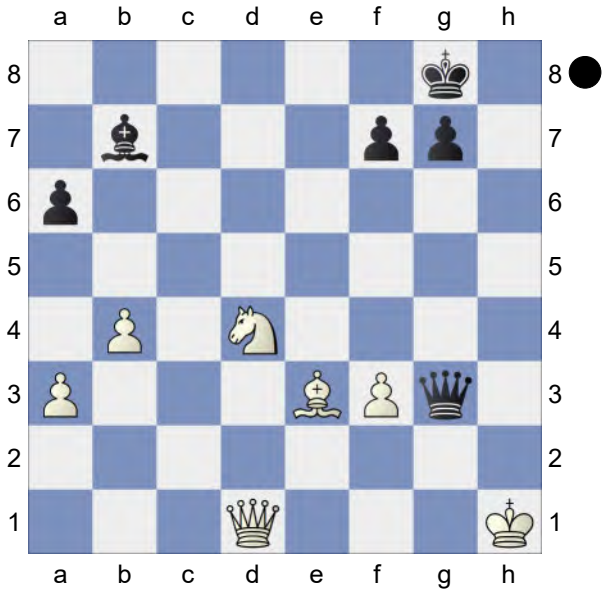
[29...Qxc8= 0.01/24 30.Qxe5 f6]

30.Qxd5± Bb7

(Diagram)



31.Qd1 Bxg3? 3.21/22 **32.hxg3+- Qxg3 33.Nd4**



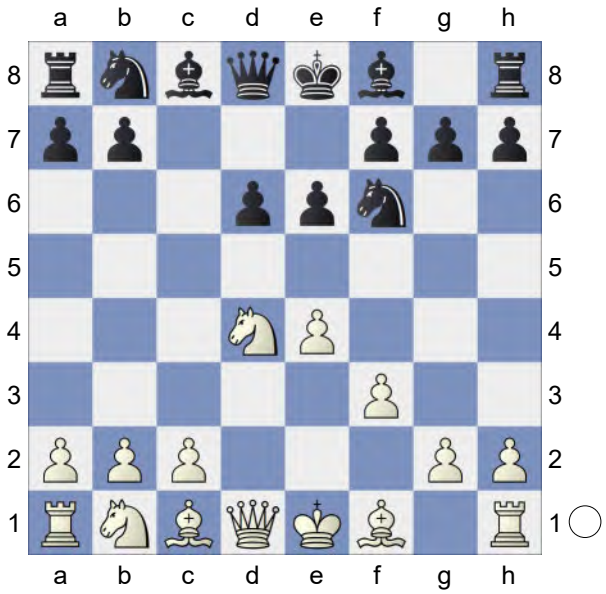
Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/ Black=0.49

1-0

12 **B80**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2983**
■ **Alexandr Khlebovich** **2749**
Blitz 31.03.2022
[Kitty Kat]

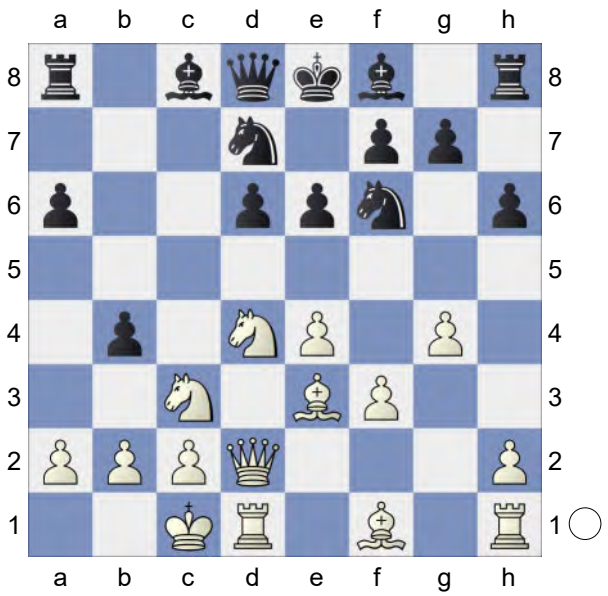
Blitz 3min
B80: Sicilian Scheveningen: 6 g3 and 6 Be3, including English Attack
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e6
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 *(12.Rac1 Rc8 13.Rfd1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Kh8 17.b4 Rg8 18.Nb3 Bc7 19.Qg1 g5 20.Bd3 Qa8 21.Nd2 Rg7 22.Bd4 Rcg8 23.Na4 g4 24.f4 Qd8 25.Bb1 g3 26.h3 b5* Chapter-Games Game 5 (54) *)* 12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13. ?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

(Diagram)

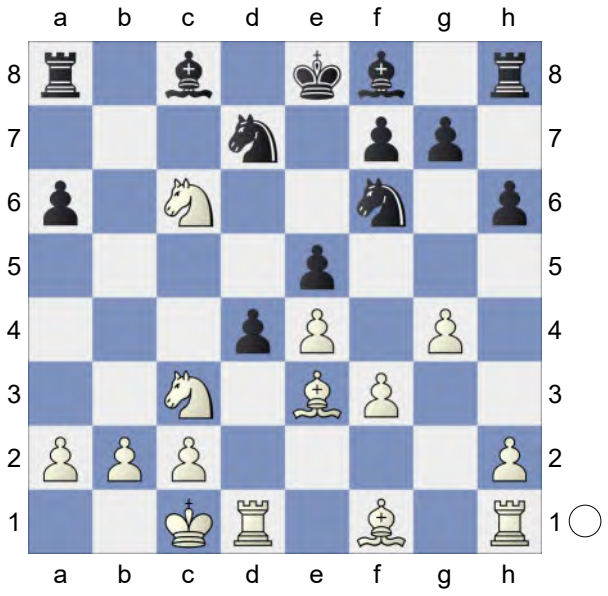


6.Nc3N
[6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 Qc7 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
6...a6 7.Be3 Nbd7 8.g4 h6 9.Qd2 b5 10.0-0-0 b4

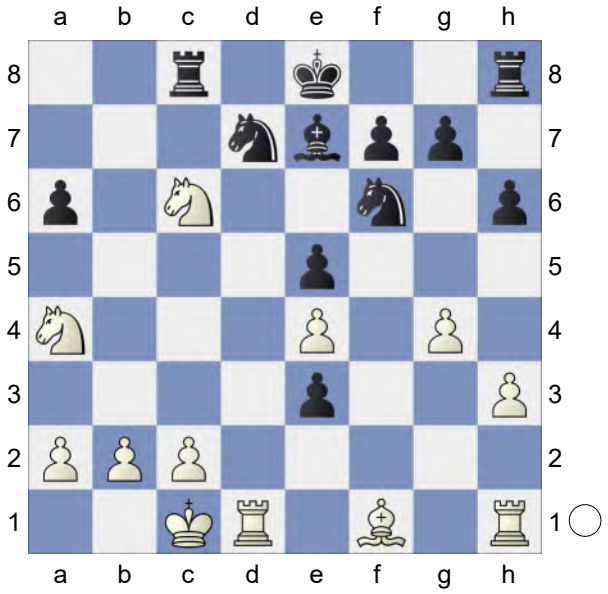
(Diagram)



11.Nce2 Qc7 12.Qxb4 next Qc3 is good for White. **12...d5** The position is equal. **13.Qc3 Qxc3 14.Nxc3** exd5 is the strong threat. **14...e5 15.Nc6**
[15.exd5 exd4 16.Bxd4 Bb7∓]
15...d4

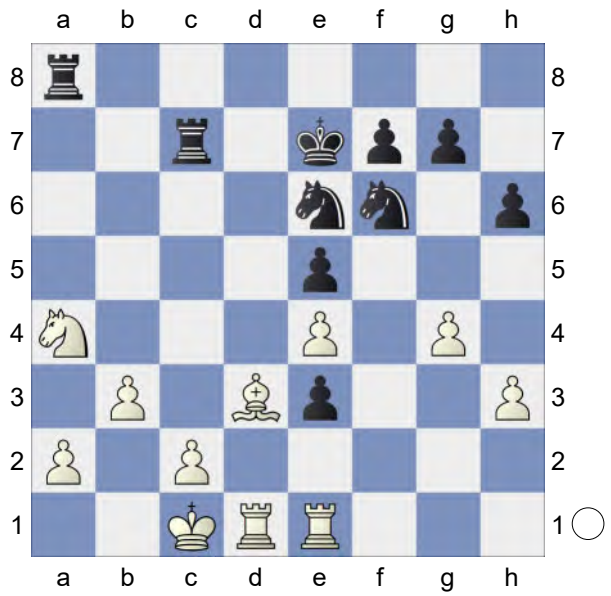


16.Na4 -0.32/21
[16.Bd2= 0.00/17]
16...Bb7 0.80/20
[16...dxe3∓ -0.32/21 stays ahead. 17.Nb6 Bb7 18.Nxa8 Bxa8]
17.Na5± 0x0.00209a826646dp-1022s more active pieces. The black rooks are badly placed. **17...Bxe4 18.fxe4** Black must now prevent Bg1. **18...dxe3 19.h3** -0.11/18
[19.Nc4!± 0.59/17]
19...Be7 0.64/18
[But not 19...Nxe4 20.Bg2 *(20.Rxd7 Kxd7 21.Nb6+ Ke8=)* 20...Ndf6 21.Rhe1±]
[19...Bb4= -0.11/18 20.Nc4 Nxe4]
20.Nc6 0.19/19
[20.Bd3± 0.64/18 deserves consideration.]
20...Rc8 0.97/18
[20...Nxe4= 0.19/19 21.Nxe7 Kxe7]

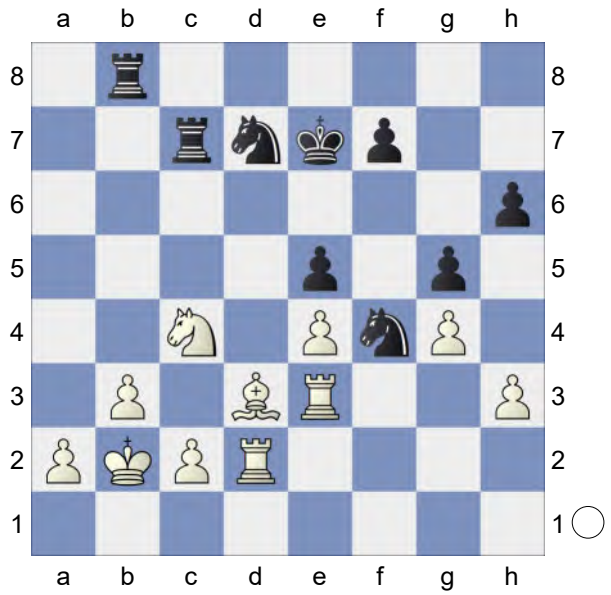


21.Nxe7 White now steadily converts the win. **21...Kxe7 22.Bxa6 Rc7 23.Bd3 Ra8 24.b3 Nf8** 2.47/19
[24...Rxa4 1.75/18 was worth a try. 25.bxa4 Nc5]
25.Rhe1+- Ne6

(Diagram)

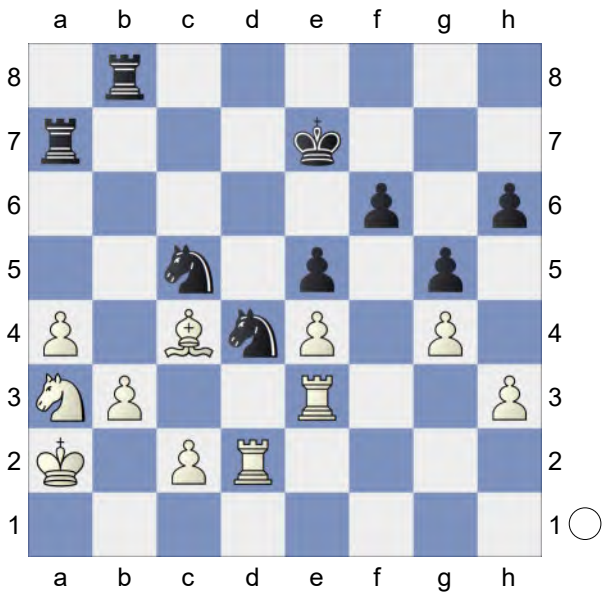


26.Rxe3 Nf4 27.Kb2 Rac8 28.Rd2 g5 29.Nb6 Rb8 30.Nc4 Nd7

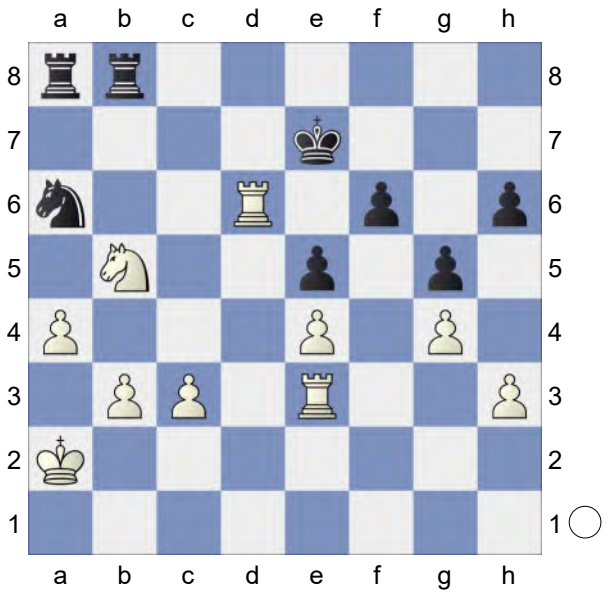


31.Bf1 f6 32.a4 Nc5 33.Ka2 Nfe6 34.Na3 Nd4 35.Bc4 Ra7

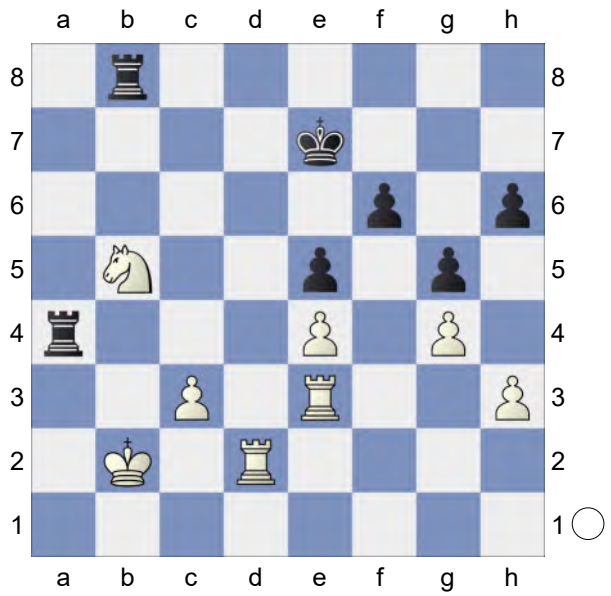
(Diagram)



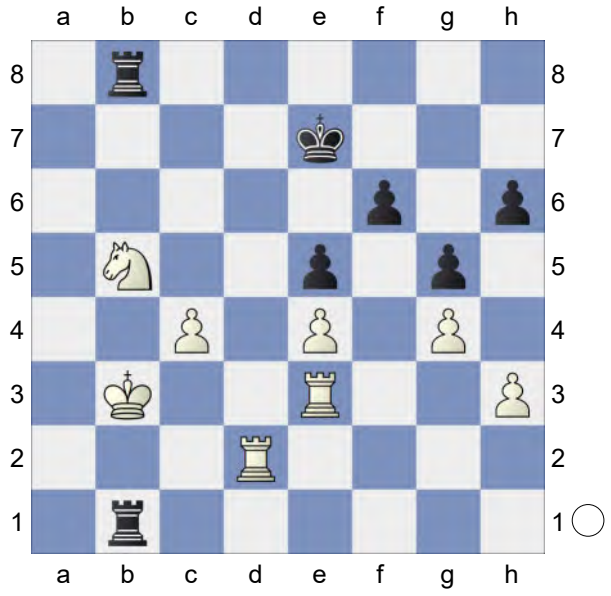
36.Bd5 Na6 5.02/22
[⌓36...Kf8 3.35/20 37.Rh2 Kg7]
37.c3 Ne6 38.Bxe6 Kxe6 39.Nb5 Raa8 40.Rd6+ Ke7



Threatens to win with ...Nc5. **41.Rd2?** -0.01/19
[White should play 41.Rd5+- 5.19/21]
41...Nc5? 4.26/20
[41...Ke6!= -0.01/19 and Black is okay. 42.Rd5 Rc8]
42.Kb2 Nxa4+ 6.36/25
[⌓42...Rh8 4.01/19 43.Rd5 Ne6]
43.bxa4 Rxa4



44.Kb3! Ra1 45.c4 Rb1+



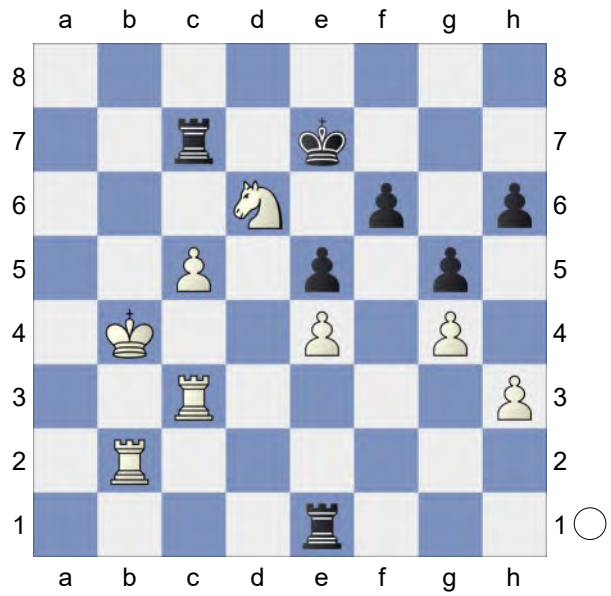
46.Rb2 Rh1 47.Kb4 Rc8 48.c5 Rc1 49.Rc3 Re1 50.Nd6? -0.01/19

[50.c6+- 8.44/20]

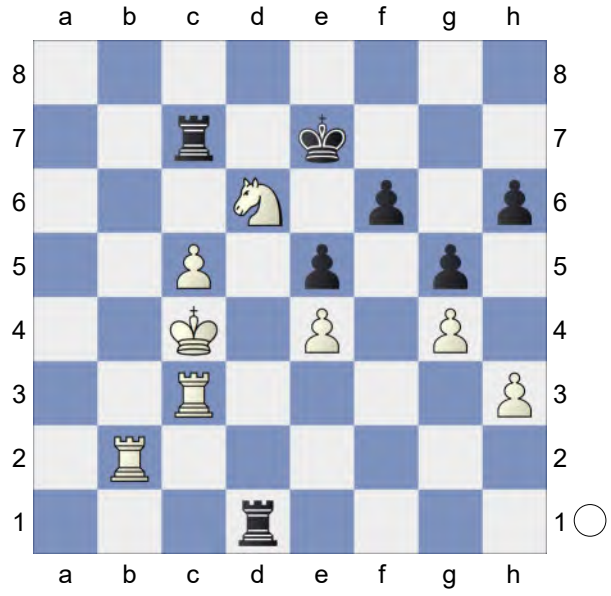
50...Rc7? 9.32/20

[50...Rb8+= -0.01/19 51.Nb5 *(51.Ka3? Ra1+ 52.Ra2 Ra8+ 53.Kb3 R8xa2-+)* 51...Rxe4+ 52.Ka5 Re1]

(Diagram)



51.Kc4 Rd1

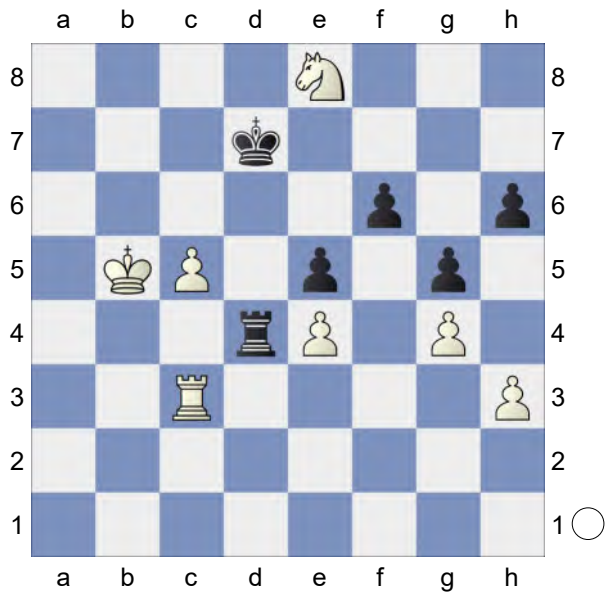


52.Rb7! Rd4+

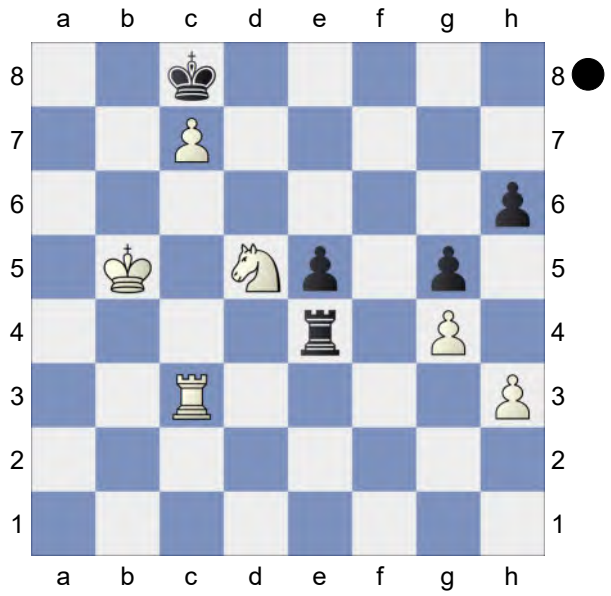
[52...Kd7 53.Rxc7+]

53.Kb5 Kd7 54.Rxc7+ Kxc7 55.Ne8+ Kd7

(Diagram)



56.Nxf6+ Kc7 57.Nd5+ White mates.
57...Kc8 58.c6 Rxe4 59.c7

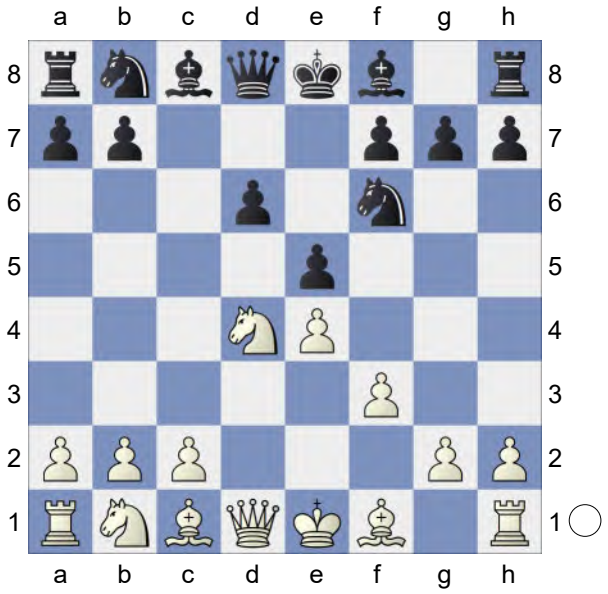


Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/Black=0.54
1-0

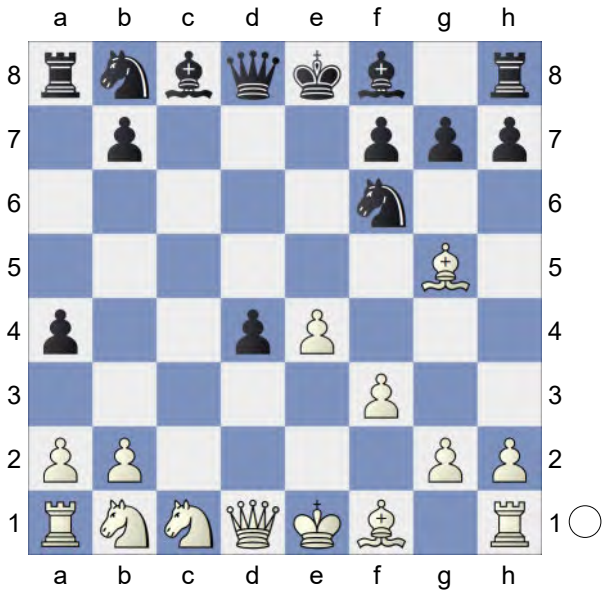
13 **B54**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2982**
■ **Southafricanwolf** **2684**
Blitz 31.03.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244

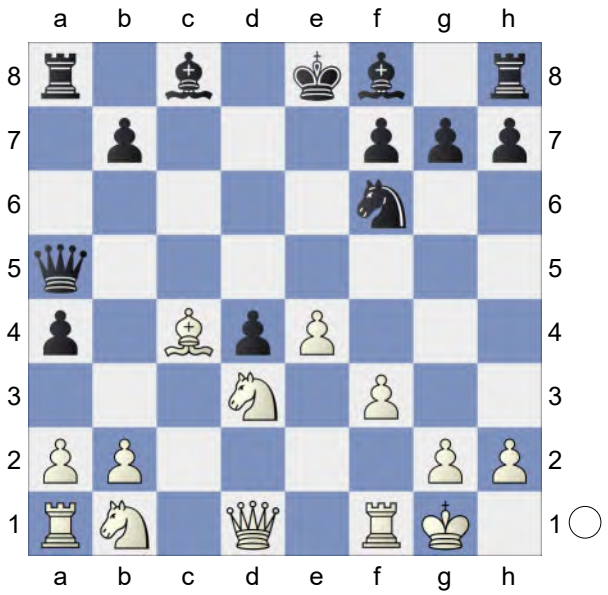
1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



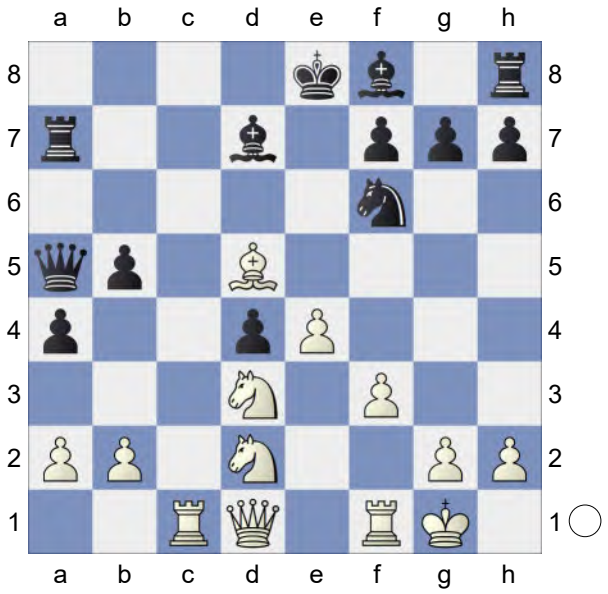
6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4! 8.c3 a5 0.38/18
[8...Nc6= 0.02/18]
9.cxd4 White is slightly better. **9...a4**
10.Nc1 -0.35/18
[10.Bb5+= -0.02/17 deserves consideration. Bd7 11.dxe5! axb3 12.Qxb3 Bxb5 13.Qxb5+ Nbd7 14.Nc3 *(14.exf6 Ra5=)*]
10...exd4



11.Bc4 Qa5+ 12.Bd2 Qb6 13.Nd3 Nc6 14.0-0 Na5 0.97/21
[14...Be7= 0.03/18 remains equal.]
15.Bxa5 0.11/21
[White should try 15.Qxa4+± 0.97/21 Bd7 16.Bxa5 Rxa5 17.Qc2]
15...Qxa5=

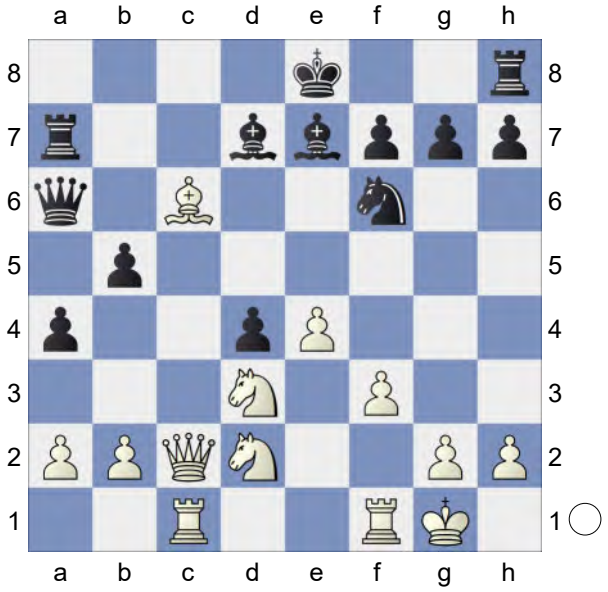


16.Nd2 b5 17.Bd5 Ra7 0.83/20
[17...Nxd5± 0.33/20 18.exd5 Be7]
18.Rc1± Bd7

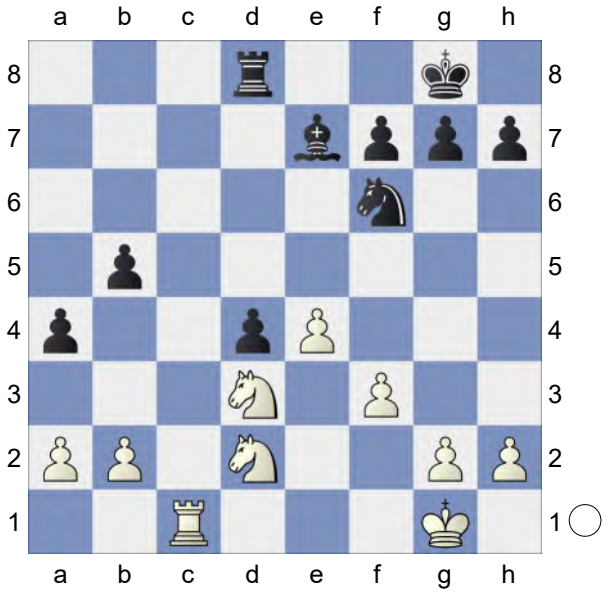


19.Bc6 0.46/21 &Bianco is more active.
[19.Ne5!± 0.82/20 Bb4 20.Bxf7+ Ke7 21.Nb1]
19...Qa6 1.65/20
[19...Bxc6± 0.46/21 20.Rxc6 Be7]

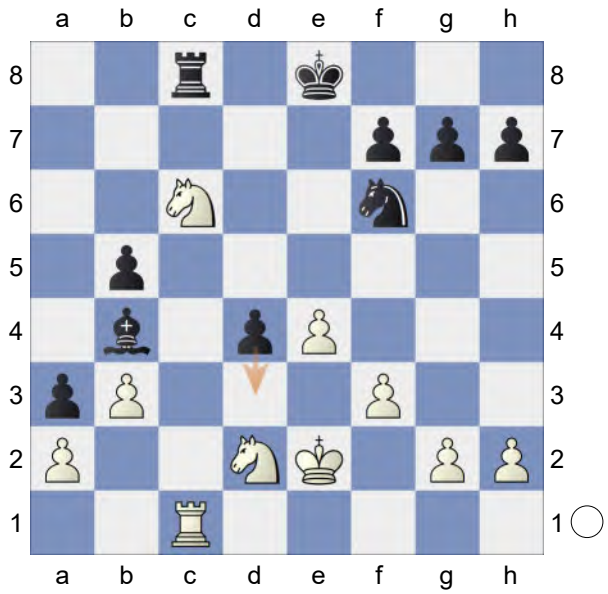
20.Qc2 0.94/20
[20.e5+- 1.65/20 Ng8 21.Bxd7+ Rxd7 22.Ne4]
20...Be7 2.42/22
[20...g6± 0.94/20 21.Ne5 Bxc6]



21.Bxd7+? 0.56/22
[21.e5+- 2.42/22]
21...Rxd7 1.02/20
[21...Nxd7± 0.56/22 22.f4 *(22.Qc8+ Bd8±)* 22...0-0]
22.Qc8+ Qxc8 23.Rxc8+ Rd8 24.Rfc1 0-0 25.Rxd8 Rxd8

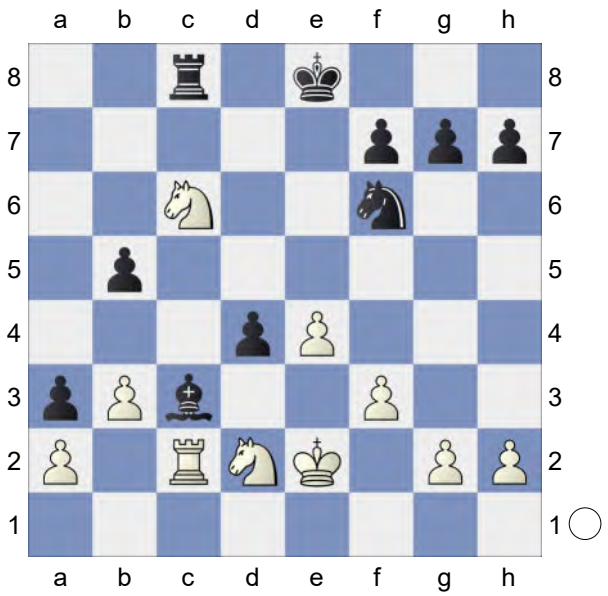


26.Kf2 Kf8 27.Ke2 Ke8 28.Ne5 0.13/21
[28.Rc6± 1.12/18]
28...a3 1.10/19
[28...Bd6= 0.13/21 29.Nd3 Be7]
29.b3 0.68/17 Black is now going downhill.
[29.bxa3± 1.10/19 Nd7 30.Nxd7 Kxd7 31.a4]
29...Bb4 1.73/20
[Better is 29...Bd6± 0.68/17]
30.Nc6+- Rc8

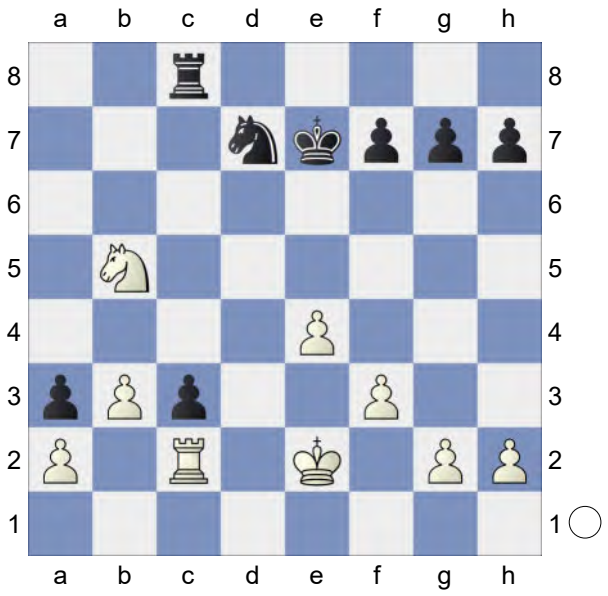


31.Rc2 Bc3 3.51/21
[31...d3+ 1.84/20 32.Kxd3 Bf8]

(Diagram)

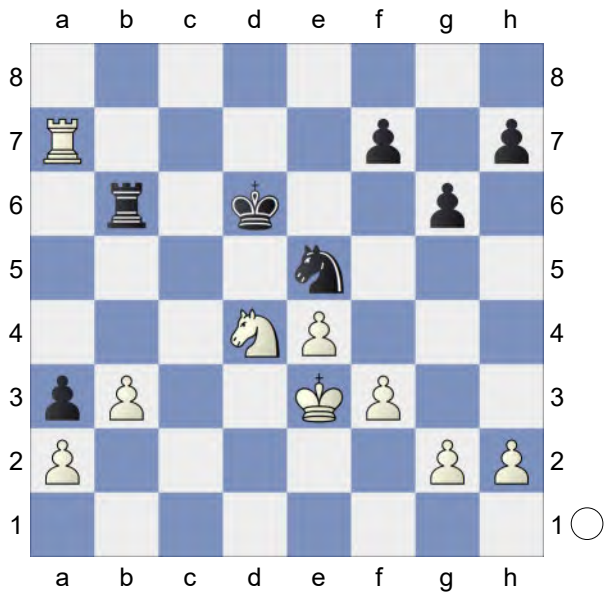


32.Nxd4! **b4** **33.Nb5** Strongly threatening Nd6+. **33...Ke7** Prevents Nd6. **34.Nb1** **Nd7** **35.N1xc3** **bxc3**

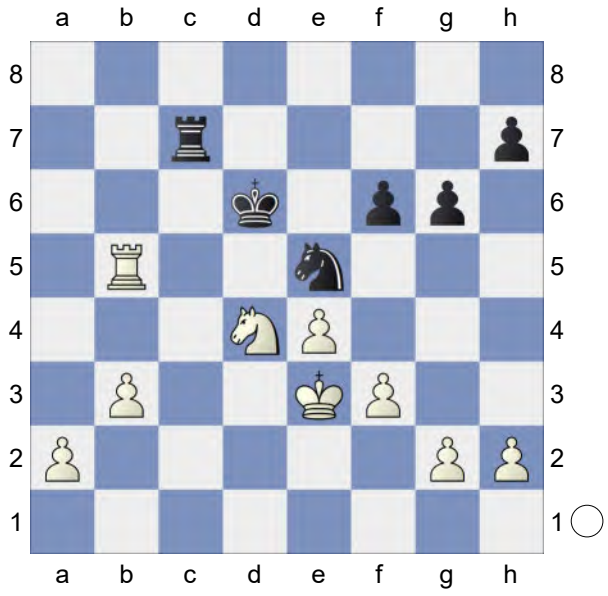


36.Rxc3 Endgame KRN-KRN **36...Rb8**
37.Nd4 Black must now prevent Nc6+.
37...Rb6 **38.Rc7** **g6** **39.Ke3** **Kd6**
40.Ra7 White is clearly winning.
40...Ne5

(Diagram)

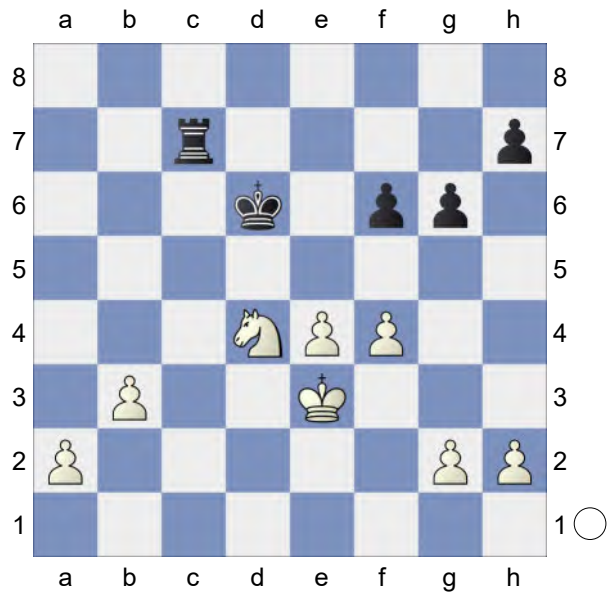


41.Rxa3 **Rb7** **42.Ra5** Threatens to win with Rd5+. **42...f6** **43.Rb5** **Rc7**
10.89/22
[⌓43...Rxb5 4.60/19 44.Nxb5+ Kc5]

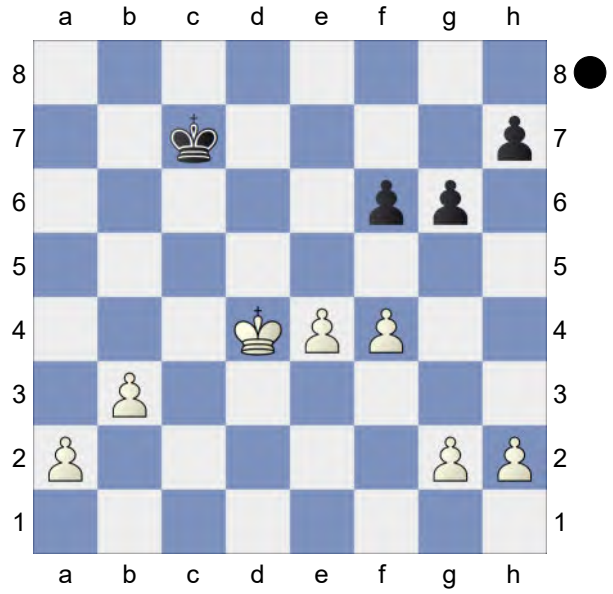


44.Rxe5! **Kxe5**
[44...Kd7 45.Re6]
45.f4+ **Kd6**

(Diagram)



46.Nb5+ Kc6 47.Nxc7 Kxc7 48.Kd4



Weighted Error Value: White=0.34/ Black=0.50

1-0

14 **B54**

□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2975**

■ **Vaynetop** **2854**

Blitz 31.03.2022

[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min

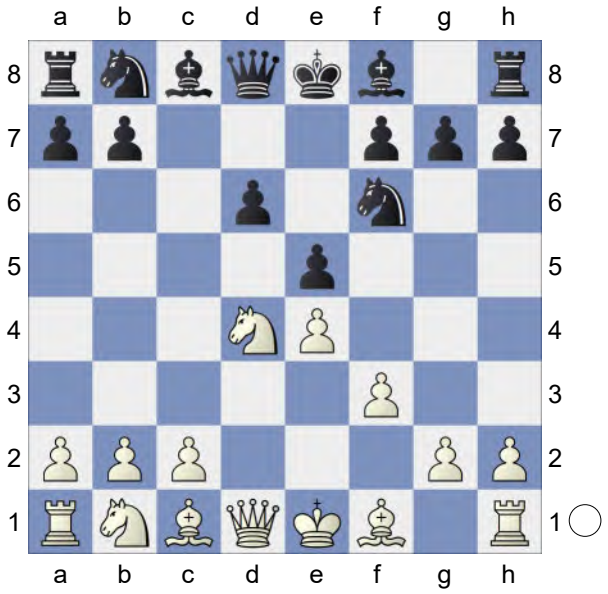
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

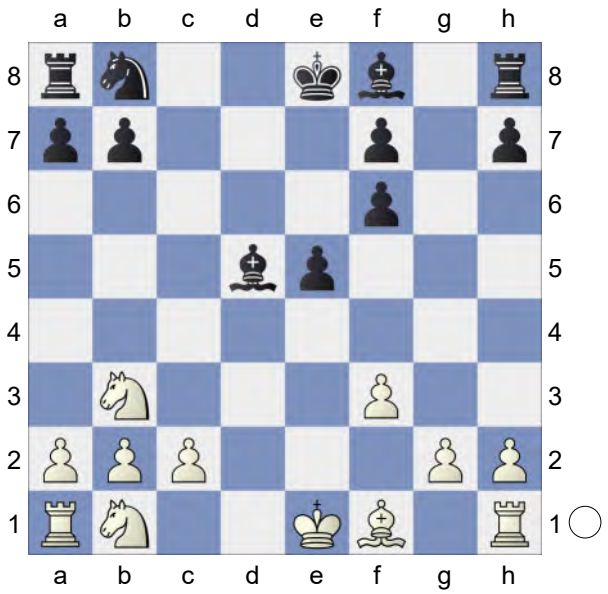
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244

1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

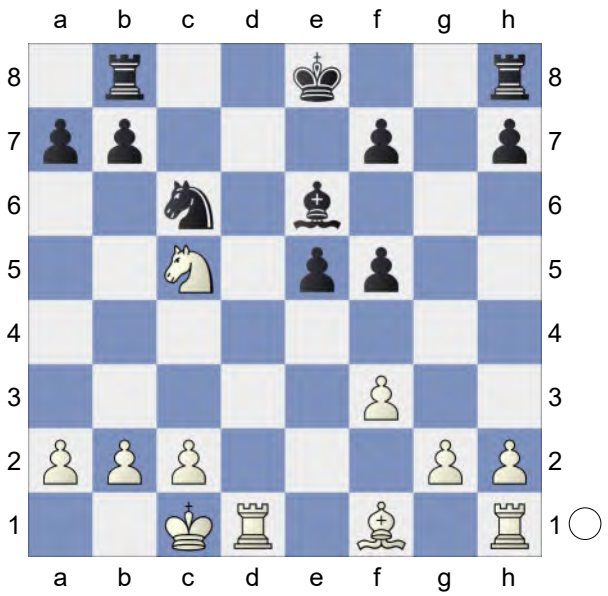


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Bxd5

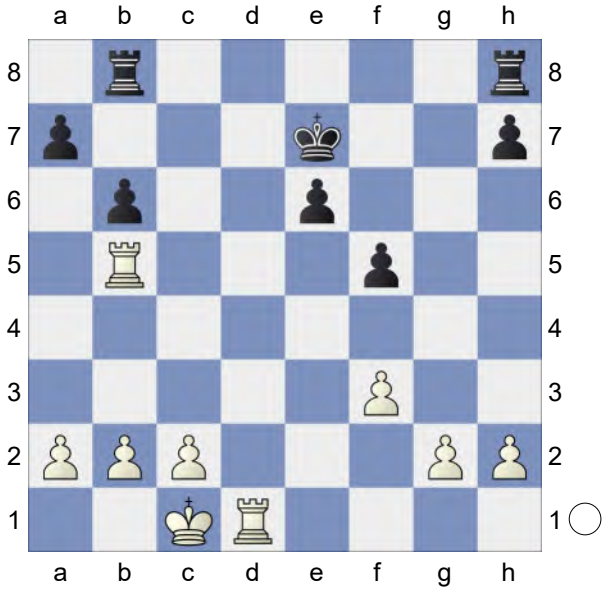


11.Nc3 Be6 12.0-0-0 Nc6 Inhibits Na5. **13.Ne4 f5 14.Nec5** The position is equal. **14...Bxc5 15.Nxc5 Rb8** 0.88/20
[15...Ke7± 0.37/18]

(Diagram)

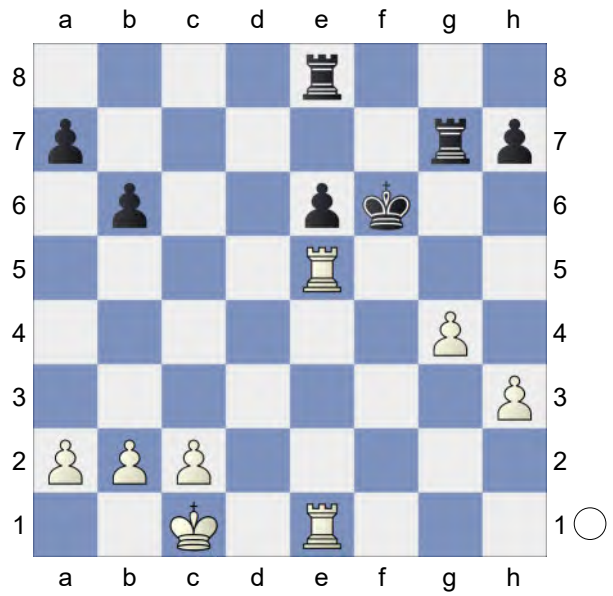


16.Bb5 Strongly threatening Nxb7! Black is now going downhill. **16...Ke7 17.Rhe1** &Bianco is more active. **17...Nd4** 1.27/19
[Better is 17...Rbc8 0.85/20]
18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.Rxe5 Nxb5 20.Rxb5± Endgame KRR-KRR **20...b6**

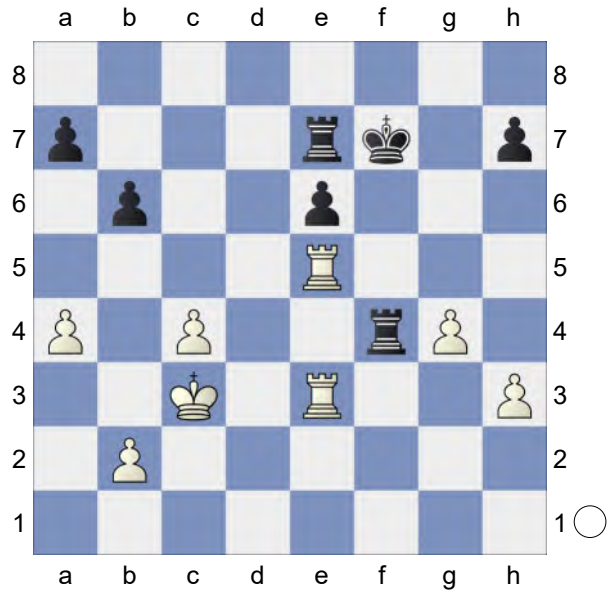


21.Re1 Hoping for Rbe5. **21...Kf6 22.Rbe5 Rbe8 23.g4 fxg4 24.fxg4 Rhg8 25.h3 Rg7**

(Diagram)

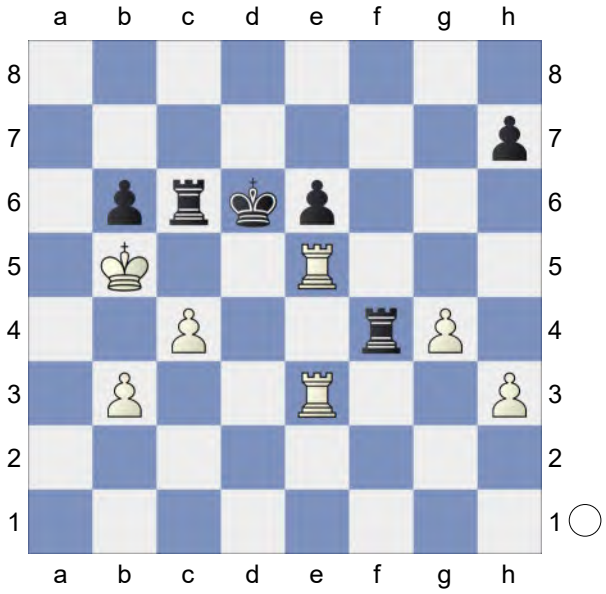


26.c4 1.25/21
[⌓26.b3 1.58/19]
26...Rd7 1.83/19
[26...Rg5± 1.25/21 might work better. 27.Rxg5 Kxg5]
27.Kc2+- Rd4 2.09/21
[27...Rg7 1.73/19 keeps fighting. 28.Rh5 Ke7]
28.Kc3 Rf4 29.R1e3 Prevents Rf3.
29...Re7 30.a4 Kf7

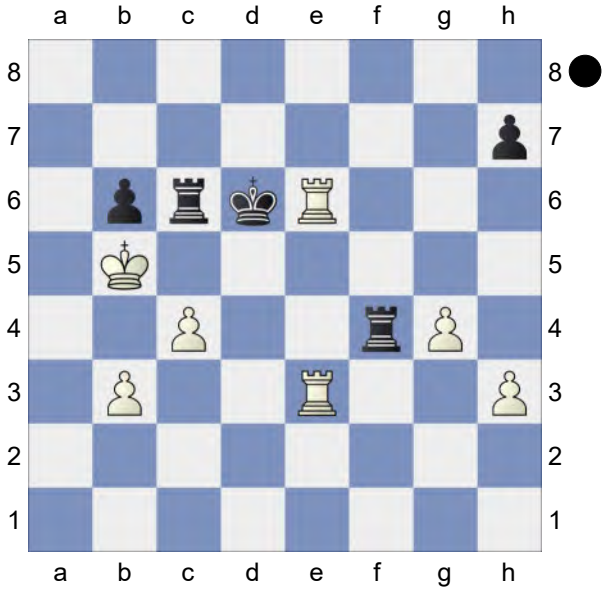


31.a5 Rc7 32.b3
[Weaker is 32.Rxe6 Rfxc4+ 33.Kb3 bxa5±]

32...Rc6 33.axb6 axb6 34.Kb4 Ke7 35.Kb5 Kd6 #9/20
[35...Kd7+- 4.31/22 36.Rh5 Rf7]



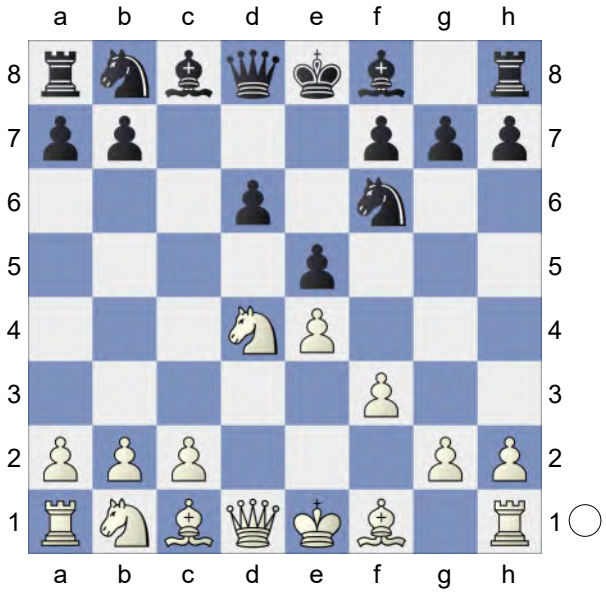
36.Rxe6+



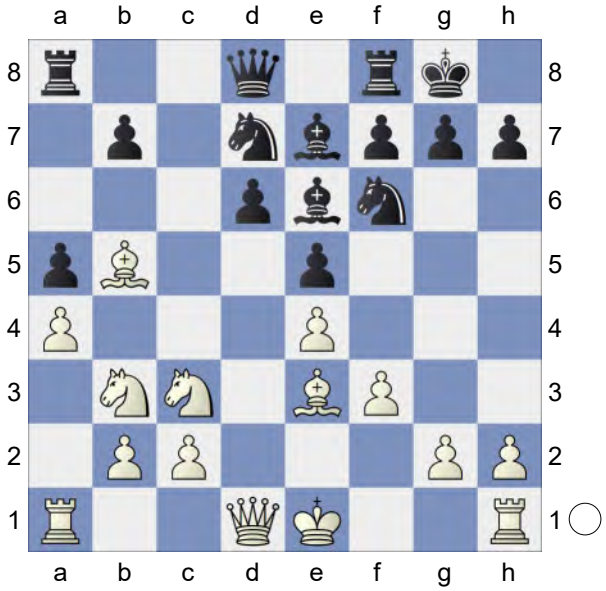
Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.51
1-0

15 **B54**
□ **Ukrchess Org Ua** **2972**
■ **Mr Berzerk0** **2697**
Blitz 02.08.2021
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

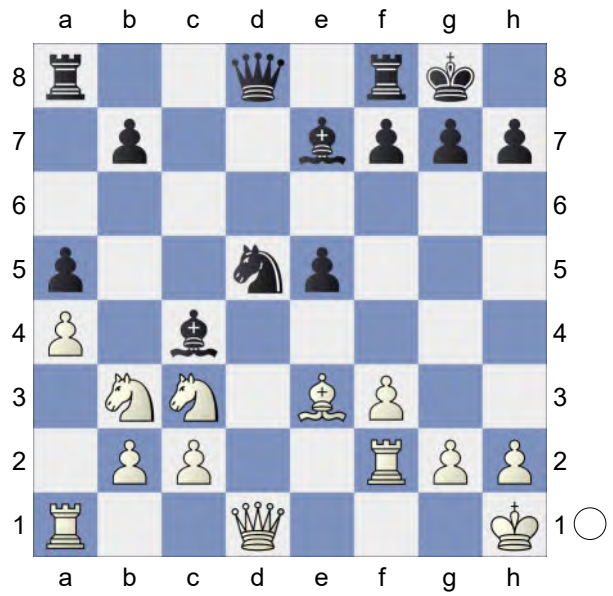


6.Nb3 a5 7.a4 Be6 8.Nc3 Nbd7 White has an edge. **9.Be3 Be7 10.Bb5 0-0**

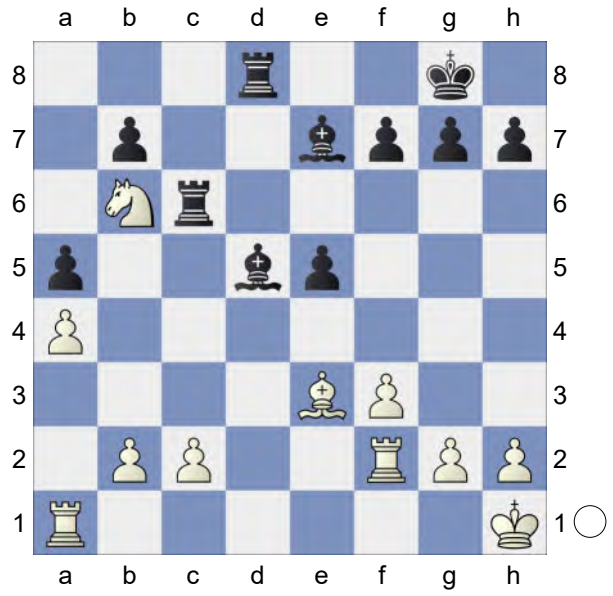


11.0-0 -0.01/19
[⌓11.Qe2 0.30/18]
11...Nb6= 12.Kh1 Nc4 13.Bxc4 Bxc4 14.Rf2 d5 15.exd5 Nxd5

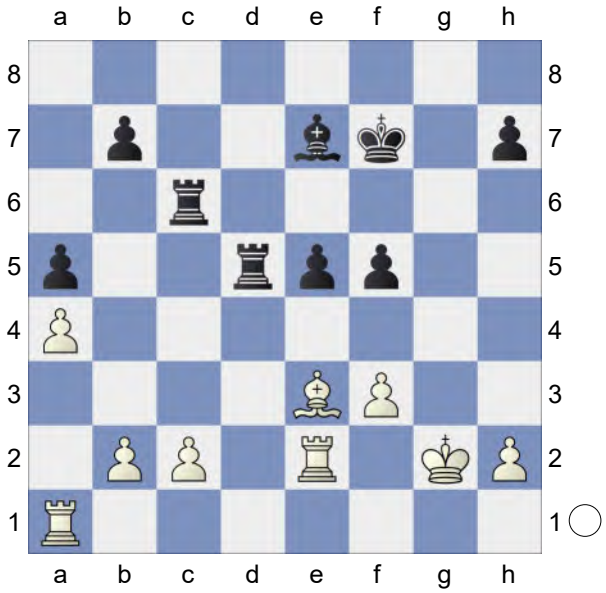
(Diagram)



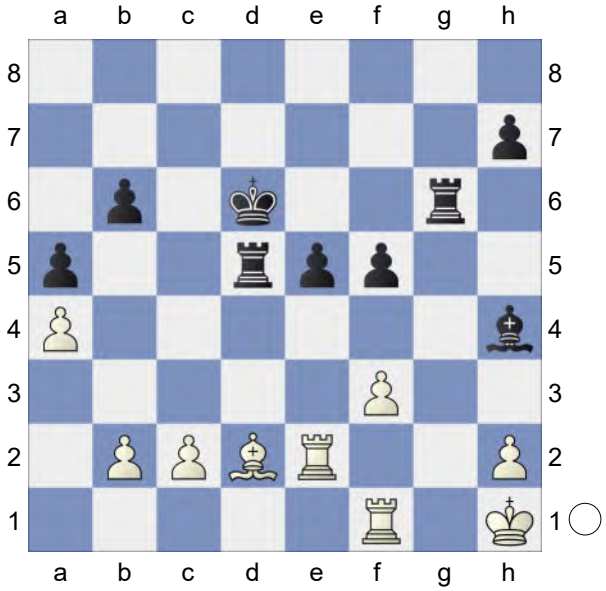
16.Nxd5 -0.83/19
[16.Rd2!∓ -0.44/21 deserves consideration. Nxe3 17.Rxd8 Nxd1 18.Rdxd1]
16...Qxd5∓ 17.Qxd5 -0.32/19
[17.Bc5∓ -0.86/21 Bxc5 18.Qxd5 Bxd5 19.Nxc5]
17...Bxd5∓ 18.Nc5 Rac8 -0.19/22
[18...Rfd8∓ -0.69/18]
19.Nd7= Rfd8 20.Nb6 -0.48/20
[20.Nxe5= -0.12/23 f6 21.Nd3]
20...Rc6∓



And now ...Be6 would win. **21.Nxd5 Rxd5 22.g4 g6 23.Kg2 f5 24.gxf5 gxf5** Hoping for ...f4. **25.Re2 Kf7**

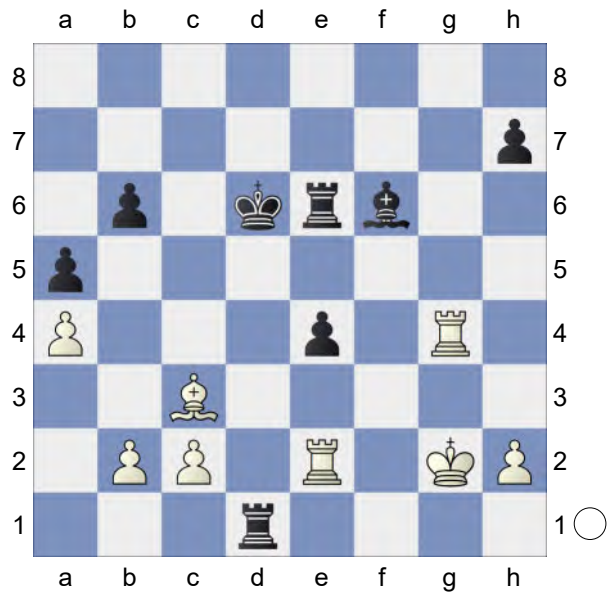


26.Rg1 Rg6+ 27.Kh1 Ke6 28.Rge1 Bh4 29.Rf1 Kd6 30.Bd2 b6

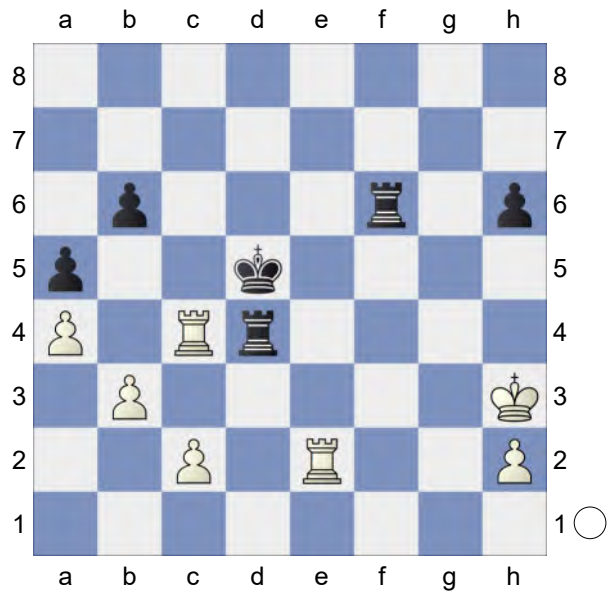


31.Bc3 Re6 -0.45/20
[Better is 31...Bg5∓ -0.83/19]
32.Rg1 e4 33.fxe4 fxe4 0.31/21
[33...Rxe4= -0.23/24 34.Rxe4 fxe4]
34.Rg4!± Rd1+ 35.Kg2 Bf6

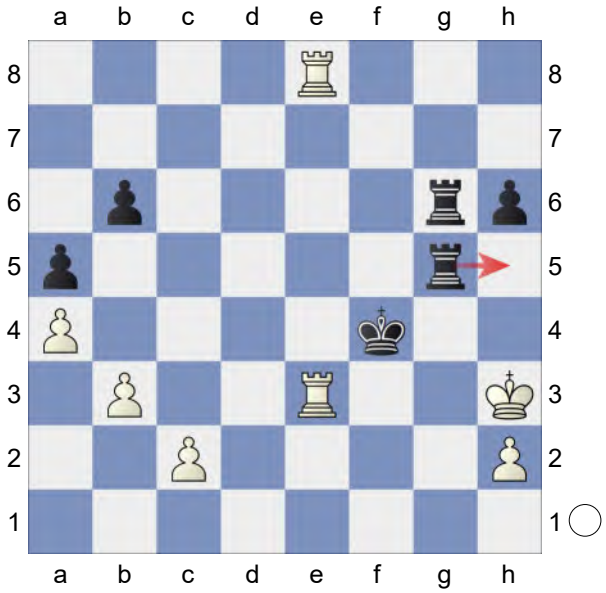
(Diagram)



36.Bxf6
[36.Rexe4 Rxe4 37.Rxe4 Bxc3 38.bxc3 Rd2+ 39.Kg3 Rxc2∓]
36...Rxf6 37.Rgxe4 Endgame KRR-KRR **37...h6 38.b3 Kc5** 0.93/21
[38...Rd5± 0.60/20 should be considered.]
39.Rc4+± Kd5 40.Kh3 Rd4

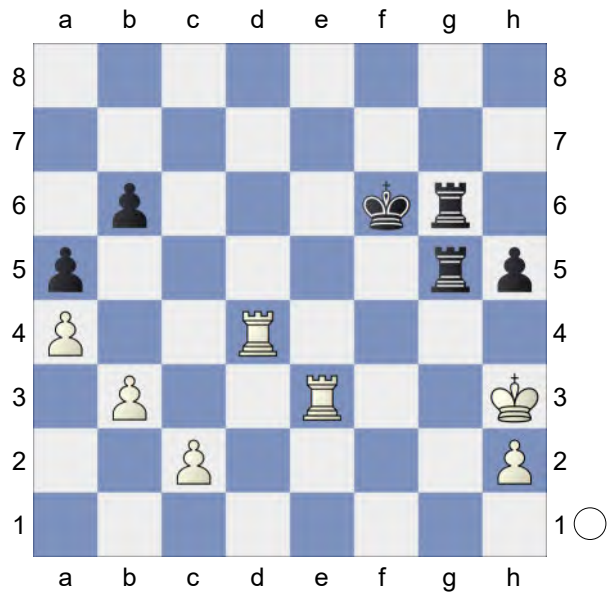


41.Rc3 Rg6 42.Re8 Rdg4 1.84/24
[42...Rf6± 0.91/20]
43.Rd8+!+- Ke5 2.28/26
[43...Ke6 1.86/27 was worth a try. 44.Re3+ Kf7 45.Rd7+ Kf8]
44.Re3+! Kf4 45.Rde8 0.89/25
[45.Re1!+- 2.36/24 Kg5 46.Rd5+ Kf6 47.Rb5]
45...R4g5±



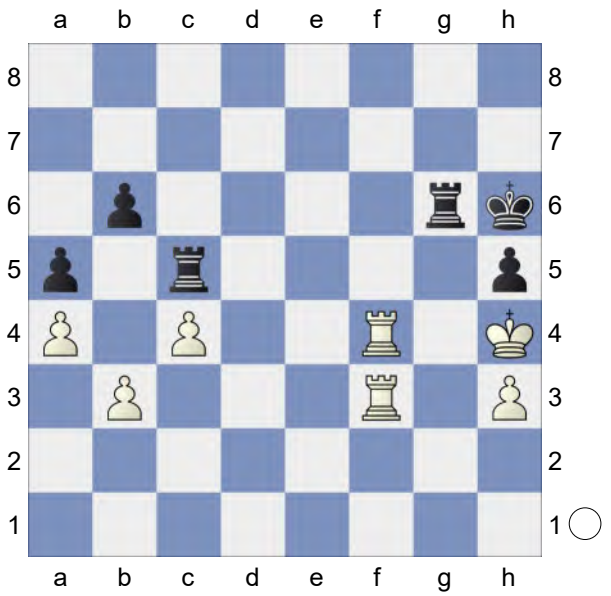
46.R8e4+ Kf5 47.Re5+ Kf4 48.R5e4+ 0.01/5
[48.R3e4+!± 0.87/24 Kf3 49.Re3+ Kf4 50.R5e4+ Kf5 51.Re2]
48...Kf5= 49.Rh4 h5 1.44/23
[⌓49...Rc6 0.80/17]
50.Rd4 1.04/19 &Bianco is more active.
[⌓50.Rf3+ 1.44/23 Ke5 51.c4]
50...Kf6 1.72/21
[50...Rg2± 1.04/19]

(Diagram)

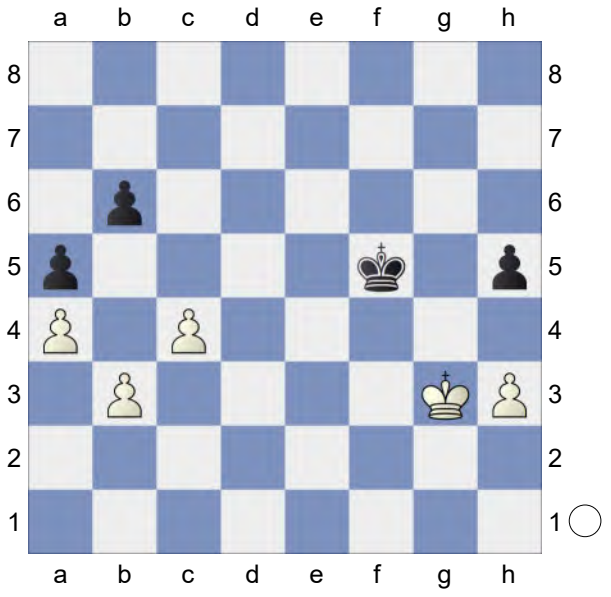


51.Kh4 Rc5? 3.00/24
[51...Rg4+± 1.42/23 might work better. 52.Rxg4 Rxg4+ 53.Kxh5 Rg5+ 54.Kh4 Rg2]
52.Rf4+ Kg7 53.h3 1.03/23
[53.c4+- 1.99/24]
53...Kh6 54.c4 Rcg5? 3.23/26
[54...Rd6± 1.19/24 55.Re7 Kg6]
55.Ref3? 1.24/24
[55.Rf8+- 3.23/26 is more deadly.]
55...Rc5? 3.70/26
[55...Rd6± 1.24/24 was called for. 56.Re3 *(56.Rf6+ Rg6±)* 56...Rc5]

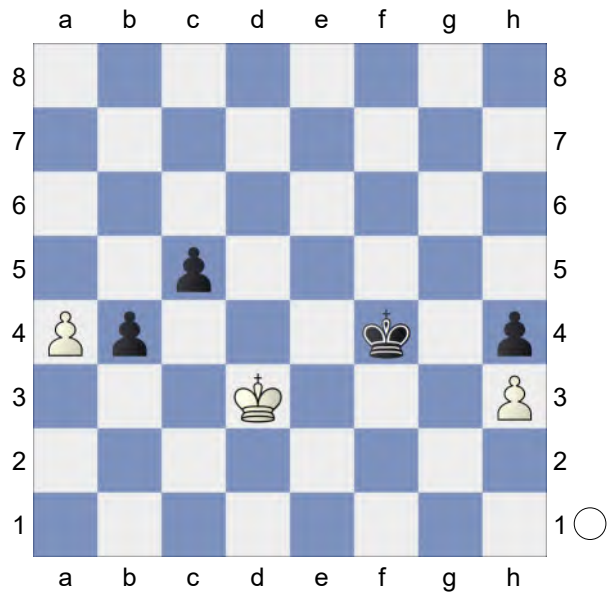
(Diagram)



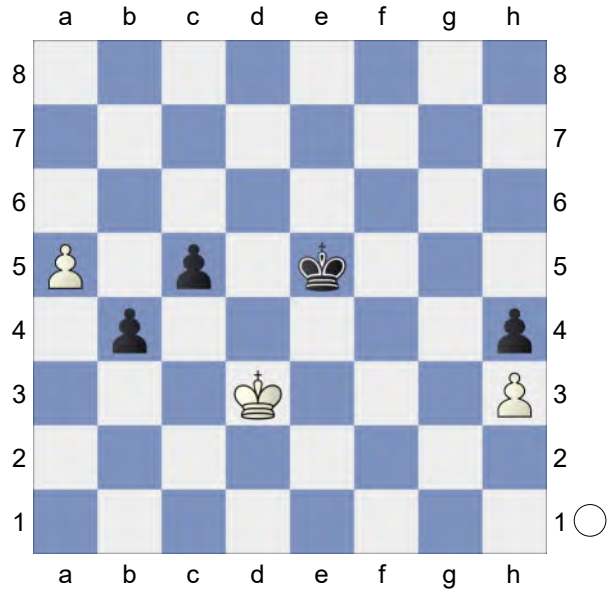
56.Rf5!+-
[Weaker is 56.Rf6 Re5 57.Rxg6+ Kxg6 58.Rg3+ Kh6+-]
56...Rg5 57.Rxg5 Rxg5 KR-KR
58.Rf6+ Rg6 59.Rxg6+ 1.84/32
[⌓59.Rf5 3.73/30 Re6 60.Rxh5+ Kg7 61.Kg4]
59...Kxg6 KP-KP **60.Kg3 Kf5**



61.Kf3! h4? 19.14/32
[61...Ke5 2.06/25 62.Ke3 Kd6]
62.Ke3 Ke5 63.Kd3 Kf4 64.b4
Intending c5 and mate. **64...axb4**
...Ke5 is the strong threat. **65.c5 bxc5**



66.a5 a6 would kill now. **66...Ke5**

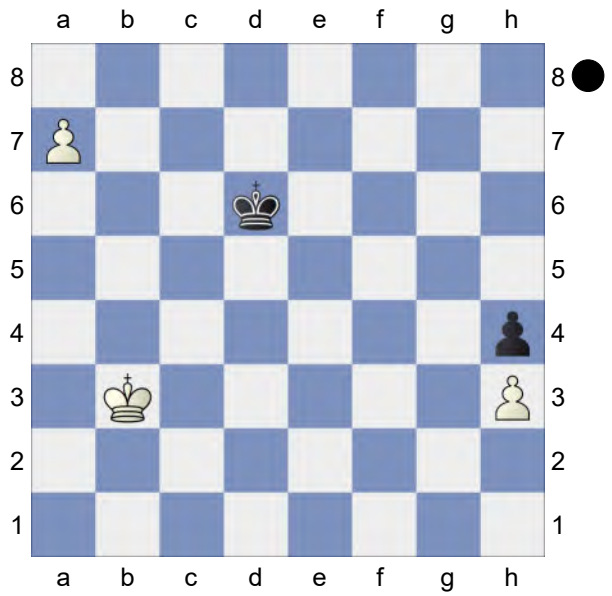


67.a6! White mates.

[67.Kc4 Kd6 68.Kb3 Kc7 69.a6 Kb6 70.a7 Kxa7 71.Ka4 Ka6 72.Kb3 Kb5 73.Kb2 c4 74.Kc2 c3 75.Kd3 Kc5 76.Kc2 Kc4 77.Kc1 b3 78.Kd1 Kd3 79.Ke1 c2 80.Kf1 c1Q+ 81.Kg2 Qg5+ 82.Kf2 b2 83.Kf1 b1Q+ 84.Kf2 Qg3#]

67...Kd6 68.a7 c4+ 69.Kxc4 b3 70.Kxb3

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.22 (precise) /Black=0.26 (precise)

1-0

16 **B54**

□ **Ukrchess Org Ua** **2970**

■ **Dont Blunder** **2797**

Blitz 02.08.2021

[Kitty Kat]

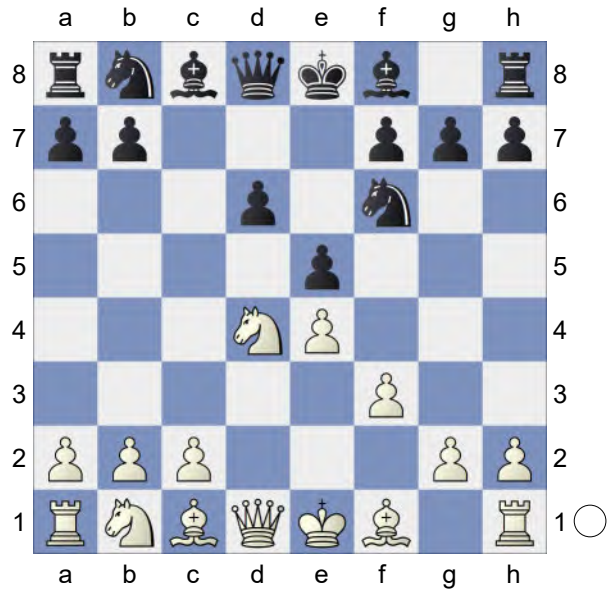
Blitz 3min

B59: Classical Sicilian: 6 Be2 e5 7 Nb3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

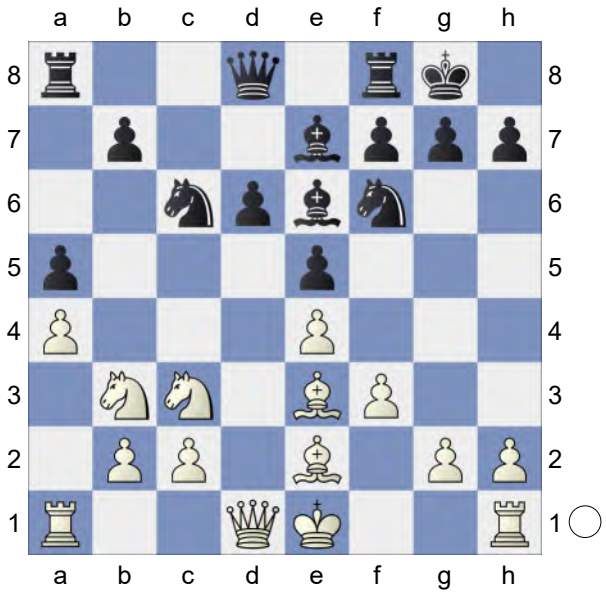
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-

Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

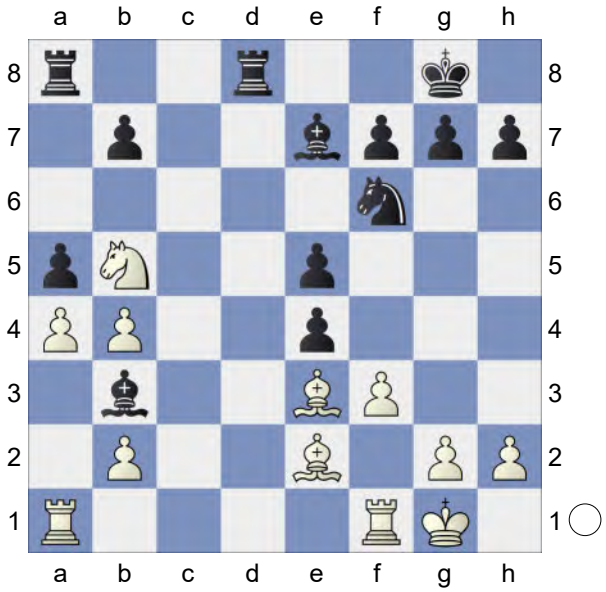


6.Nb3 a5 7.a4 Nc6 8.Nc3 Be7 9.Be3 0-0 10.Be2 Be6

(Diagram)



11.0-0 Nb4 12.Nb5 d5 13.c3 dxe4 0.96/22 **14.Qxd8?** -1.24/23
[14.cxb4± 0.96/22 stays on course. Threatens to win with Qxd8. Nd5 15.Bc5]
14...Rfxd8∓ 15.cxb4 Strongly threatening Nc5.
[15.Nc5? Nc2 16.Nxe6 fxe6-+]
15...Bxb3



16.bxa5 -1.92/21
[16.Bc5∓ -1.54/22 Bf8 17.Bxf8 Kxf8 18.Ra3]
16...Nd5-+

[16...Rxa5 17.Bb6 Raa8 18.Bxd8 Rxd8 19.Rfc1±]

17.Bf2 e3

[17...Rxa5 18.fxe4 Nf4 19.Bf3∓]

18.Bg3 Nf4

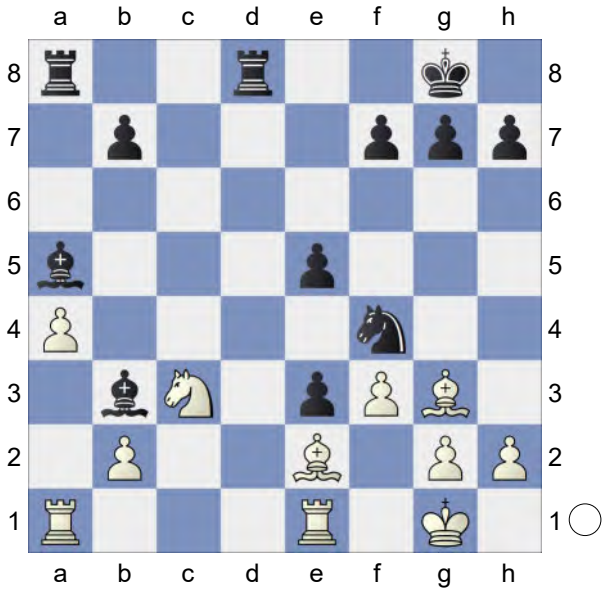
[18...Rxa5 19.Bxe5 Bxa4 20.Nc3 Nxc3 21.Bxc3∓]

19.Rfe1 Bb4

[19...Rxa5? 20.Bxf4 exf4 21.Nc3]

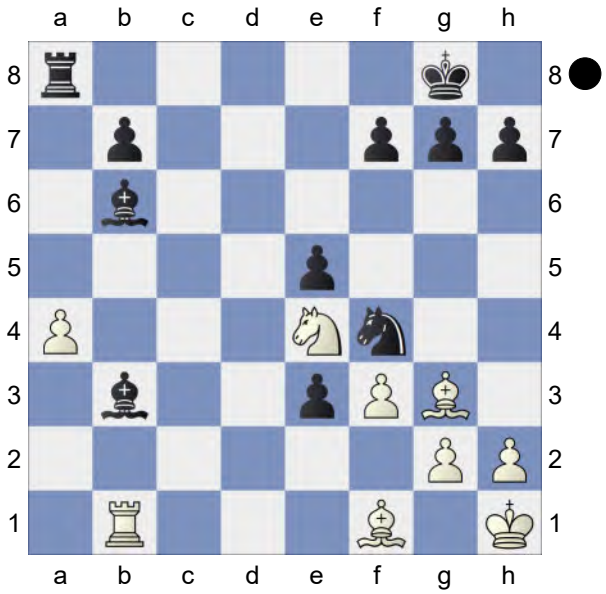
20.Nc3 Bxa5

[20...Rxa5? 21.Bb5-+]

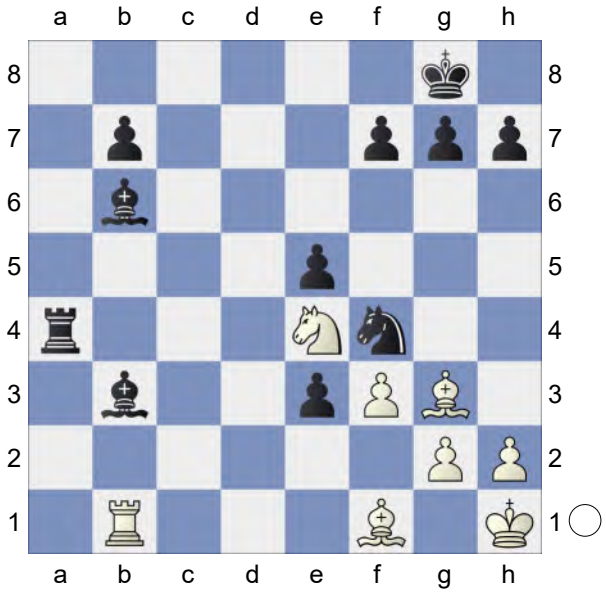


21.Bf1 Bb6 And now ...e2+ would win.
22.Kh1 Rd2 23.Ne4 Rxb2 24.Rab1 Rxb1 25.Rxb1

(Diagram)



Rxa4!

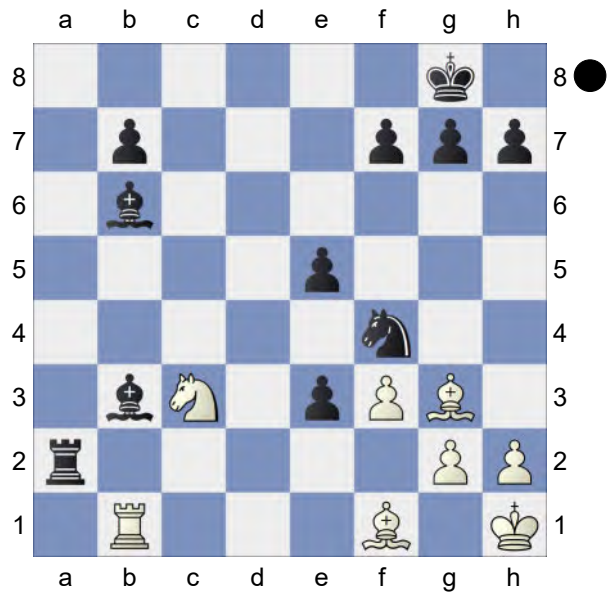


26.Nc3

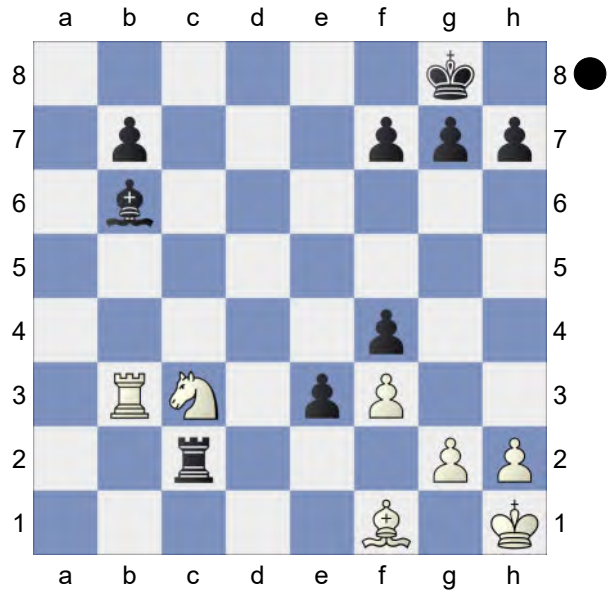
[26.Bxf4 exf4]

26...Ra3 27.Nb5 Ra2 28.Nc3

(Diagram)

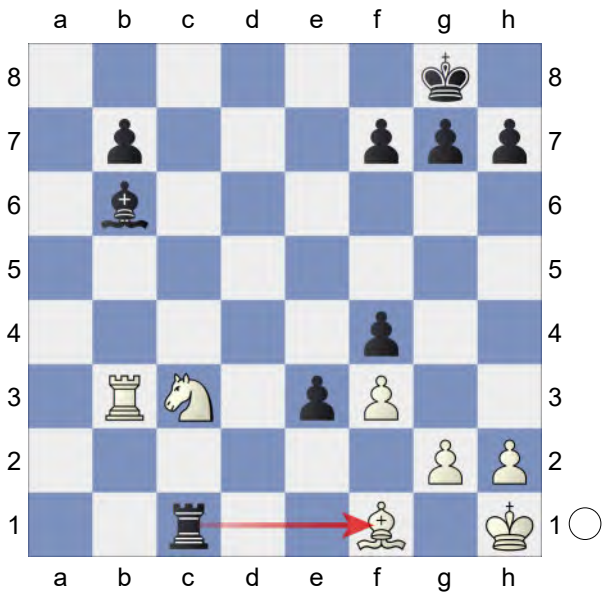


aiming for Bxf4. **28...Rc2! 29.Bxf4**
[Stronger than 29.Rxb3 Rc1! 30.Rb1 Rxc3-+]
29...exf4
[Don't go for 29...Rxc3? 30.Bxe5 Rc6 31.h4-+ *(31.Rxb3* gets mated. *Rc1 32.h4 e2 33.Kh2 exf1Q 34.Rc3 Qe1 35.Kh3 Rxc3 36.Bxc3 Qxc3 37.Kg4 Bc7 38.g3 h5+ 39.Kxh5 Qe5+ 40.Kg4 Qxg3+ 41.Kh5 Qg6#)*]
30.Rxb3

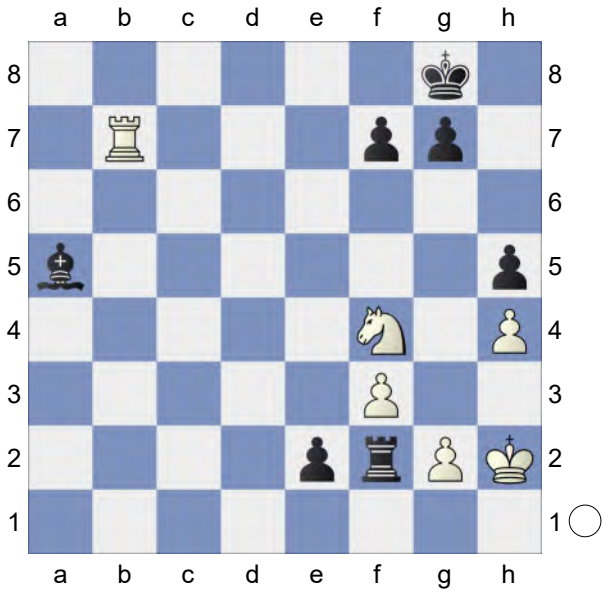


Rc1!

(Diagram)

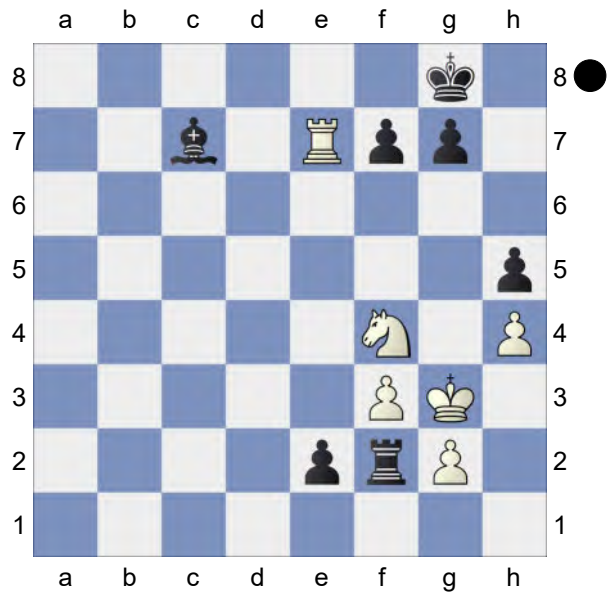


31.h4
[31.Rb1 Rxc3]
31...Rxf1+ Endgame KRB-KRN **32.Kh2 Ba5 33.Rxb7** Rb8+ would kill now.
33...h5 34.Ne2 Rf2 35.Nxf4 -4.61/24
[⌓35.Rb8+ -3.13/23 Kh7 36.Rb5]
35...e2



36.Re7 -8.18/21
[⌓36.Nxe2 -4.68/22 Rxe2 37.Rb8+ Kh7 38.Rb7]
36...Bc7? -1.00/28 **37.Kg3∓**

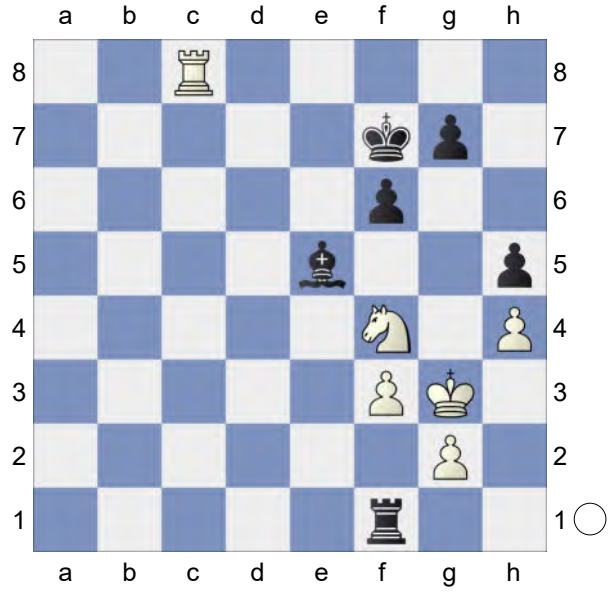
(Diagram)



Rf1! **38.Rxe2** **f6** White must now prevent ...g5. **39.Re8+?** -3.07/23

[39.Rc2∓ -0.98/27 keeps fighting. Be5 40.Re2]

39...Kf7-+ **40.Rc8** **Be5**

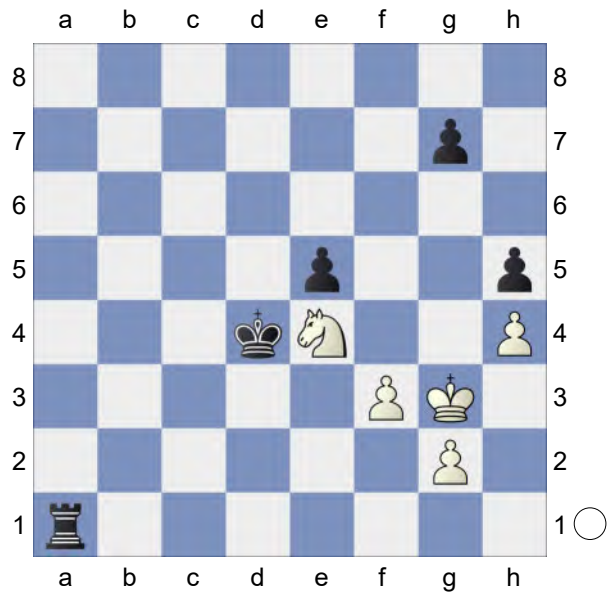


41.Rc5 **Ra1** **42.Rxe5** **fxe5** KR-KN **43.Nd3** -5.44/27

[⌓43.Ne2 -3.75/27]

43...Ke6 **44.Nc5+** **Kd5** **45.Ne4** **Kd4**

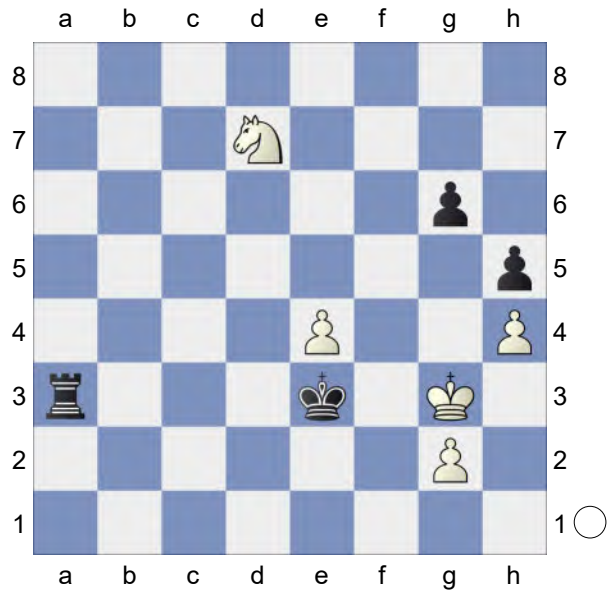
(Diagram)



46.Ng5 **g6** **47.Ne6+** **Ke3** **48.Nf8** -6.41/33

[⌓48.Nc5 -4.30/27]

48...Ra6 **49.Nd7** **e4** **50.fxe4** **Ra3**



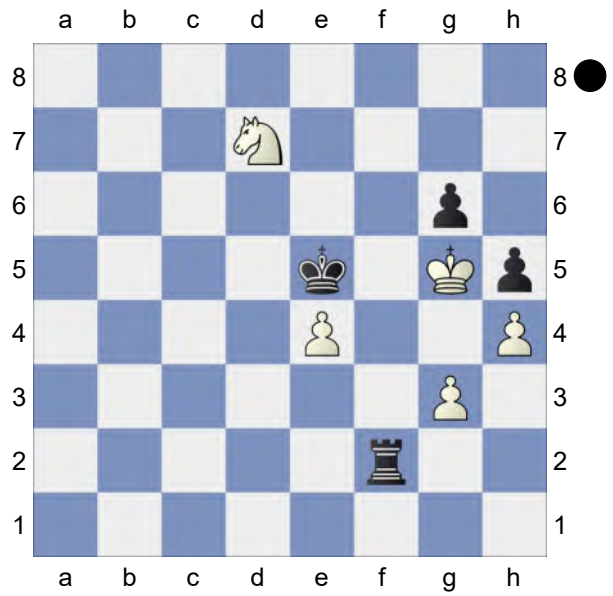
51.Nf6 **Kd4+?** -0.44/28

[51...Ra5-+ -4.04/27 52.Kh2 Ra6]

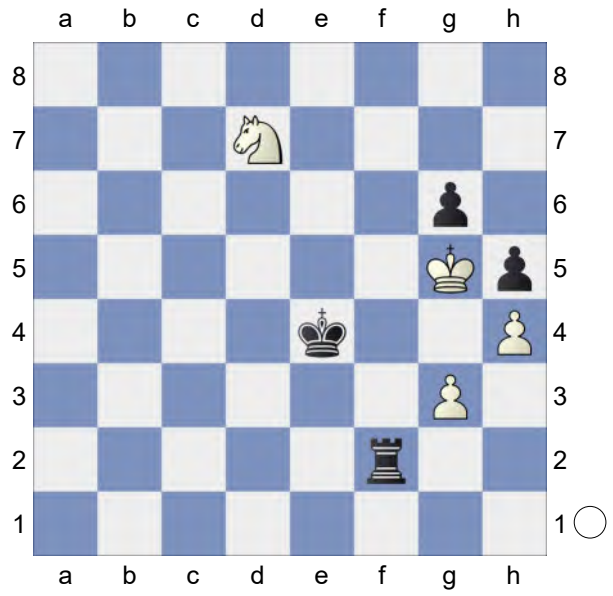
52.Kf4∓ **Ra2** **53.g3** **Rf2+** **54.Kg5** **Ke5** **55.Nd7+** -0.84/30

[55.Nh7= -0.01/31 keeps the balance.]

(Diagram)

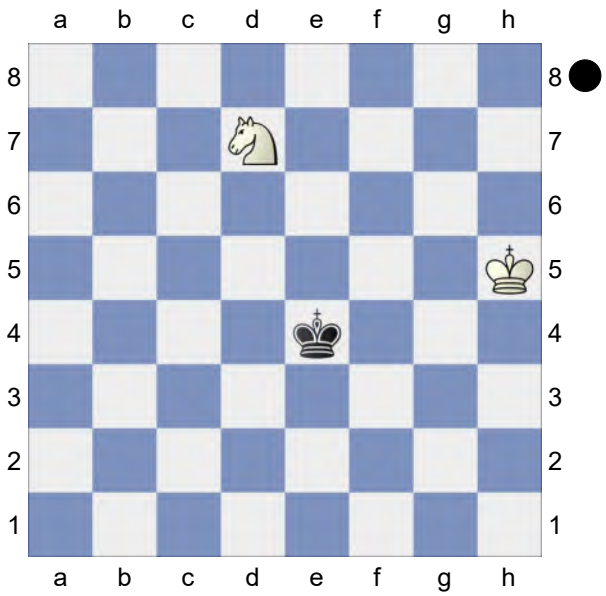


55...Kxe4 -0.01/30
[55...Ke6!∓ -0.84/30 56.Nc5+ Kf7]



56.Kxg6= Rg2 57.Kxh5 -0.93/30
[57.Nf6+!= -0.01/30 Kf3 58.Nxh5]
57...Rxg3 58.Kh6 Rh3 -0.01/29
[58...Kd5∓ -1.00/29]
59.h5 -0.37/31
[59.Kg5= -0.01/29]
59...Rxh5+ 0.00/94 **60.Kxh5**

(Diagram)

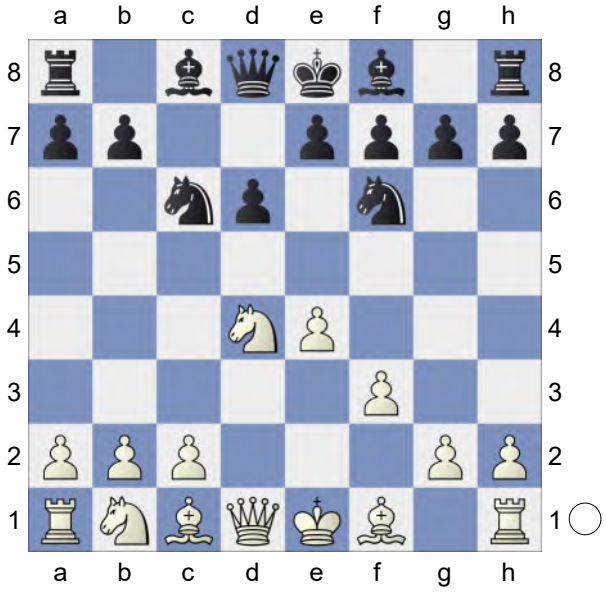


Black had all chances to win.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.63/Black=0.53
½-½

17 **B56**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2970**
■ **Alexandr Khlebovich** **2796**
Blitz 01.12.2022
[Kitty Kat]

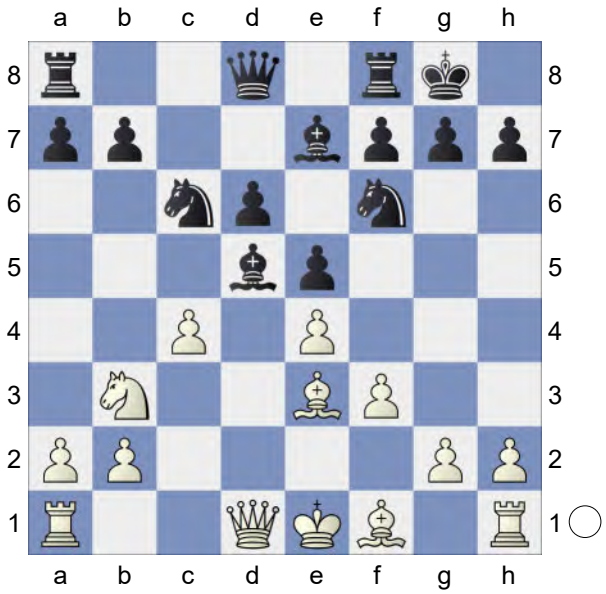
Blitz 3min
B56: Classical Sicilian: Unusual Lines
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1

Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

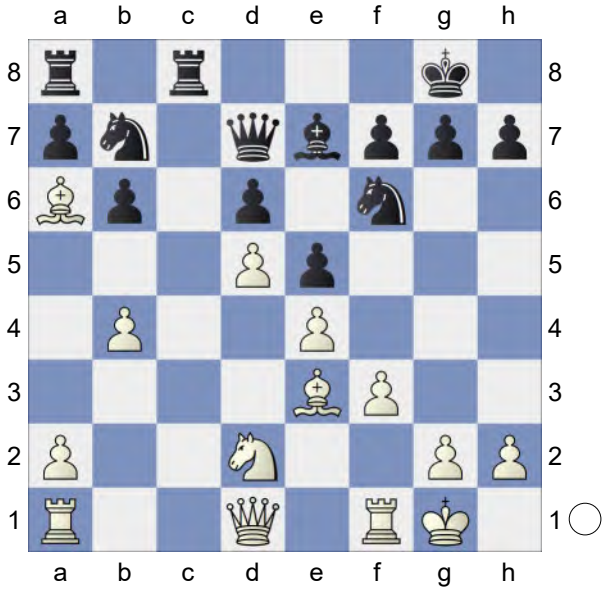


6.Nc3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Nd5 Be7 9.c4 0-0 10.Be3 Bxd5 0.87/18
[10...a5= 0.11/16]

(Diagram)

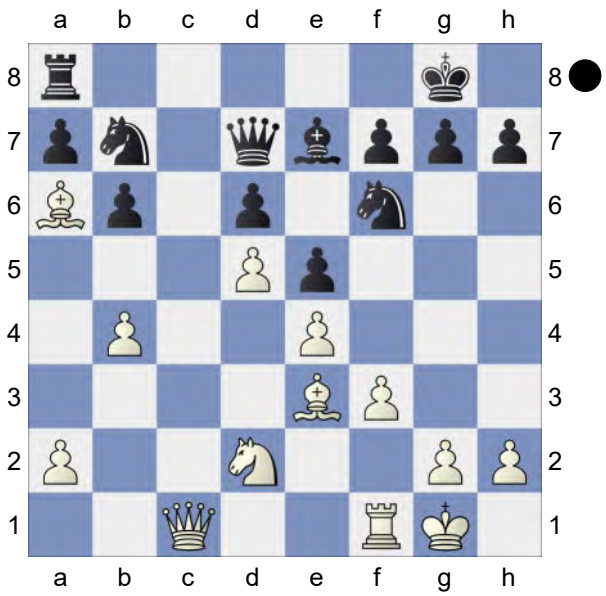


11.cxd5± Na5 1.39/19
[Better is 11...Nb8 0.83/17]
12.Nd2 &Bianco is more active. **12...b6 13.b4 Nb7 14.Ba6↑** White is on the roll. **14...Qd7 15.0-0 Rfc8**

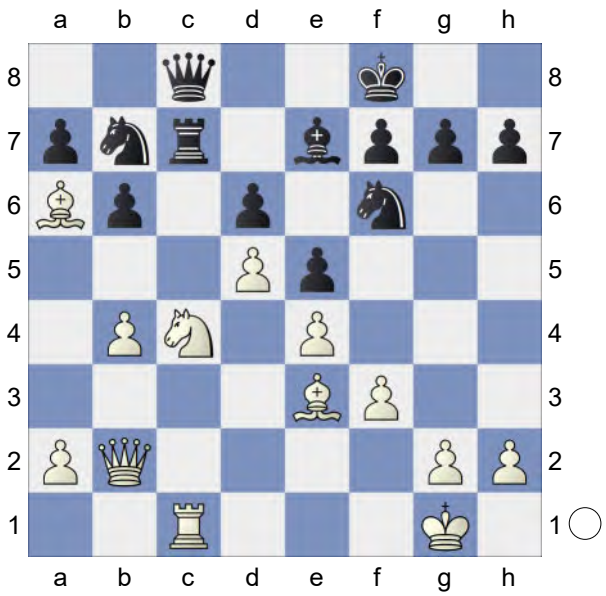


16.Rc1 Rxc1 17.Qxc1

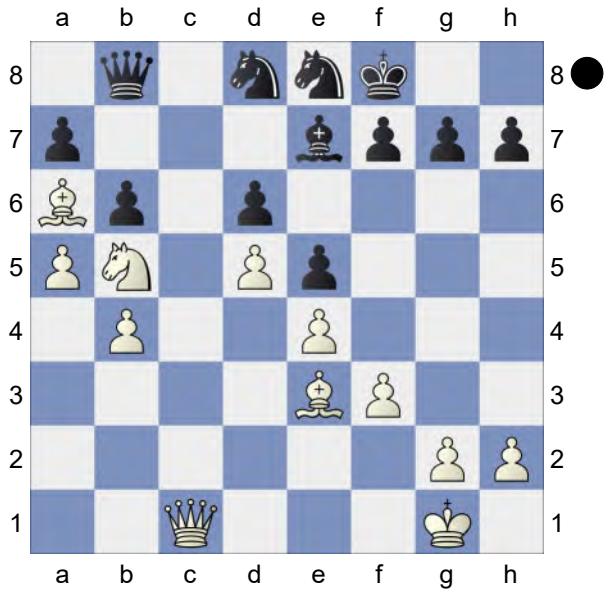
(Diagram)



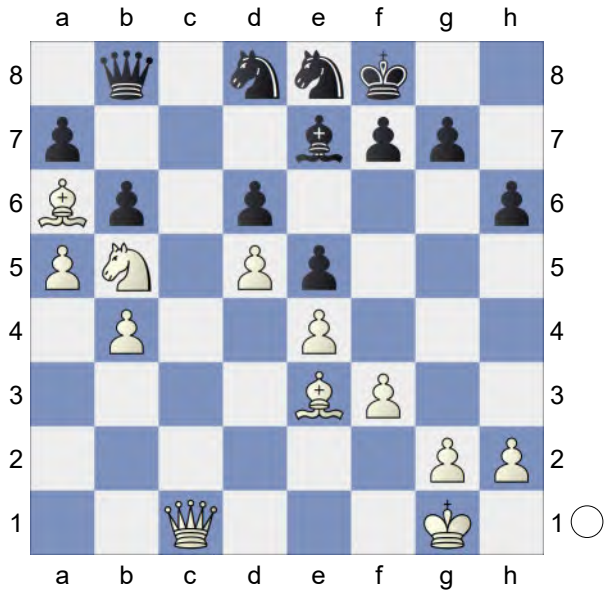
Hoping for Qc6. **17...Rc8** Against Qc6
18.Qb2 Rc7 1.75/20
[18...Ne8± 1.43/19 19.a4 Rc7]
19.Rc1 1.38/18
[White should try 19.Nb1+- 1.75/20]
19...Qc8? 3.19/20
[19...Nd8± 1.38/18 20.Rxc7 Qxc7]
20.Nc4 1.57/19
[20.Nb1+- 3.19/20]
20...Kf8? 3.44/23
[20...Nd7± 1.57/19 21.Qc3 Qb8]



21.a4 Qb8 3.58/21
[21...Nd7 2.40/21 keeps fighting. 22.a5 Kg8 23.axb6 axb6]
22.Na3+- Nd8? 5.76/21
[22...Nd7 3.47/20 23.Nb5 Rxc1+ 24.Qxc1 Ndc5]
23.Nb5 Rxc1+ 24.Qxc1 Ne8 25.a5

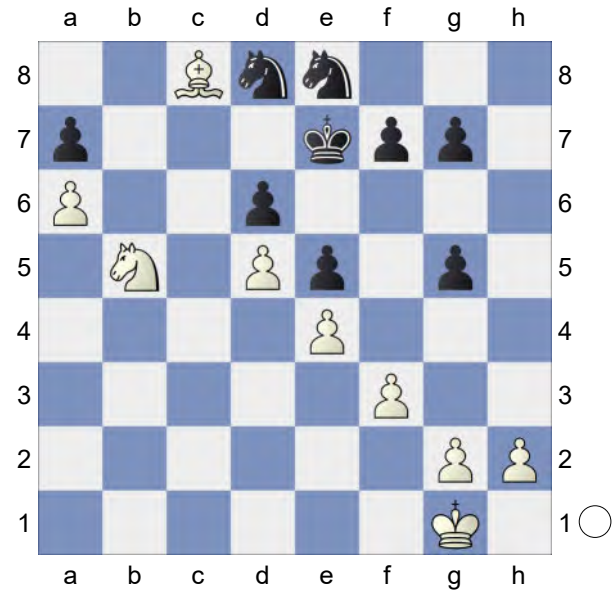


aiming for Qc8. **25...h6** 8.72/21
[⌓25...Nb7 4.75/22 26.Qc6 Nc5 27.bxc5 dxc5]

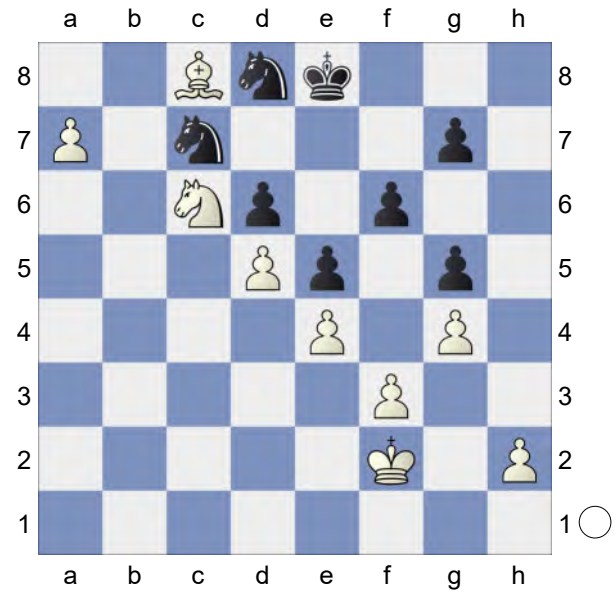


26.Qc8 Qxc8 27.Bxc8 This bishop pair is nice. **27...bxa5 28.bxa5 Bg5 29.Bxg5 hxg5** Endgame KBN-KNN

30.a6 Ke7

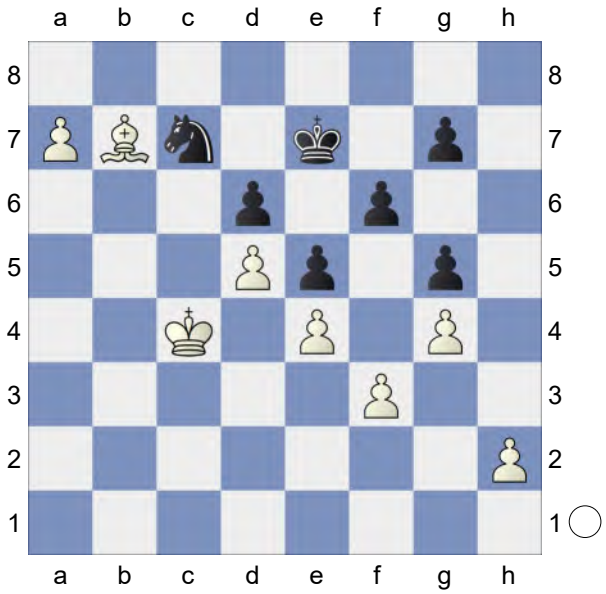


31.g4 f6 32.Kf2 Nf7 33.Nxa7 Nc7 Prevents Nb5. **34.Nc6+ Ke8 35.a7 Nd8**



36.Nxd8 Kxd8 KB-KN **37.Bb7 Kd7 38.Ke3 Kd8 39.Kd3 Kd7 40.Kc4 Ke7**

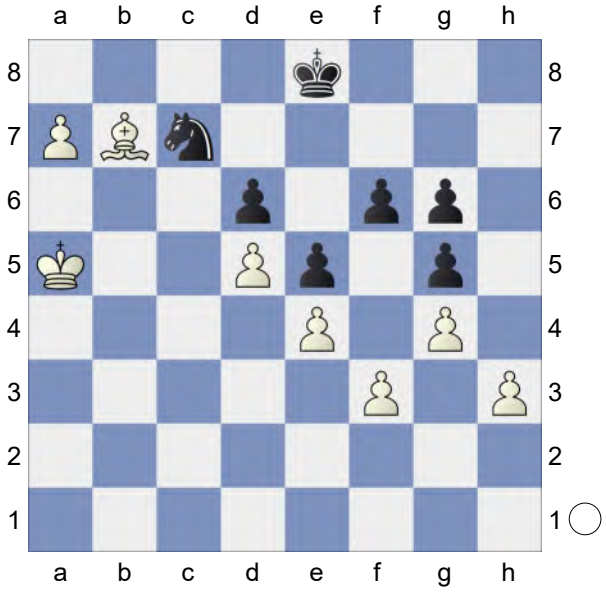
(Diagram)



41.Kb4 Ke8 42.Ka5 Kd8 43.Kb6 Intending Kc6 and mate. **43...Kd7 44.h3 g6 45.Ka5** 20.00/24

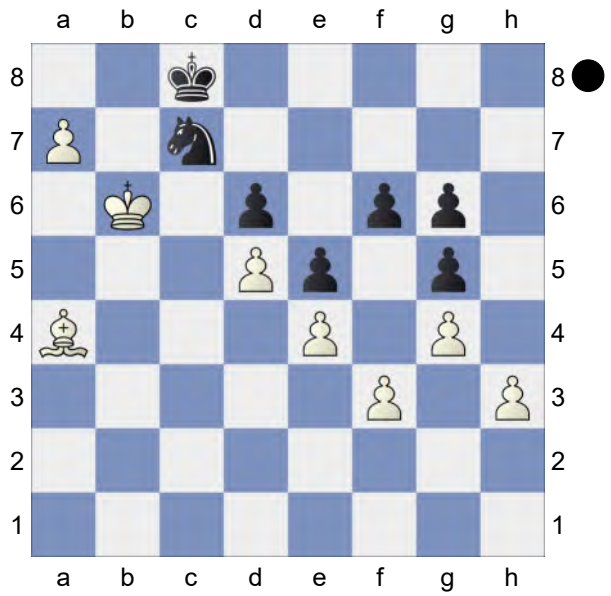
[⌓45.a8Q #15/25 Nxa8+ 46.Bxa8 Ke8 47.Kc6 Ke7 48.Kc7 Ke8 49.Kxd6 Kd8 50.Kc6]

45...Ke8



46.Bc6+ Kd8 47.Kb6 Kc8 48.Ba4

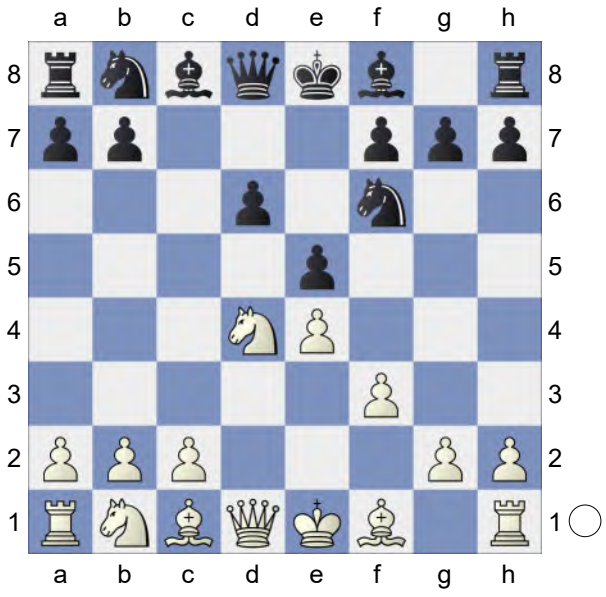
(Diagram)



White took control after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/Black=1.09
1-0

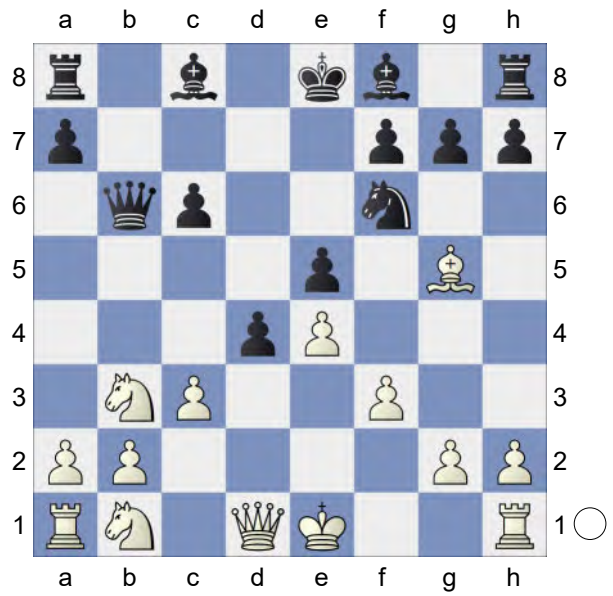
18 **B54**
□ **Arka50** **2968**
■ **Spiritairlines** **2498**
Blitz 10.02.2024
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.Bb5 Qb6 10.Bxc6+ bxc6

(Diagram)



11.cxd4 Ba6 12.Nc3 Rd8 13.Be3 -1.90/21

[13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Nb1 Bb4+ 15.Kf2 exd4-+]

[13.Kf2!= -0.01/19 and White is okay.]

13...exd4-+ 14.Nxd4 -3.05/23

[14.Bxd4? c5 15.Nd5 *(15.Nxc5? Bxc5 16.Qa4+ Rd7-+)* 15...Nxd5 16.exd5 Rxd5-+]

[⌓14.Bf2 -1.83/20]

14...Qxb2? -0.93/21

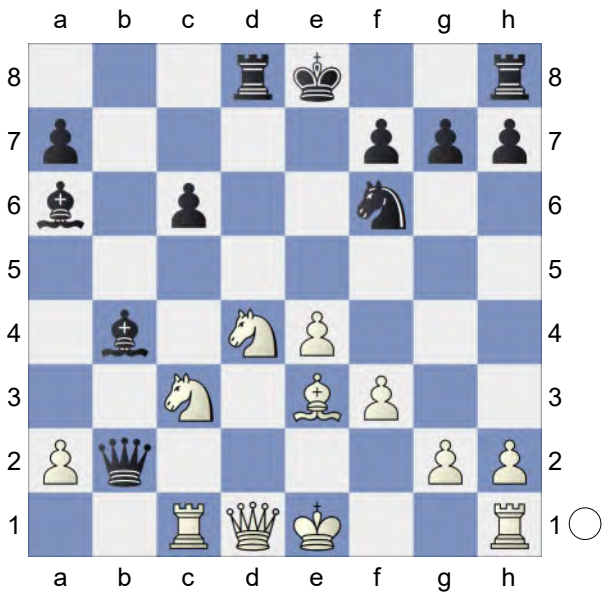
[14...Bc5-+ -3.05/23 has better winning chances. 15.Qb3 Bxd4 16.Qxb6 axb6 17.Bxd4 Rxd4]

15.Rc1∓ Bb4 0.63/22

[15...Qxg2 16.Rg1 Qxh2 17.Qa4=]

[15...Bc5!∓ -0.70/20 16.Qc2 Qa3]

(Diagram)



16.Qb3↑ White is more active. **16...Qxg2** 4.94/21

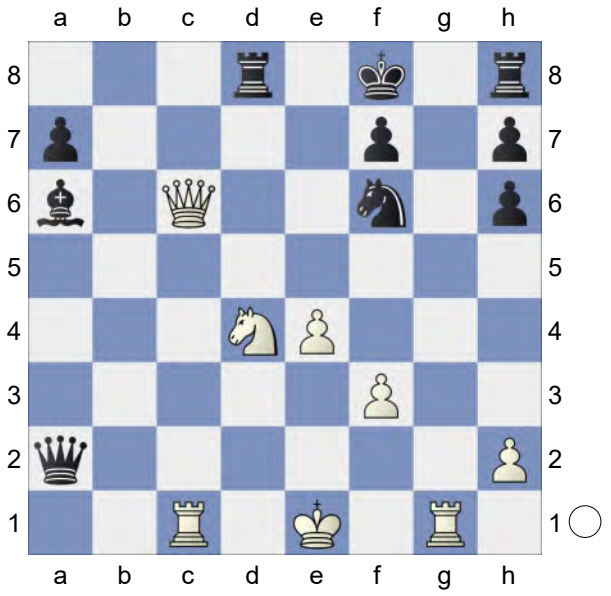
[Better is 16...Qxb3± 0.44/22 17.axb3 c5]

17.Rg1+- Skewer **17...Bxc3+ 18.Qxc3** Dancing on a razor blade. **18...Qxa2 19.Qxc6+ Kf8** 7.21/22

[⌓19...Rd7 4.64/21 20.Rxg7 Ng8]

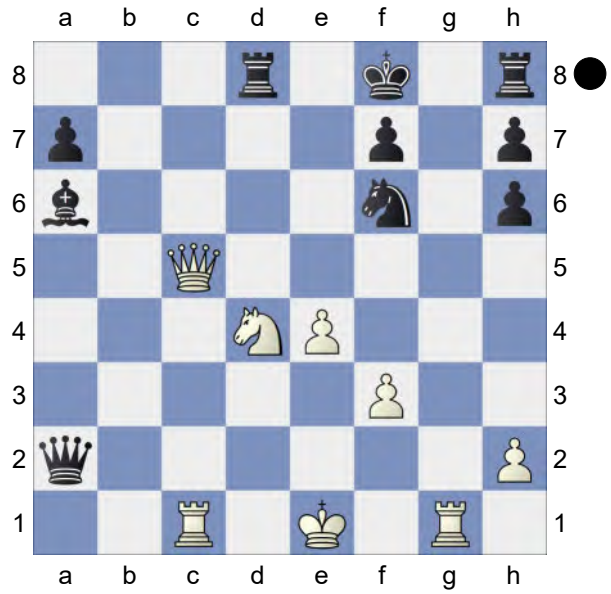
20.Bh6? -0.01/22 **gxh6=**

[20...Qxh2 21.Be3 Rxd4 22.Qxa6+-]



The position is equal. **21.Qc5+ Ke8 22.Qe5+ Kf8 23.Qc5+ Ke8 24.Qe5+**

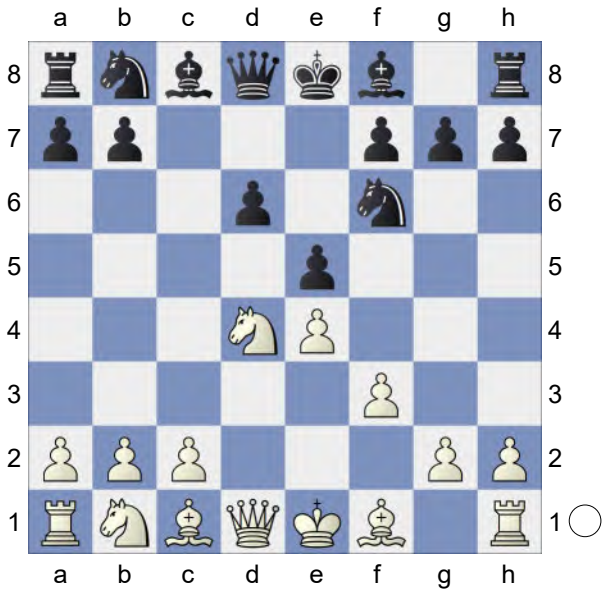
Kf8 25.Qc5+



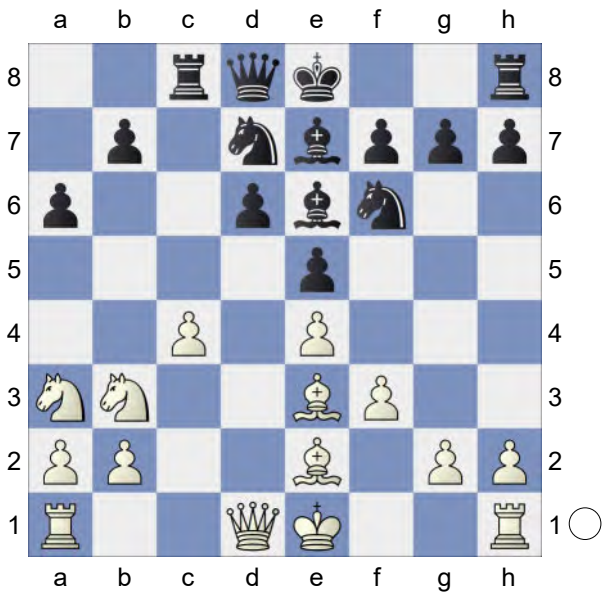
Weighted Error Value: White=0.44/ Black=0.61
½-½

19 **B54**
□ **Ukrchess Org Ua** **2961**
■ **Mr Berzerk0** **2719**
Blitz 04.08.2021
[Kitty Kat]

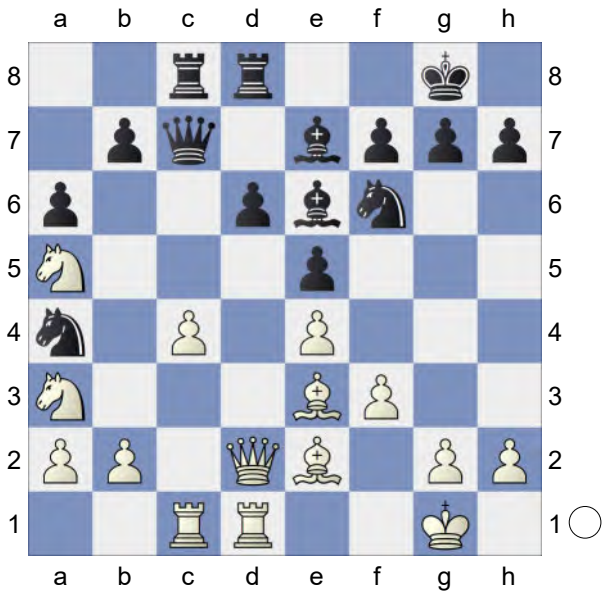
Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



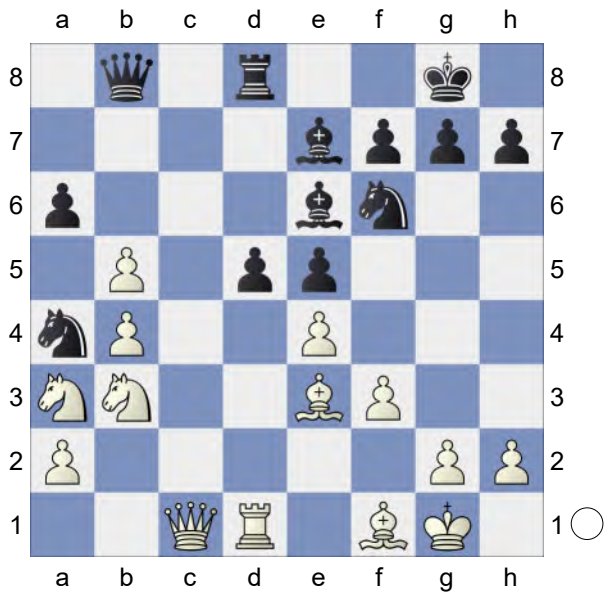
6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 Nbd7
[7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]
8.Be3 Rc8 9.Na3 a6 Prevents Nb5. **10.Be2** The position is equal. **10...Be7** (Diagram)



11.0-0 0-0 12.Qd2 Nb6 13.Na5 Qc7 14.Rac1 Rfd8 15.Rfd1 Na4

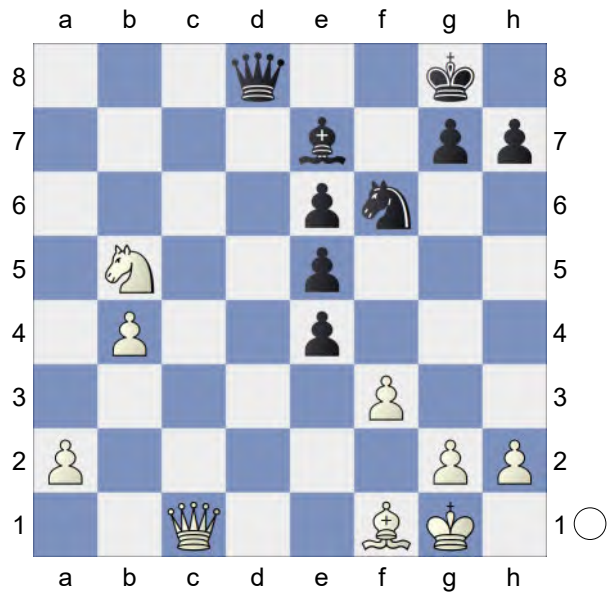


16.b4 0.11/18
[16.Nb3± 0.45/17]
16...Qb8= 17.Bf1 b6 18.Nb3 b5 19.cxb5 Rxc1 0.40/20
[19...axb5= 0.03/20 20.Bxb5 d5]
20.Qxc1 -0.10/20
[White should play 20.Rxc1± 0.40/20 axb5 21.Nxb5 *(21.Bxb5 d5=)*]
20...d5? 2.77/18
[20...Rc8= -0.10/20 21.Qd2 d5]



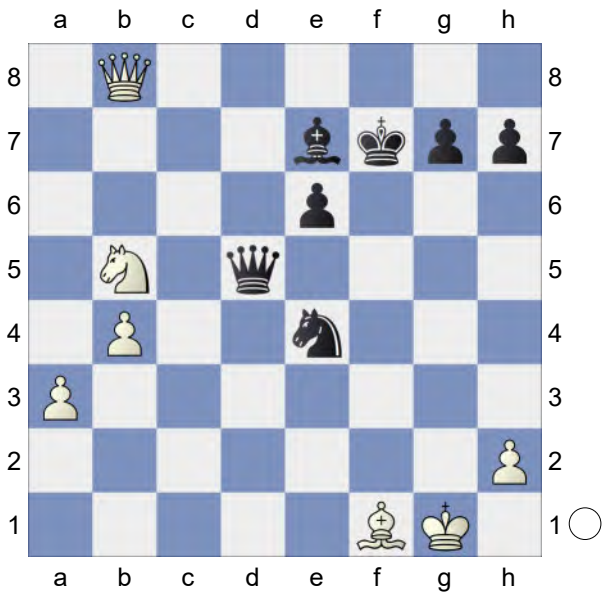
21.Bc5? -0.01/20
[21.bxa6 d4 22.Bd2 Rc8±]
[21.Na5+- 2.77/18 Strongly threatening Nc6. Bd7 22.Nc6 *(22.bxa6 Qxb4 23.exd5 Qxa3±)* 22...Bxc6 23.bxc6]
21...Nxc5 22.Nxc5 axb5
[22...Rc8 with more complications. 23.Qb2 axb5 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.exd5 Nxd5 26.Nxb5 e4]
23.Nxb5
[23.Bxb5 dxe4 24.Rxd8+ Qxd8 25.Nxe6 fxe6∓]
[23.Nxe6 seems wilder. fxe6 24.exd5 Bxb4 25.Nxb5 exd5 26.Kh1]
23...dxe4 White must now prevent ... Rc8.
[23...Rc8 keeps more tension. 24.Qa3 Qb6 25.Rc1 Nd7]
24.Rxd8+ Qxd8 25.Nxe6 fxe6

(Diagram)

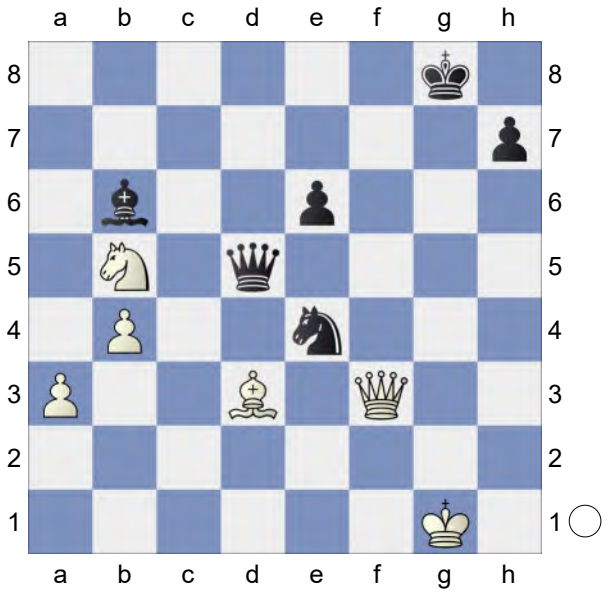


26.a3
[Much weaker is 26.Qc6 Bxb4 27.a3 *(27.Qxe6+ Kh8∓; 27.fxe4 Kf7∓)* 27...Bf8 28.fxe4 *(28.Qxe6+ Kh8∓)* 28...Kf7∓]
26...exf3
[26...Qb6+ is more complex. 27.Kh1 exf3 28.gxf3 Qf2]
27.gxf3 e4 Black wants to play ...Qb6+.
28.fxe4 Nxe4 29.Qf4 Qd5 30.Qb8+ -0.32/19
[30.Be2= 0.11/18 is superior.]
30...Kf7 -0.01/20
[30...Bd8∓ -0.32/19 31.h3 Qg5+ 32.Bg2 e5]

(Diagram)

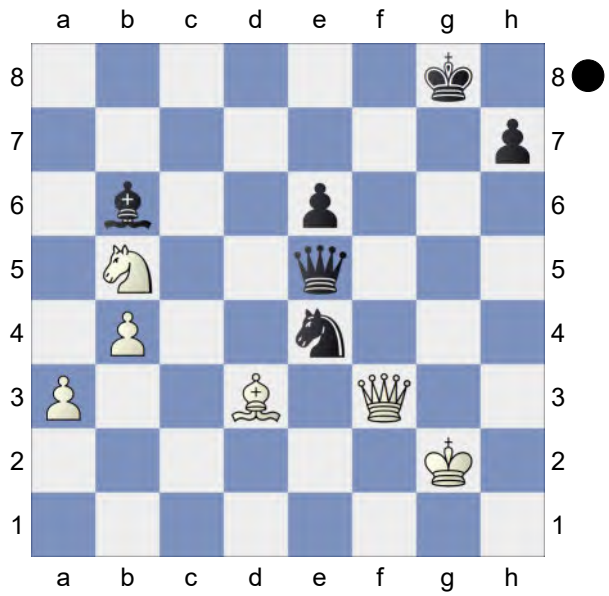


31.Qf4+ Kg8 32.h4 g5 33.hxg5 Bxg5 34.Qf3 Bd8 Hoping for ...Bb6+.
35.Bd3? -4.08/21
[35.Qe3= 0.01/18 and White is okay.]
35...Bb6+-+

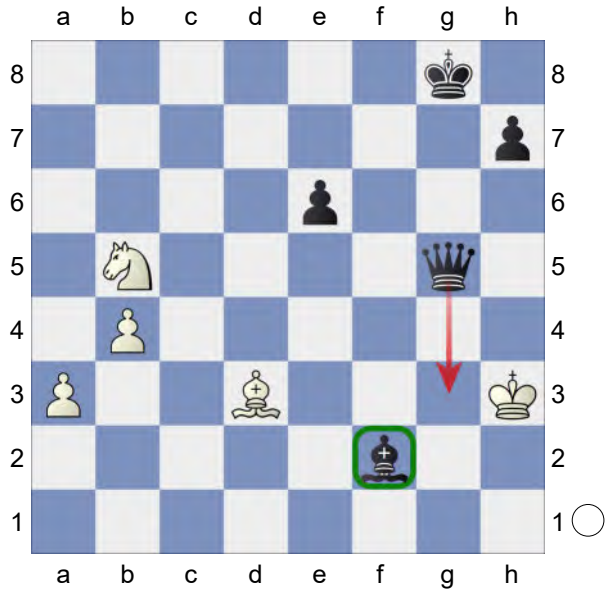


36.Kh2 Qe5+ 37.Kg2 -#17/21
[37.Kh1-+ -4.01/21 Qg7 38.Qg2 Nf2+ 39.Kh2 Nxd3 40.Qg3 *(40.Qa8+? Qf8-+)* 40...Qxg3+ 41.Kxg3]

(Diagram)

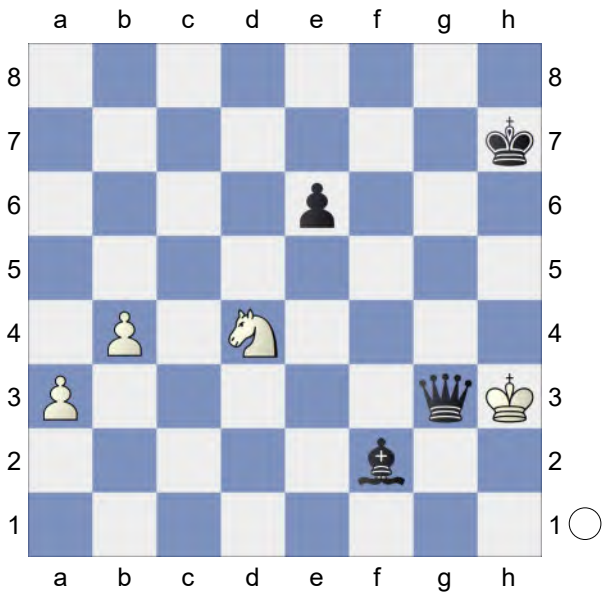


37...Qg5+ Black mates. **38.Kh2 Bg1+ 39.Kh3 Nf2+ 40.Qxf2 Bxf2**



41.Bxh7+ Kxh7 42.Nd4 Qg3#

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.63/ Black=0.23 (precise)

0-1

20 **B54**

□ **Ukrchess Org Ua** **2959**

■ **Pasino** **2642**

Blitz 04.08.2021

[Kitty Kat]

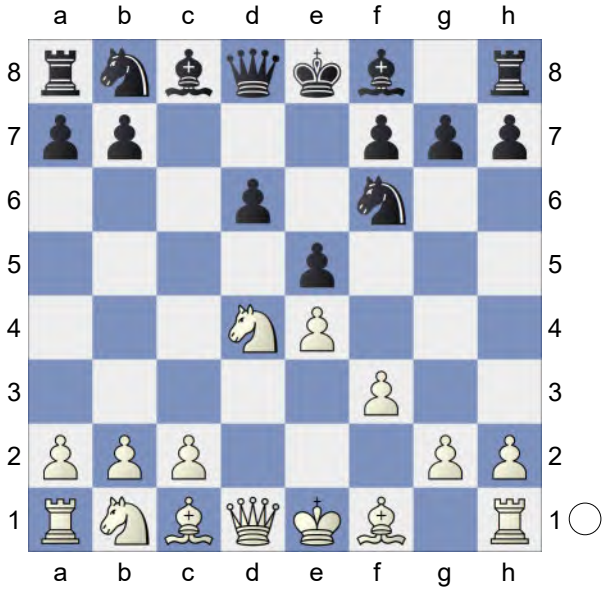
Blitz 3min

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

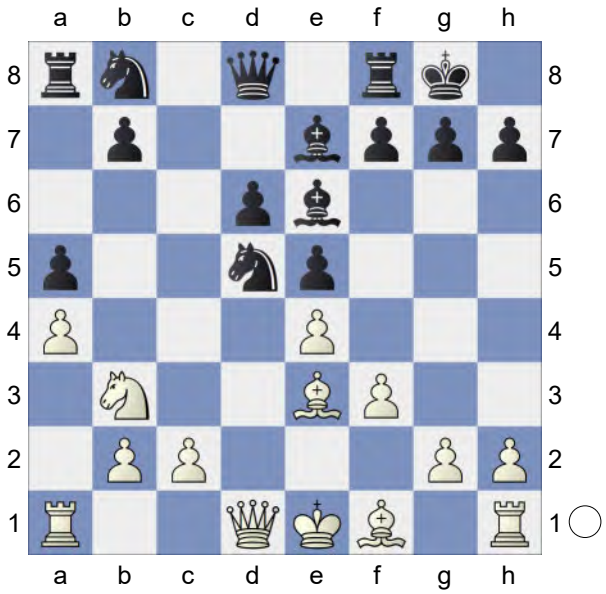
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/ Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1

Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

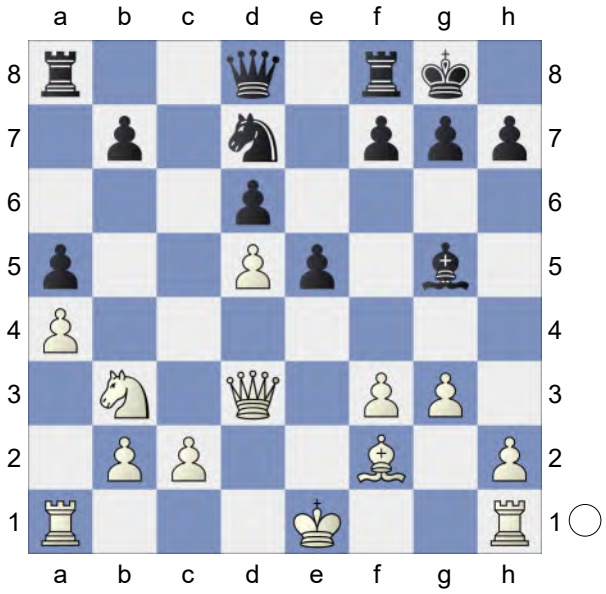


6.Nb3 a5 7.a4 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0
The position is equal. **9.Be3 Be6 10.Nd5 Nxd5**

(Diagram)

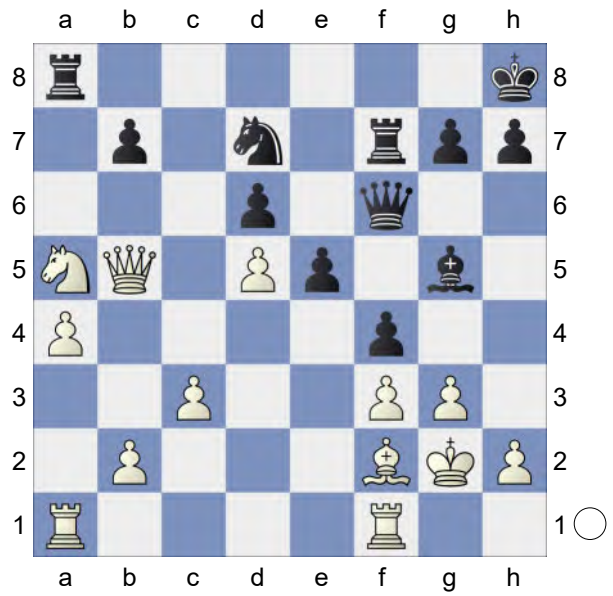


11.exd5 Bf5 12.Bd3 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 Bh4+ 14.g3 Bg5 15.Bf2 Nd7

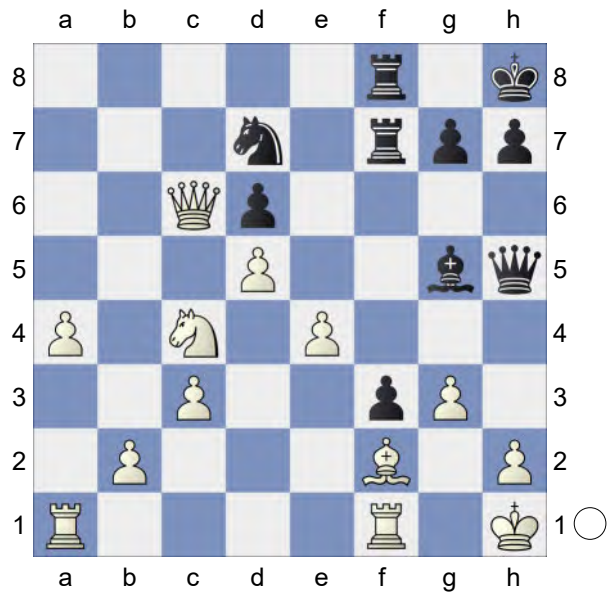


16.0-0 f5 17.c3 Kh8 18.Kg2 Qf6
0.24/20
[⌓18...b6 -0.19/19]
19.Qb5= Rf7 1.06/22
[19...Qd8= 0.30/22 keeps the balance.]
20.Nxa5±
[20.h4?! Bh6=]
20...f4

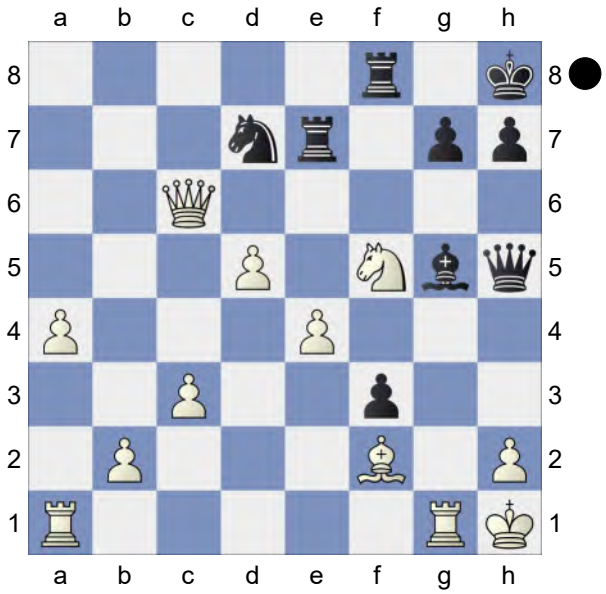
(Diagram)



21.Nc4 e4 1.00/21
[21...Rc8± 0.31/20]
22.fxe4 &Bianco is more active. **22...f3+** 2.20/21
[22...Qh6± 0.71/21 23.h4 *(23.Qxb7 Rb8±)* 23...Raf8]
23.Kh1+- Qg6 24.Qxb7 Raf8 25.Qc6 Inhibits Nc5. a5 is the strong threat.
25...Qh5 3.40/21
[25...Re7 1.99/21 was worth a try. 26.Nxd6 Ne5]

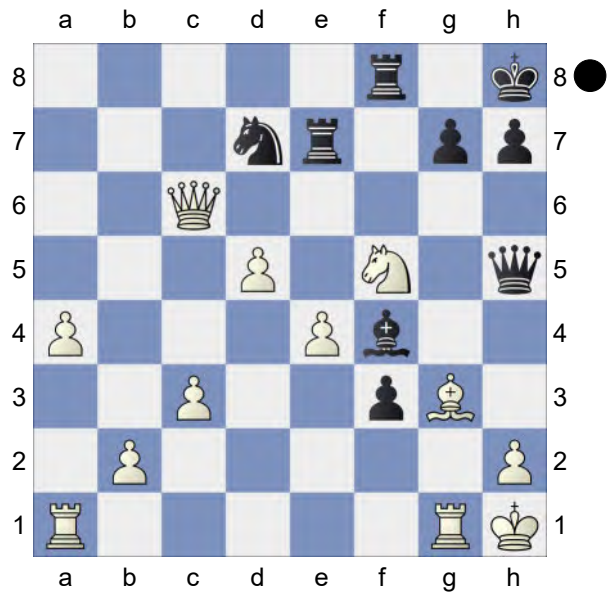


26.g4?? -14.71/23
[26.Qxd6? Qh3 27.Rg1 Rf6-+]
[26.Nxd6+- 3.40/21 Re7 27.Bd4 *(27.h4? Bxh4 28.Kg1 Ne5-+)*]
26...Qxg4? 0.01/23
[Black should play 26...Qh3-+ -14.71/23 27.Rg1 Bf4]
27.Rg1= Qh5 And now ...Bf4 would win.
28.Nxd6 -0.67/21
[Better is 28.Rxg5= -0.01/24 Qxg5 29.Rg1]
28...Re7∓ Threatens to win with ...Bf4.
29.Nf5 -1.40/24
[29.Raf1!= -0.09/21 Bf4 30.Bg3]

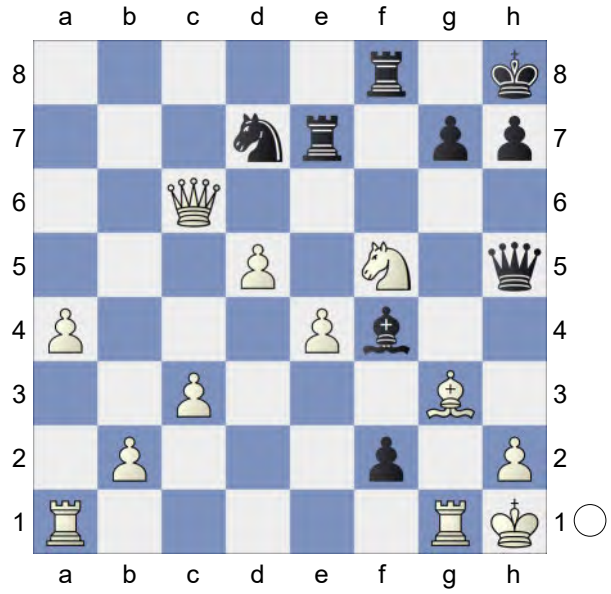


29...Bf4!∓ 30.Bg3
[30.h4 Rxf5 31.d6 *(31.exf5? Nf6-+)* 31...Rc5!-+]

(Diagram)



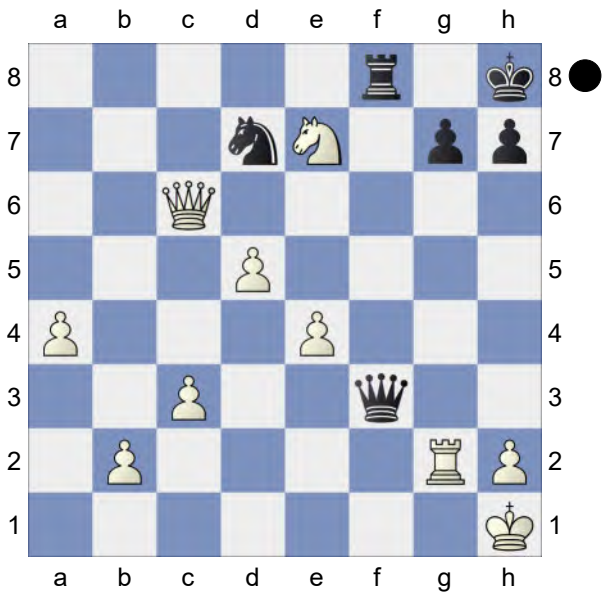
30...f2!



31.Rg2

[31.Nxe7? fxg1Q+ 32.Rxg1 Bxg3 33.Rxg3 Qd1+ 34.Rg1 Qf3+ 35.Rg2

(Diagram)

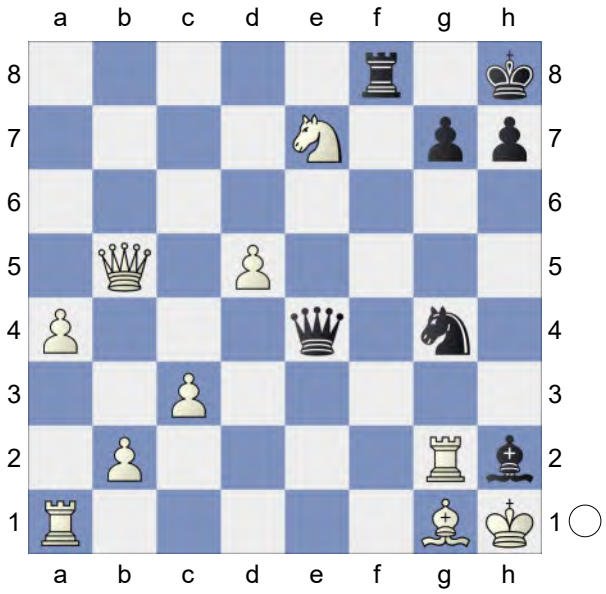


Qxe4!-+]

31...Qe2 6.33/21 **32.Bxf2+-**

[32.Nxe7 Bxg3 33.Qc8 f1Q+ 34.Rxf1 Qxf1+ 35.Rg1 Qf3+ 36.Rg2 Bf2]

32...Ne5 33.Qb5 Qxe4 34.Nxe7 Ng4 35.Bg1 Bxh2

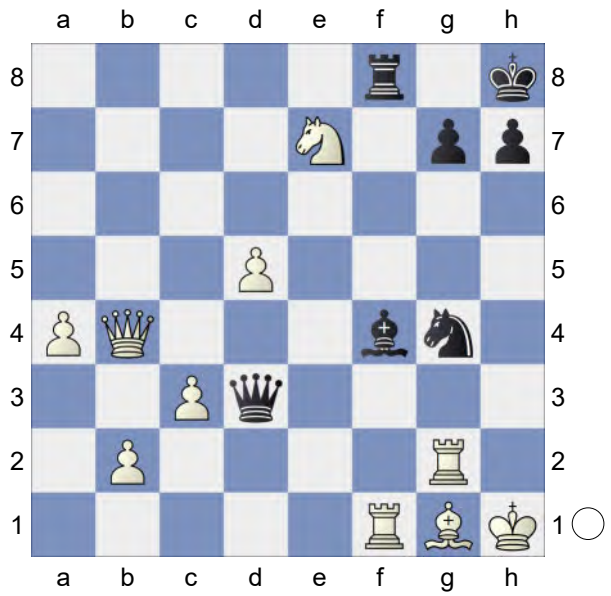


36.Rf1! Bf4

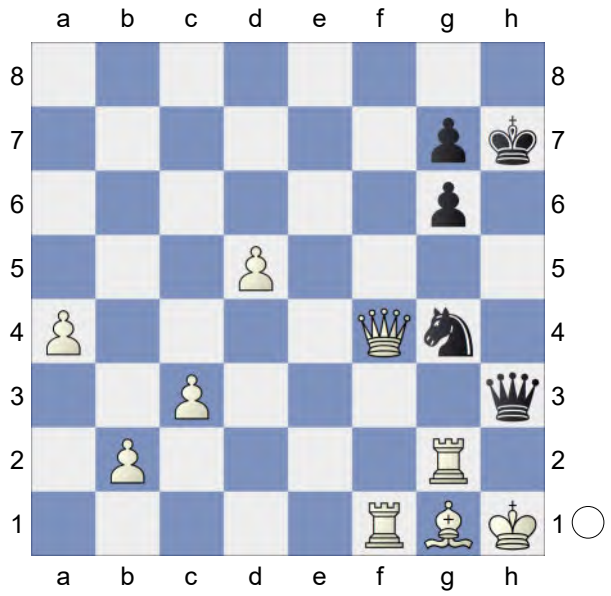
[36...Nf6 37.Bxh2]

37.Qb4 Qd3

(Diagram)

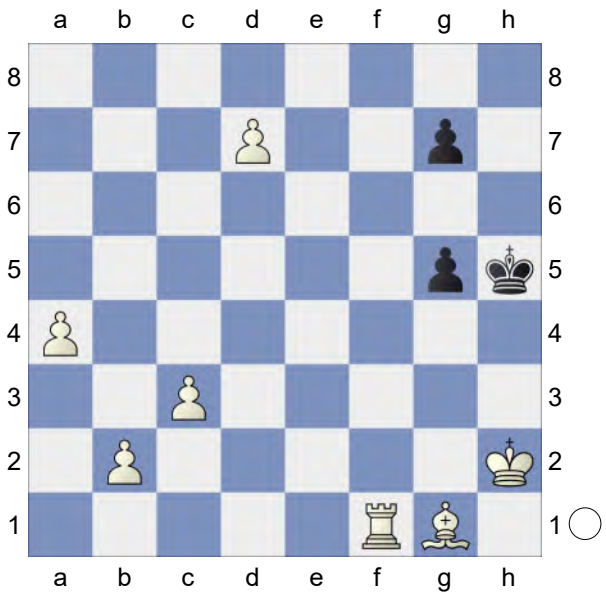


38.Ng6+! 18.75/5 **hxg6 39.Qxf8+ Kh7 40.Qxf4 Qh3+**

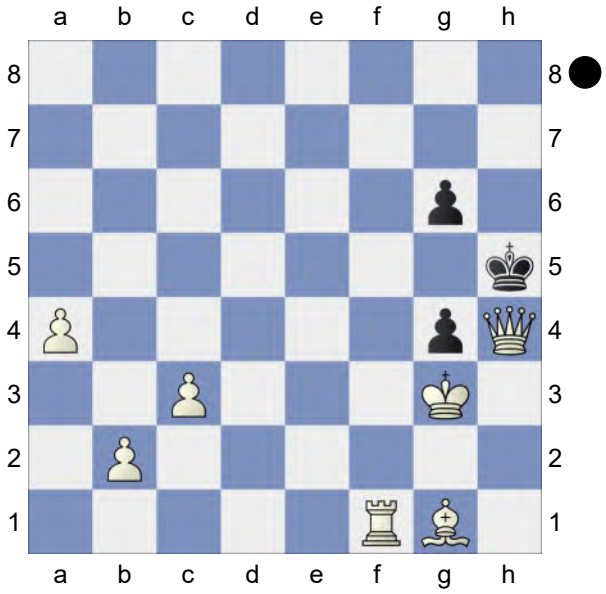


41.Rh2! White mates. **41...Nxh2 42.Qxh2 Qxh2+ 43.Kxh2 g5 44.d6 Kg6 45.d7 Kh5**

(Diagram)



46.d8Q g6 47.Kg3 g4 48.Qh4#

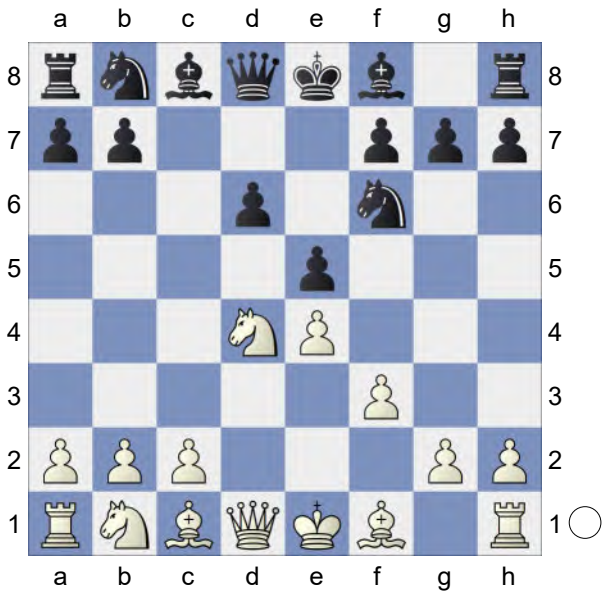


Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/ Black=0.87

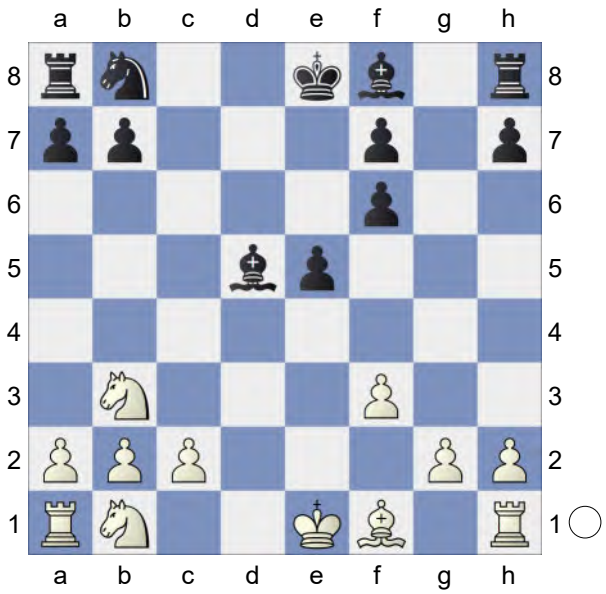
1-0

21 **B54**
□ **Drawdenied Twitch** **2958**
■ **Iceonboardbh7** **2425**
Blitz 02.03.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

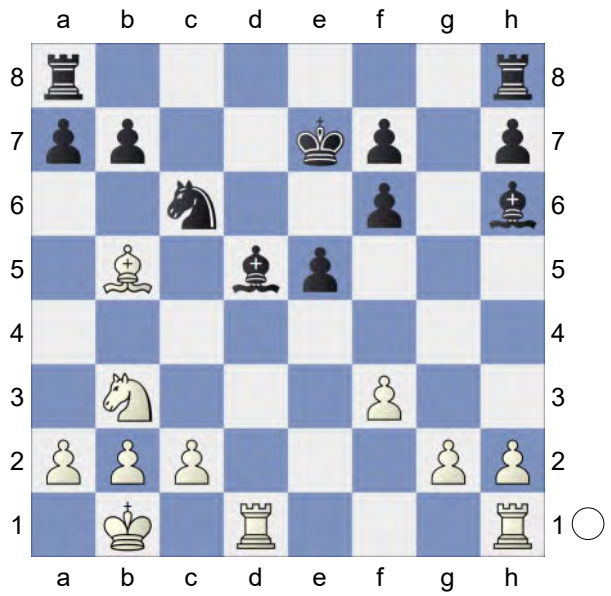


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Bxd5

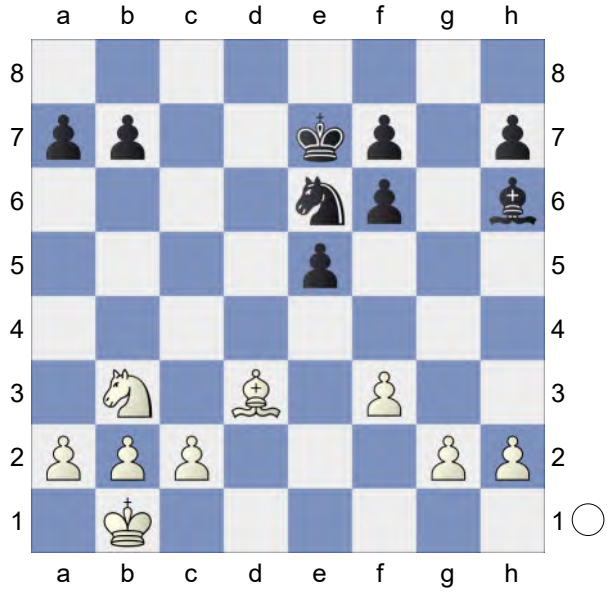


11.Nc3 Be6 12.0-0-0 Nc6 13.Bb5 Bh6+ 0.71/24
[13...Rc8= 0.28/20]
14.Kb1± &Bianco is more active. White is better. **14...Ke7 15.Nd5+! Bxd5**

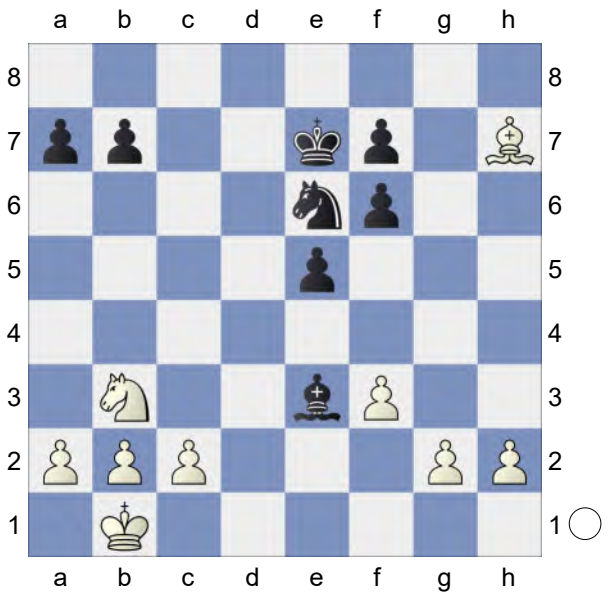
(Diagram)



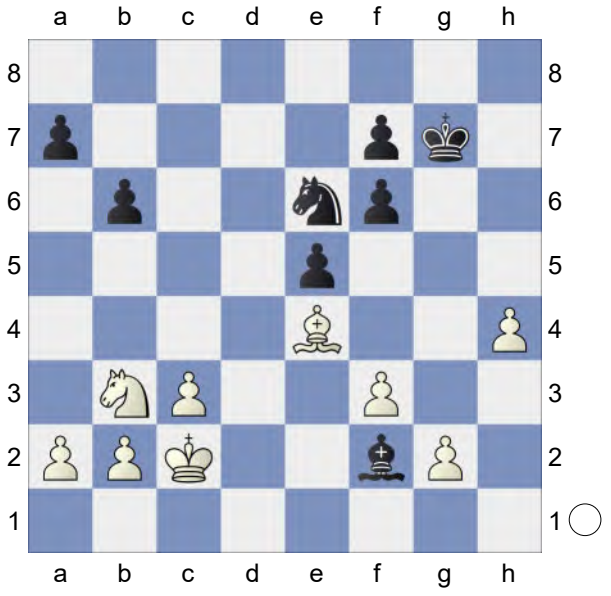
16.Rxd5 Rad8 17.Rhd1 0.18/22
[17.Bxc6± 0.67/21 bxc6 18.Ra5]
17...Rhg8 0.71/23
[17...Rxd5= 0.18/22 remains equal. 18.Rxd5 Bf4]
18.Rxd8 Rxd8 19.Rxd8 Nxd8
Endgame KBN-KBN **20.Bd3 Ne6** 0.99/22
[20...b6± 0.68/23]



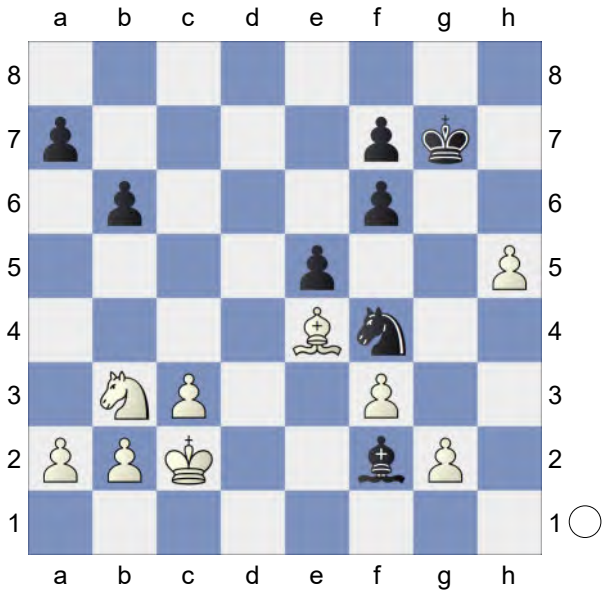
21.Bxh7 Be3 1.40/22
[Better is 21...b6 0.71/22]



22.h4 0.86/23
[⌓22.Na5! 1.40/22]
22...Kf8 1.70/22
[22...Nf4± 0.86/23]
23.c3 1.28/23
[White should try 23.Na5+- 1.70/22]
23...Kg7 1.72/26
[23...Nf4± 1.28/23 was necessary.]
24.Be4+- b6 25.Kc2 Bf2



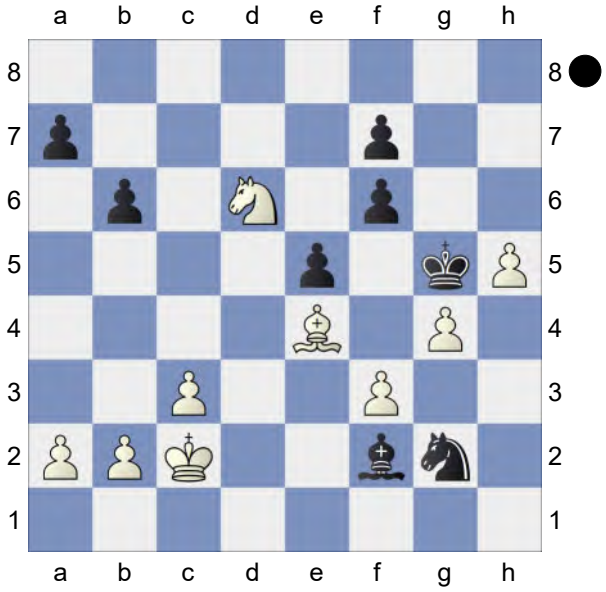
26.h5 Threatens to win with g4.
26...Nf4? 2.39/24
[26...Bg3± 0.72/24]



A mistake that costs the game. **27.g4 Kh6 28.Nd2 Kg5 29.Nc4 Ng2?** 5.20/22

[29...Bc5 2.79/22 30.b4 Bf8]

30.Nd6



Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.48

1-0

22 **B54**

□ **Zubov,Alexander** **2956**

■ **theredking89** **2798**

Blitz 01.08.2021

[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min

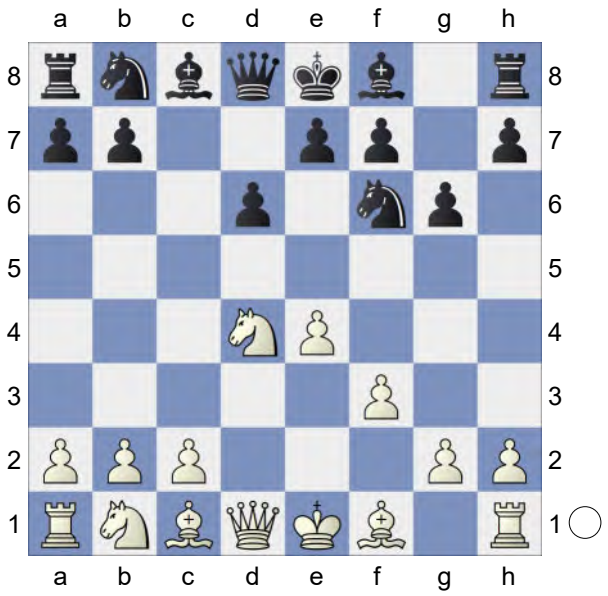
B38: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind with 5...Bg7 and 7...0-0

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 g6N

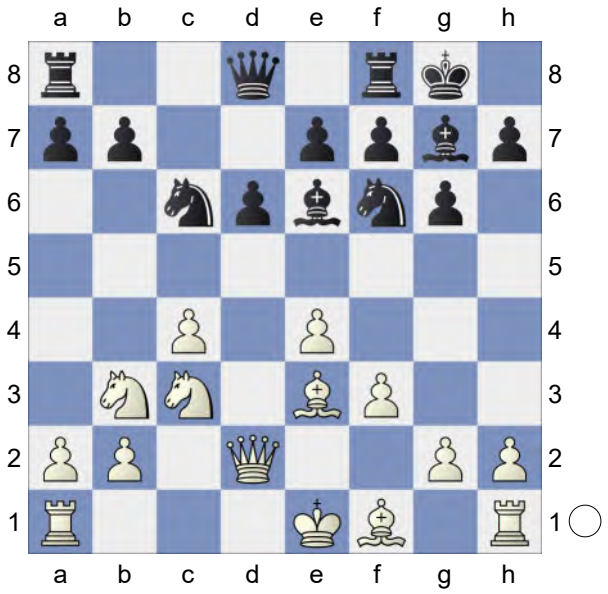
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244

1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

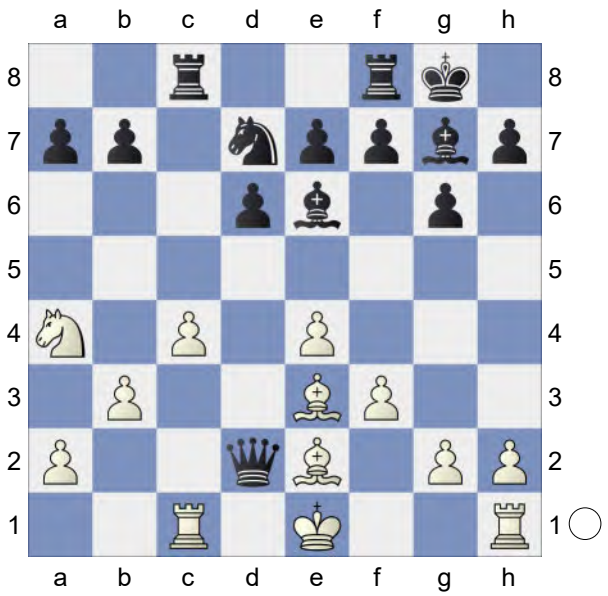


6.c4 Bg7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 Nc6 9.Qd2 Bd7 10.Nb3 0.01/19
[10.Be2± 0.34/16]
10...Be6

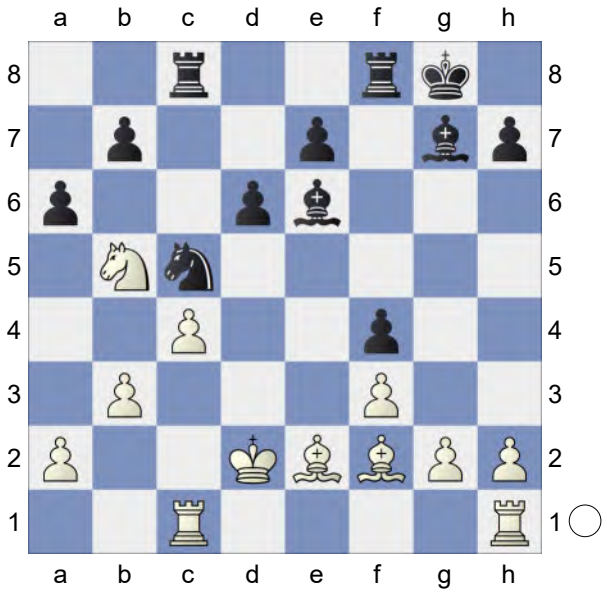


11.Rc1 Rc8 12.Be2 Na5 13.Nxa5 Qxa5 14.b3 Nd7 15.Na4 0.28/20
[15.Kf2± 0.66/18]
15...Qxd2+=

(Diagram)

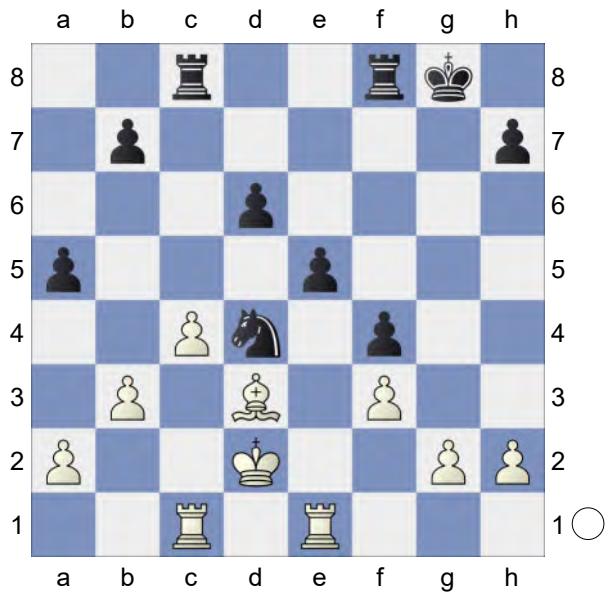


16.Kxd2 Nc5 0.44/19
[16...f5= 0.13/17 should be considered.]
17.Nc3!± f5 18.exf5 gxf5 19.Nb5 -0.04/18
[19.Nd5± 0.45/16 might be stronger. Kf7 20.Ke1]
19...f4 20.Bf2 a6

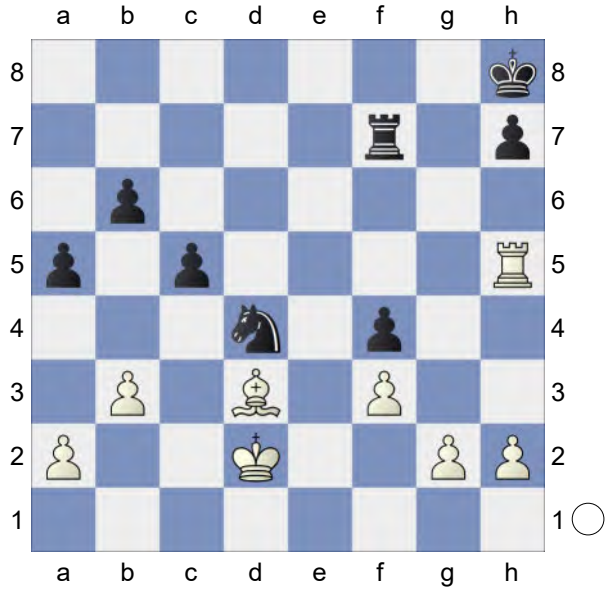


21.Nd4 a5 0.42/18
[21...Bd7= 0.01/18]
22.Nxe6 Nxe6 23.Bd3 Bd4 24.Bxd4 Nxd4 25.Rhe1 e5

(Diagram)

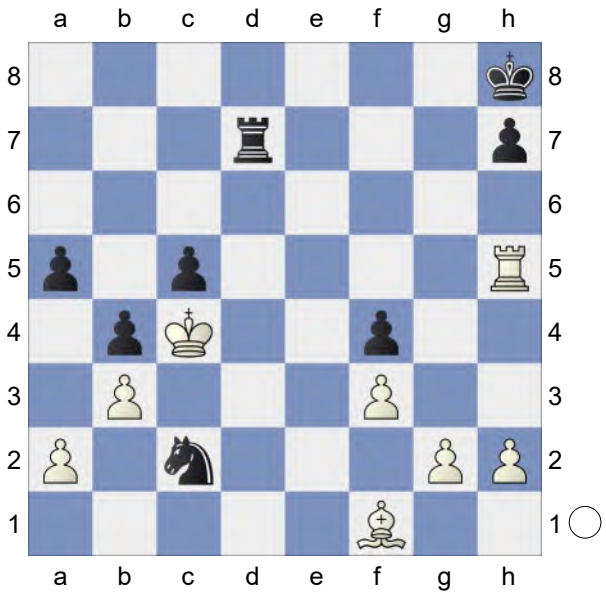


26.c5 Rxc5 1.46/21
[Black should try 26...Kf7± 0.46/20]
27.Rxc5± dxc5 28.Rxe5± Endgame KRB-KRN **28...b6 29.Rg5+ Kh8 30.Rh5 Rf7**

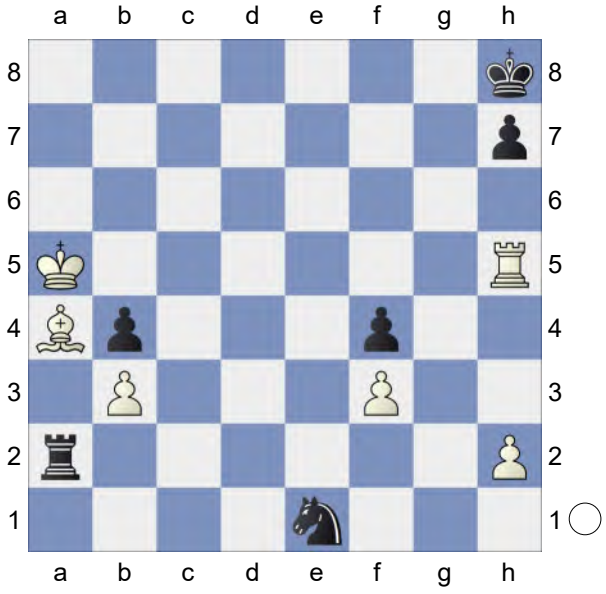


31.Rh6 Rg7 32.Bf1 Rd7 0.97/21
[32...Rg5± 0.66/21]
33.Kc3 0.61/19
[33.Rxb6± 0.97/21 Bd3 is the strong threat. Nxf3+ 34.Kc3 Nxh2 35.Bd3]
33...b5 2.07/23
[33...Nf5!± 0.61/19 34.Rxb6 Ne3 35.Rb8+ Kg7]

34.Rh5 0.75/23
[34.Ra6!+- 2.07/23 has better winning chances.]
34...b4+± 35.Kc4 Strongly threatening Rd5. **35...Nc2**

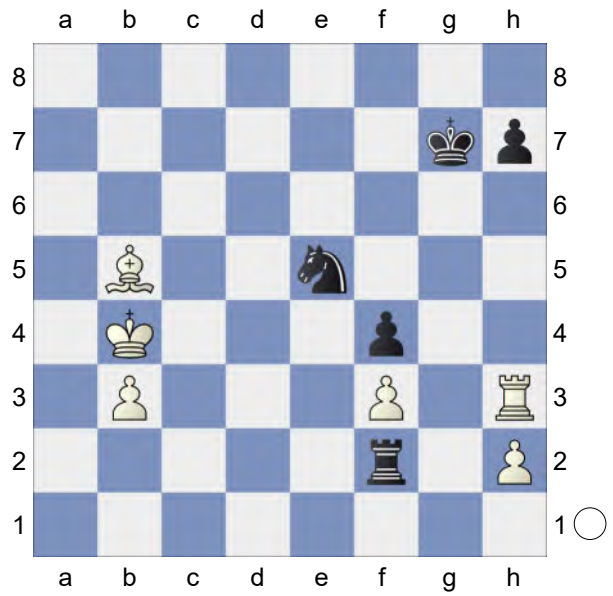


36.Kxc5 Ne3 37.Bb5 Rd2 38.Kb6 Rxa2 39.Ba4 Nxg2 40.Kxa5 Ne1

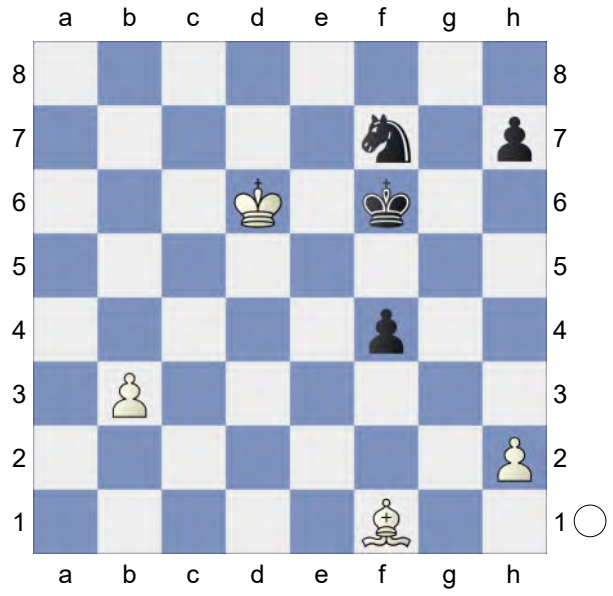


41.Rh3 0.01/23
[Better is 41.Rf5± 0.63/21]
41...Nd3= 42.Kb5 Kg7 43.Kc4 Rd2 44.Bb5 Ne5+ 45.Kxb4 Rf2

(Diagram)

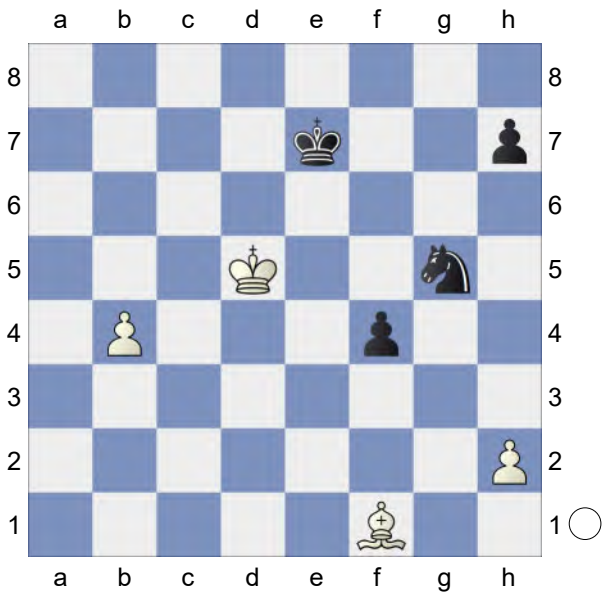


46.Kc5 Rxf3 0.62/20
[46...Nxf3= 0.00/18 47.Bd3 Kf6]
47.Rxf3± Nxf3= KB-KN **48.Bd3 Ne5 49.Bf1 Kf6 50.Kd6** Threatens to win with b4. **50...Nf7+** 1.00/26
[50...f3± 0.63/26 is superior.]

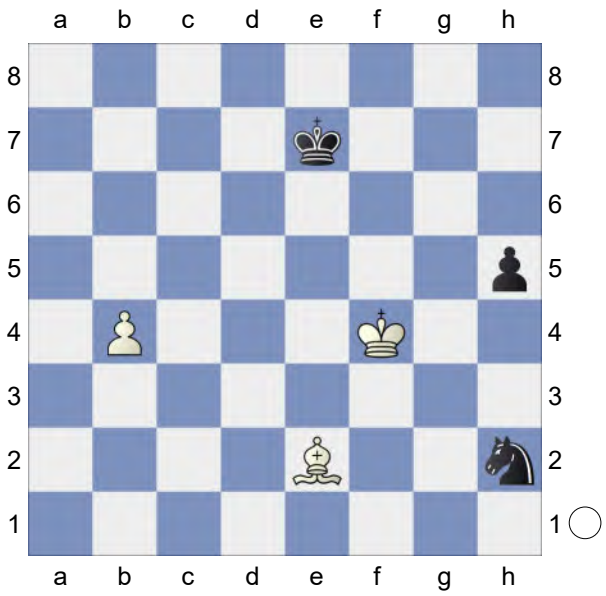


51.Kd5± Ng5 1.66/21
[51...f3± 0.92/23 was called for.]
52.b4+- Black must now prevent b5.
52...Ke7

(Diagram)

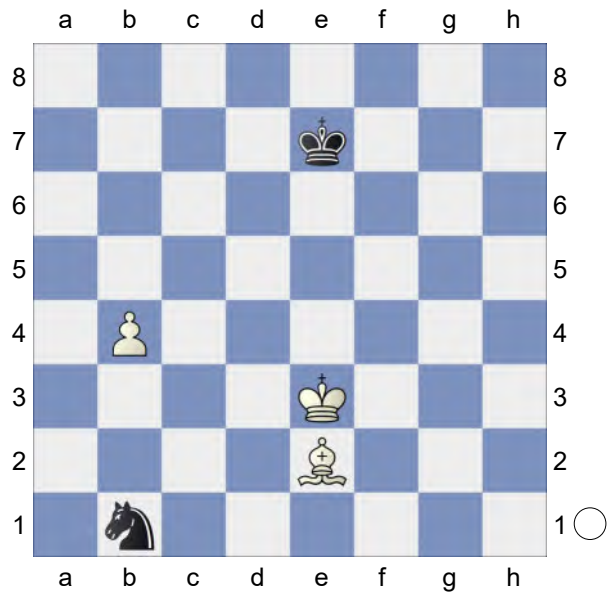


53.Ke5!
[Much less strong is 53.b5?! Kd7±]
53...Nf3+? 3.38/29
[53...f3 1.86/23 keeps fighting. 54.Kf4 Kf6]
54.Kxf4 Nxh2 13.22/27
[54...Nd4 2.96/24 55.Bd3 h6]
55.Be2 h5

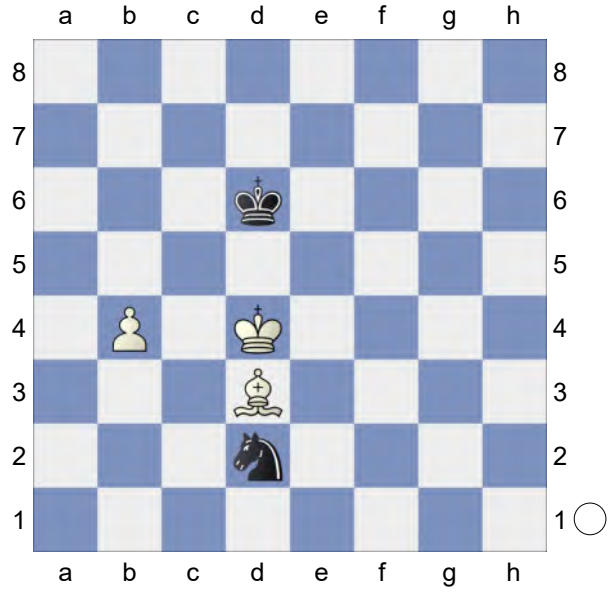


56.Bxh5 Nf1 57.Be2 Nd2 58.Ke3 Nb1

(Diagram)

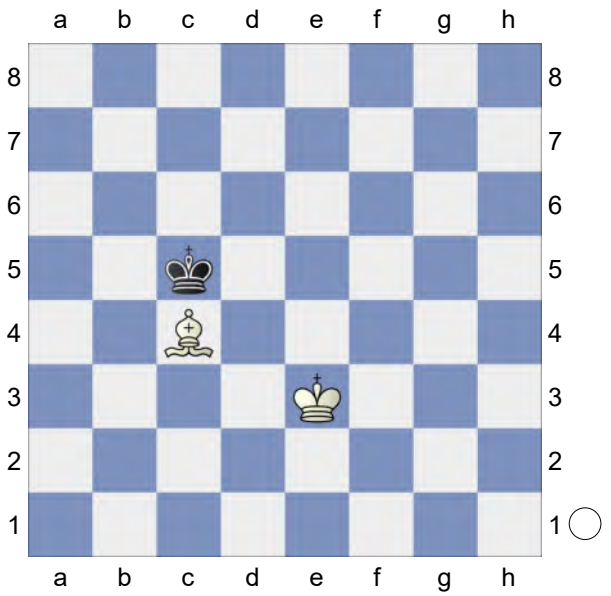


59.Kd4? 0.00/41
[59.Kd3!+- 17.24/29 Intending Kc2 and mate. Na3 60.Kc3 Nb1+ 61.Kc2 Na3+ 62.Kb2 Kf6 63.Kxa3 Ke5 64.b5]
59...Kd6= The position is equal. **60.Bd3 Nd2**



61.Ke3 Nb3 62.Bc4 Nc5 63.bxc5+ Kxc5

(Diagram)

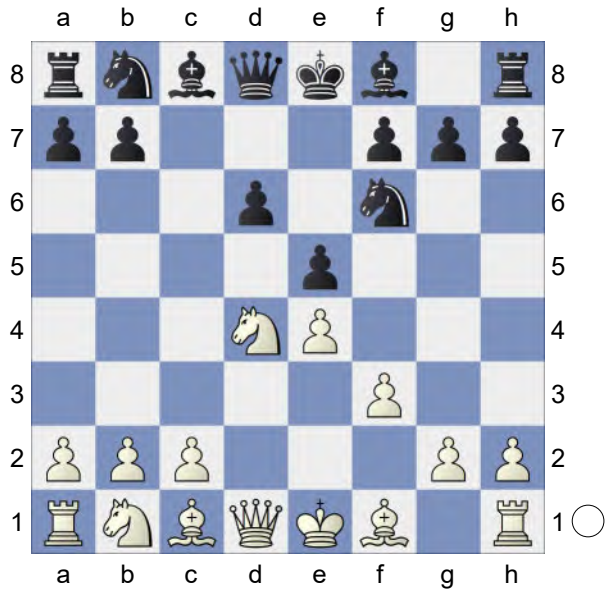


Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.22 (precise)
½-½

23 **B54**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2956**
■ **Herushkanamura** **2946**
Blitz 12.07.2022
[Kitty Kat]

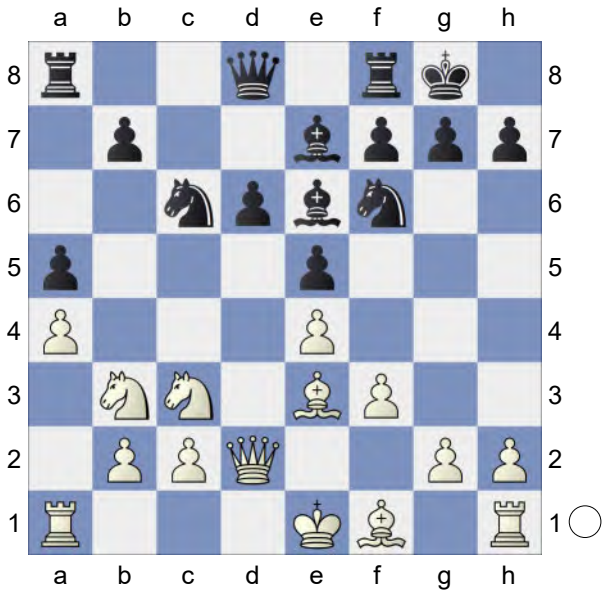
Blitz 3min
B56: Classical Sicilian: Unusual Lines
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-

Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

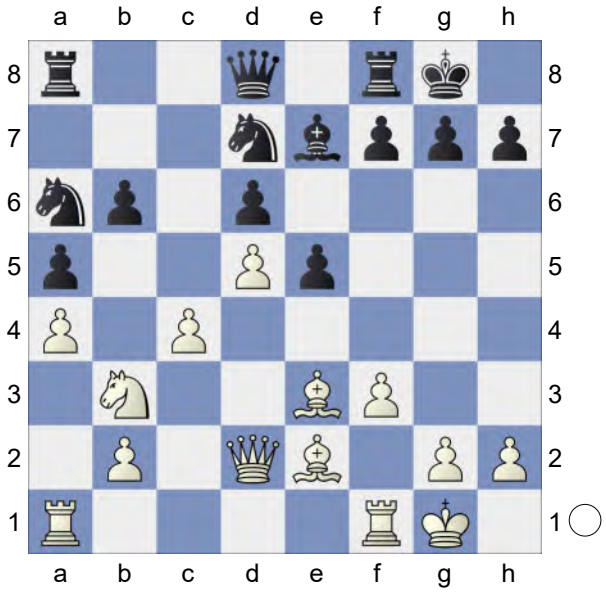


6.Nb3 a5 7.a4 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Be3 Be6 10.Qd2 Nc6

(Diagram)

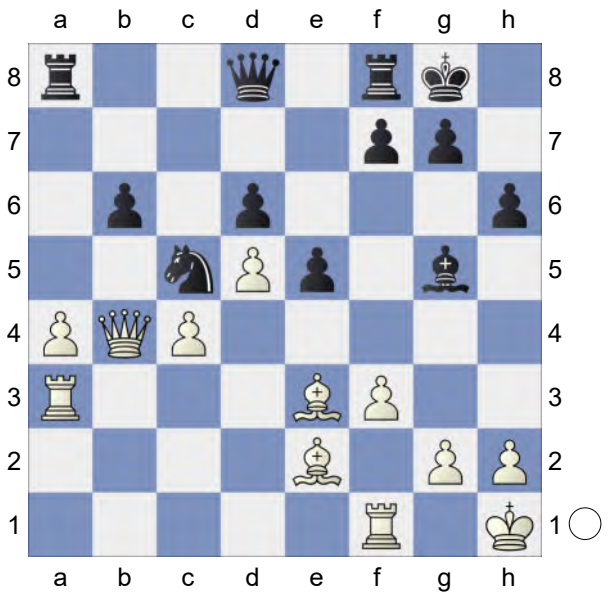


11.Nd5 Against Nb4 **11...Bxd5 12.exd5 Nb4 13.c4** Black has an edge. **13...b6 14.Be2 Nd7 15.0-0 Na6**

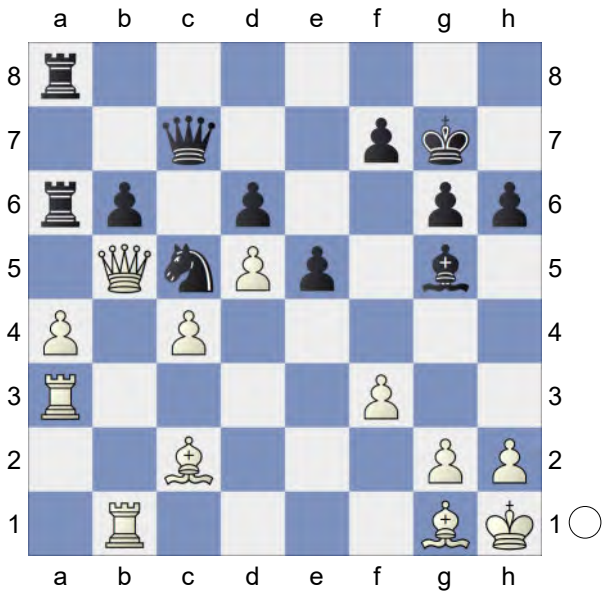


16.Kh1 Nac5 17.Nxc5 Nxc5 18.Ra3 Inhibits Nb3. **18...h6 19.b4 axb4 20.Qxb4 Bg5**

(Diagram)

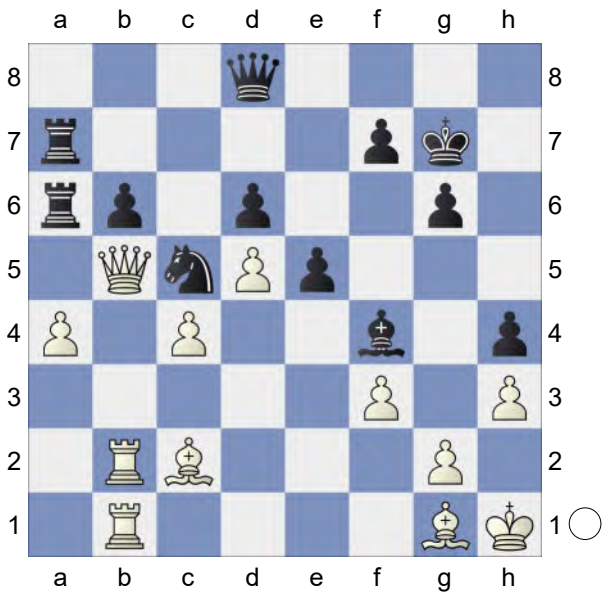


21.Bg1 Qc7 22.Rb1 Ra6 23.Bd1 Rfa8 24.Bc2 g6 25.Qb5 Kg7

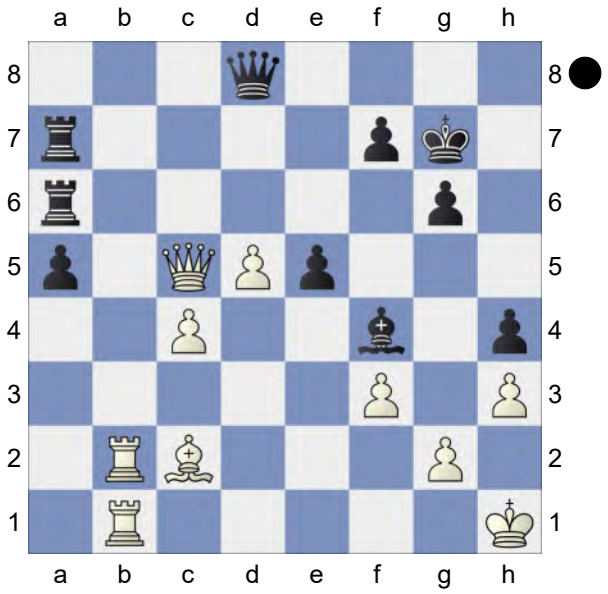


26.Qc6 Qd8 27.Ra2 R8a7 28.Qb5 h5 29.Rab2 h4 30.h3 Bf4

(Diagram)



31.a5 -1.57/23
[31.Qc6= -0.10/20 remains equal.]
31...bxa5 -0.87/20
[⌓31...Rxa5 -1.57/23 32.Qxb6 Qxb6 33.Rxb6 Ra2]
32.Bxc5∓ dxc5 33.Qxc5



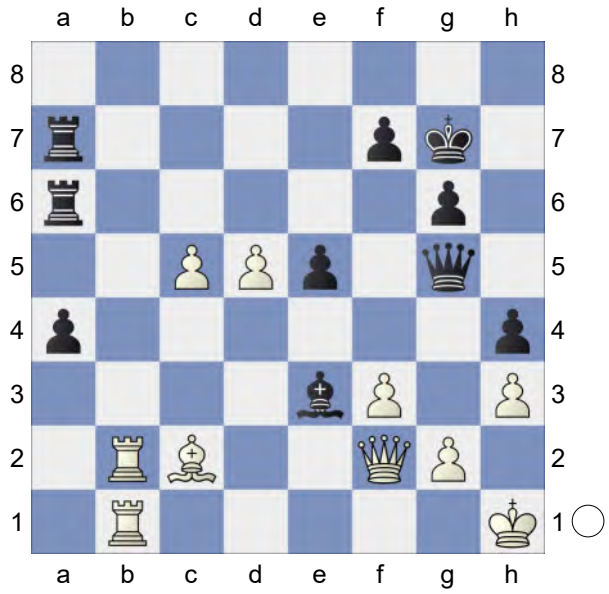
Strongly threatening Rb8. **33...Qg5** 0.01/21
[33...Rc7!∓ -1.13/20 34.Qf2 *(34.Qb5 Raa7∓)* 34...a4]
34.Qf2 -1.73/22 White does not recover from this.
[34.Rb8= 0.01/21 Qg3 35.Kg1

(35.Qf8+ Kf6=) 35...Qh2+ 36.Kf2 *(36.Kf1 Qh1+ 37.Kf2 Bg3+ 38.Ke3 Bf4+ 39.Kf2 Bg3+ 40.Ke3 Bf4+ 41.Kf2=)* 36...Bg3+ 37.Kf1 Qh1+ 38.Qg1 Qxg1+ 39.Kxg1]

34...a4-+ 35.c5? -3.35/21

[35.Qc5 -1.62/19]

35...Be3



36.f4 exf4 37.Qe1 a3 Black is clearly winning.

[37...Qxd5? 38.Qxh4 *(38.Rb8? Qg5-+)* 38...f3 39.Be4 fxg2+ 40.Bxg2-+]

38.Rb7 -13.49/20

[⌓38.Qc3+ -4.28/19 Qf6 39.Qxf6+ Kxf6 40.Rb6+ Ke5 41.Rxa6 Rxa6 42.d6 Bxc5 43.d7]

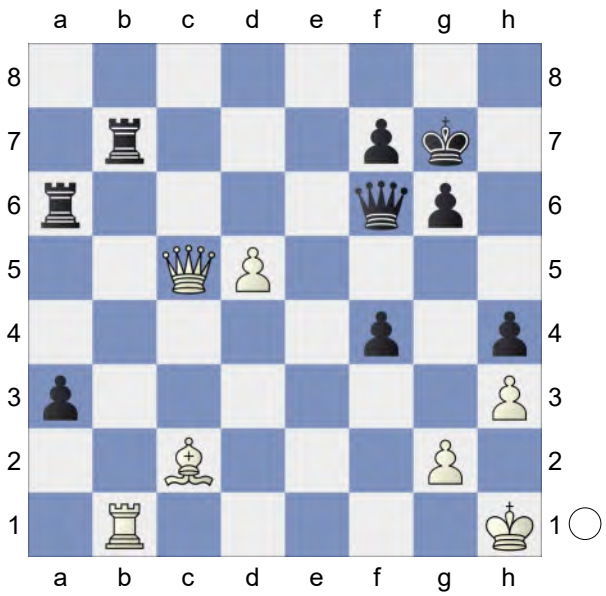
38...Bxc5 -5.45/21

[⌓38...Rxb7 -13.49/20 39.Rxb7 a2]

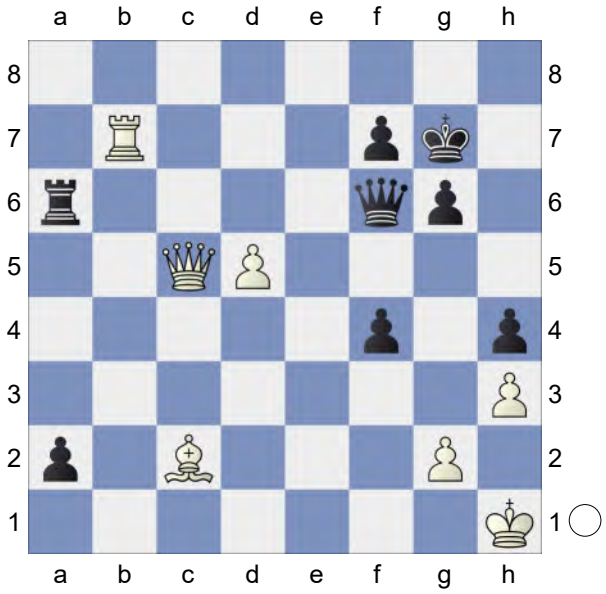
39.Qc3+ Qf6 40.Qxc5 Rxb7

[Don't blunder 40...a2? 41.Rxa7 *(41.Rb8? a1Q-+)* 41...a1Q 42.Rxa6 *(42.Rxa1? loses. Qxa1+ 43.Qg1 Rxa7-+)* 42...Qaxa6 43.Be4-+]

(Diagram)



41.Rxb7 a2

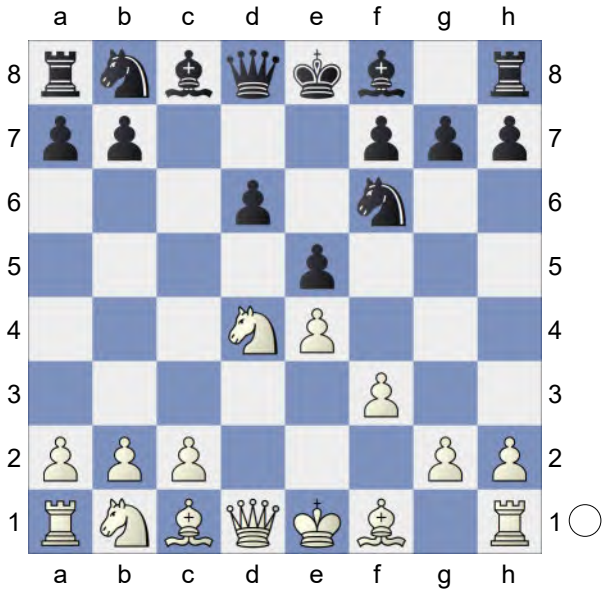


Weighted Error Value: White=0.66/ Black=0.25 (precise)

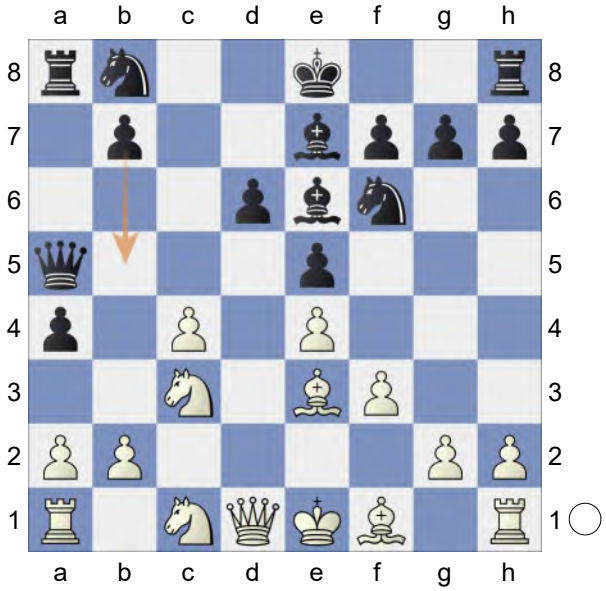
0-1

24 **B54**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2956**
■ **Herushkanamura** **2946**
Blitz 12.07.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

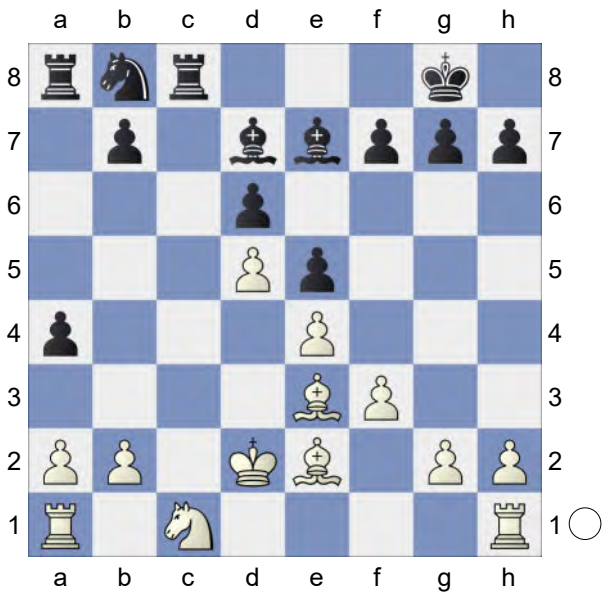


6.Nb3 Be7 7.c4 a5 8.Be3 Be6 9.Nc3 a4 10.Nc1 The position is equal.
10...Qa5



11.Qd2 0-0 12.Be2 Rc8 13.Nd5 -0.34/20
[13.b3= 0.01/21]
13...Qxd2+∓ 14.Kxd2 Nxd5 0.14/18
[14...Bd8!∓ -0.41/19]
15.cxd5= Bd7

(Diagram)



16.Nd3 Na6 17.Rhc1 Bd8 18.g4 0.07/18

[18.Rxc8± 0.46/19 Rxc8 19.b4]

18...Kf8 0.42/21

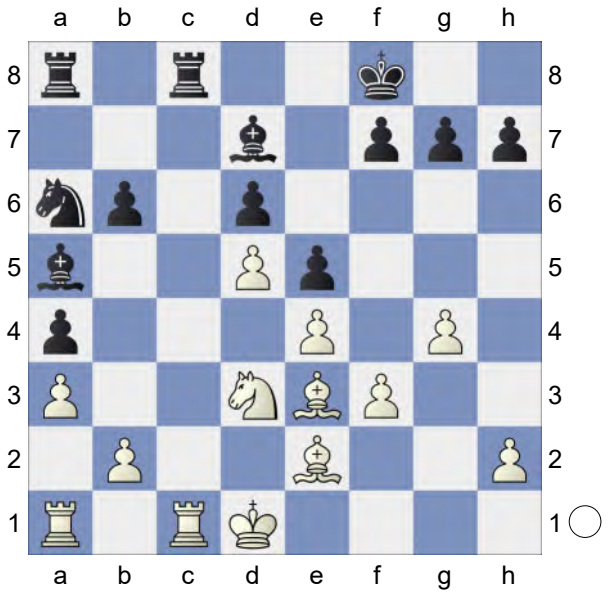
[18...Ba5+= 0.07/18 should be considered. 19.Kd1 g6]

19.a3 0.01/19

[19.b4± 0.42/21]

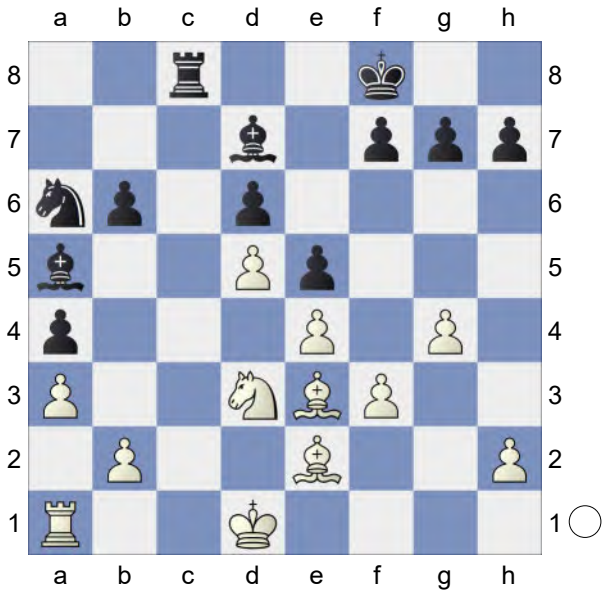
19...Ba5+ 20.Kd1 b6 0.64/21

[20...Ke7= 0.17/19]

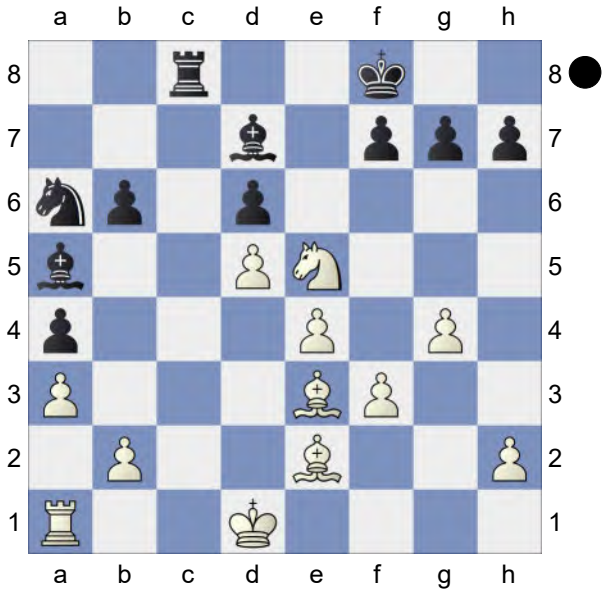


21.Rxc8+± Rxc8 1.31/22

[21...Bxc8± 0.54/23 22.f4 f6]



22.Nxe5!



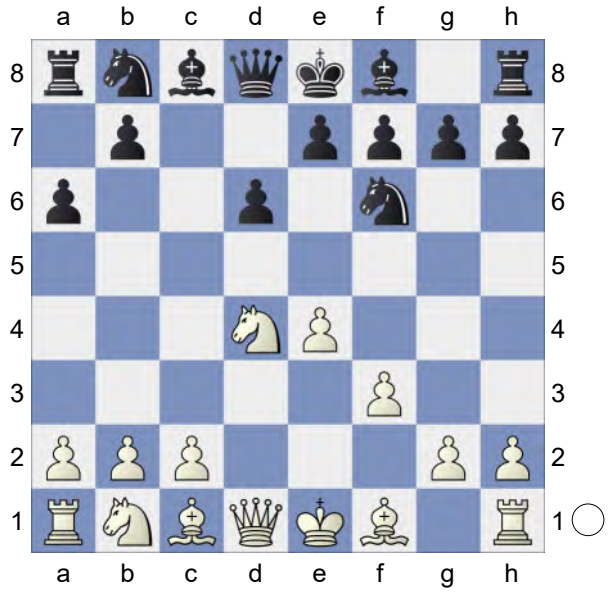
Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.18 (very precise)

1-0

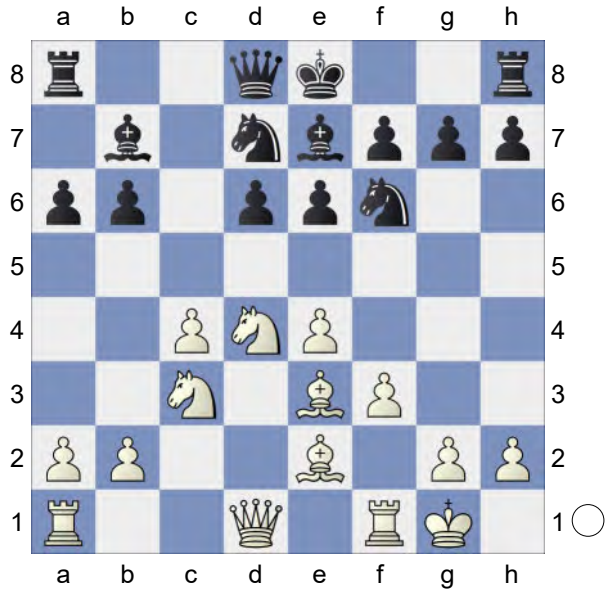
25 **B54**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2954**
■ **Ebobochess** **2831**
Blitz 31.03.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
A31: Symmetrical English: 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 d4

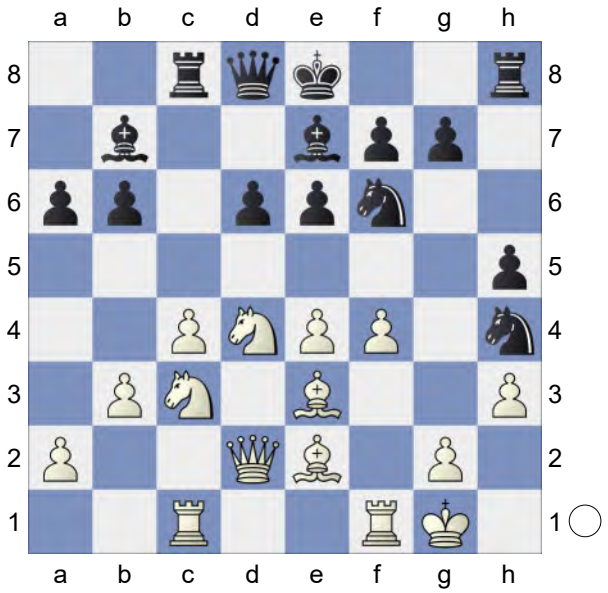
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6



6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be3 Bb7 9.Be2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Be7

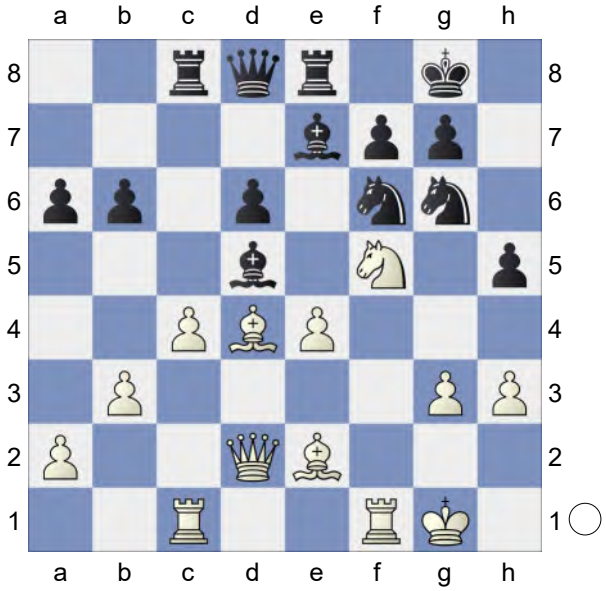


11.Rc1 Rc8 12.Qd2 Ne5N
[12...Qc7 13.a3 *(13.Rfd1 Qb8 14.Bf1 0-0 15.a3 Rfe8 16.b4 Bd8 17.Kh1 Bc7 18.Bg1 d5 19.cxd5 Bf4 20.Be3 Bxe3 21.Qxe3 exd5 22.Nf5 dxe4 23.Qg5 g6 24.fxe4 Qe5 25.Nh6+ Kf8 26.Qd2 Kg7 27.Be2 Rxc3* Chapter-Games Game 3 (33)*)* 13...Qb8 14.b4 0-0 15.Nb3 Bd8 16.Kh1 Bc7 17.Bg1 Kh8 18.Nd4 Rg8 19.Rb1 Qa8 20.Be3 h6 21.b5 a5 22.Rfd1 g5 23.Nc6 Rg7 24.h4 gxh4 25.Bxh6 Rh7 26.e5 Nxe5 27.Nxe5 Chjumachenko,A (2220)-Beshukov,S (2435) Krasnodar 1997 CI1-130 [Chjumachenko,A] (38)]
13.b3
[13.Na4 feels hotter. 0-0 14.Nxb6 Qxb6 15.Nxe6 Qc6 16.Nxf8 Bxf8 17.b3]
13...h5 White is slightly better. **14.h3 Ng6 15.f4 Nh4**



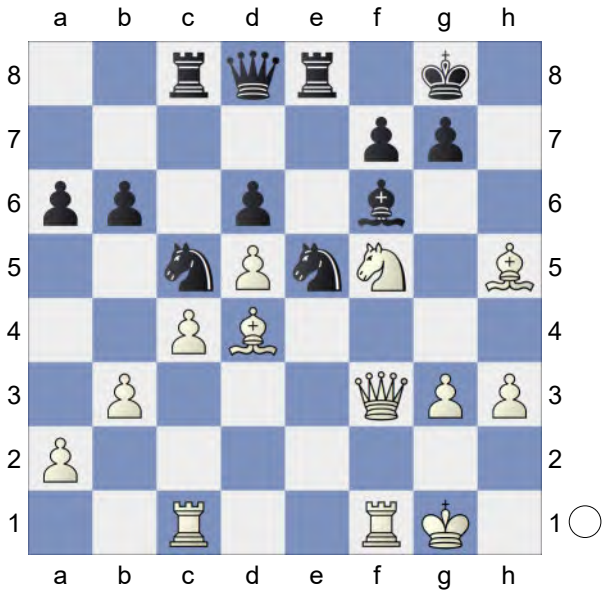
16.g3 Ng6 17.f5 exf5 1.22/18
[17...Nf8± 0.64/18]
18.Nxf5± 0-0 19.Bd4 0x0.00209a826646dp-1022s more active pieces. **19...Re8** 1.44/18
[⌓19...Nxe4 0.91/18 20.Nxe4 Bxe4]

20.Nd5 0.29/20
[20.Rcd1± 1.44/18]
20...Bxd5 1.24/20
[20...Nxd5= 0.29/20 keeps the balance. 21.cxd5 Bg5 22.Rxc8 Bxc8]

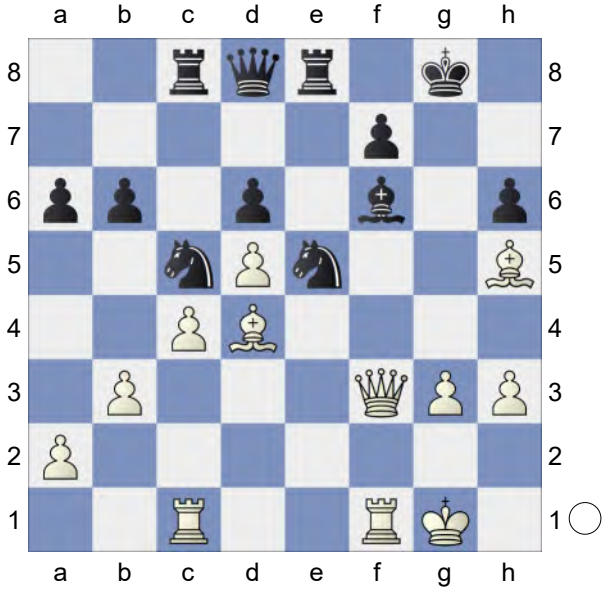


21.exd5 Ne4 22.Qd3 Bf6 23.Bxh5 Black must now prevent Rce1. This bishop pair is nice. **23...Nc5 24.Qf3 Ne5** 2.23/19
[24...Bxd4+± 1.47/18 was necessary. 25.Nxd4 Qd7]

(Diagram)

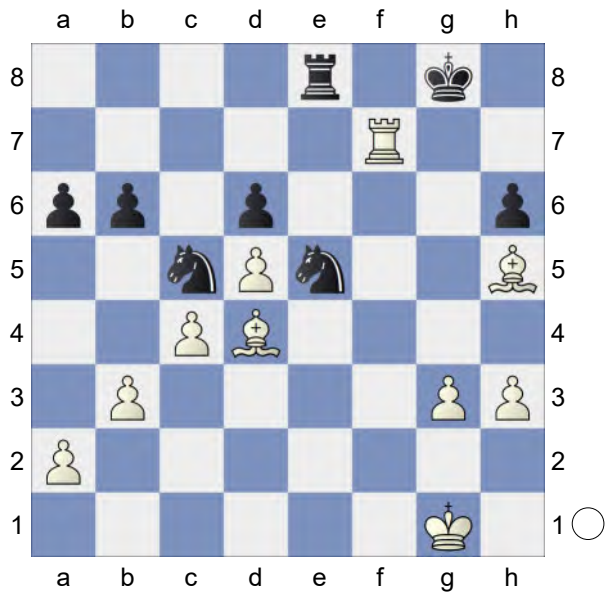


25.Nh6+!+- gxh6

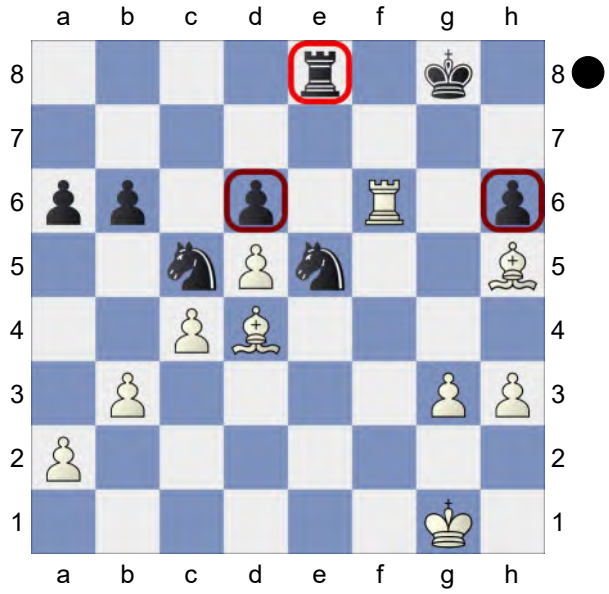


26.Qxf6 Qxf6 27.Rxf6 Kg7? 6.08/21
[27...Ne4 2.16/20 28.Rf4 *(28.Rxh6 Kg7=)* 28...Nxg3]
28.Rcf1 White is clearly winning.
28...Rc7 7.98/21
[⌓28...Ne4 4.85/19]
29.Rxf7+ Rxf7 30.Rxf7+ Kg8

(Diagram)



31.Rf6



Weighted Error Value: White=0.42/ Black=0.48

1-0

26 **B54**

□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2953**

■ **Bahaykubo** **2665**

Blitz 31.03.2022

[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min

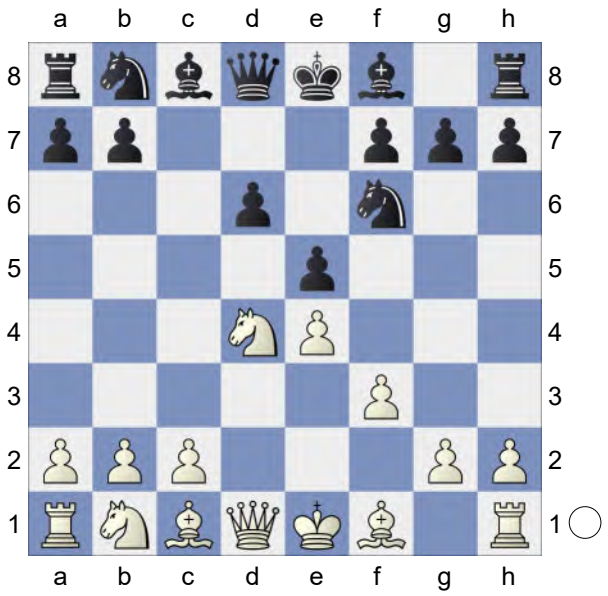
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

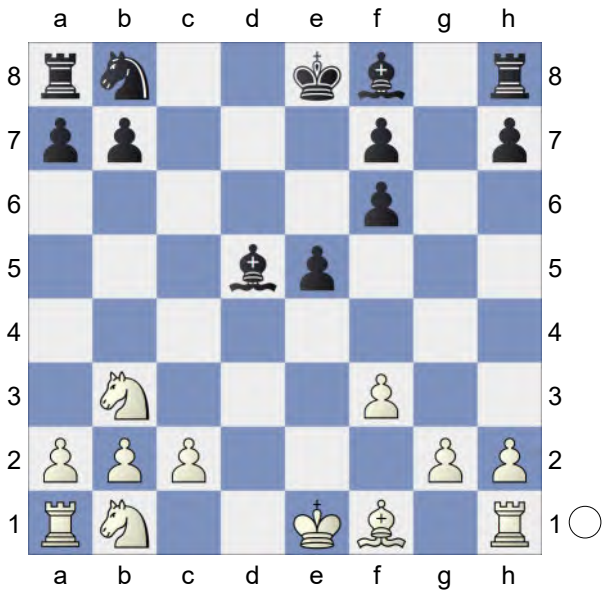
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244

1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

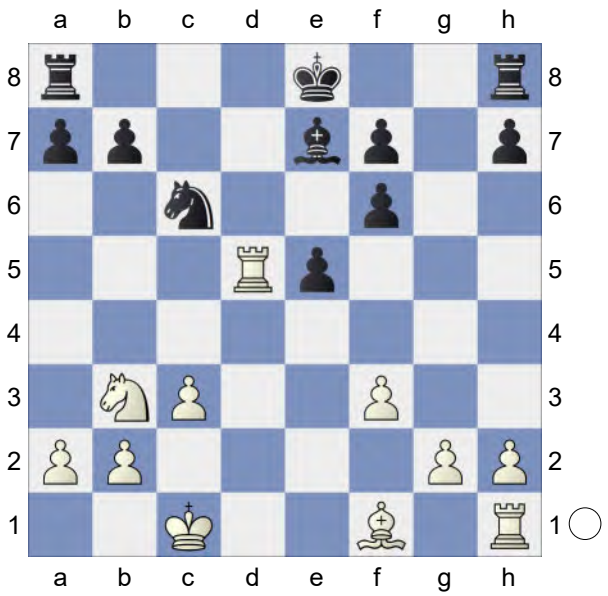


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Bxd5

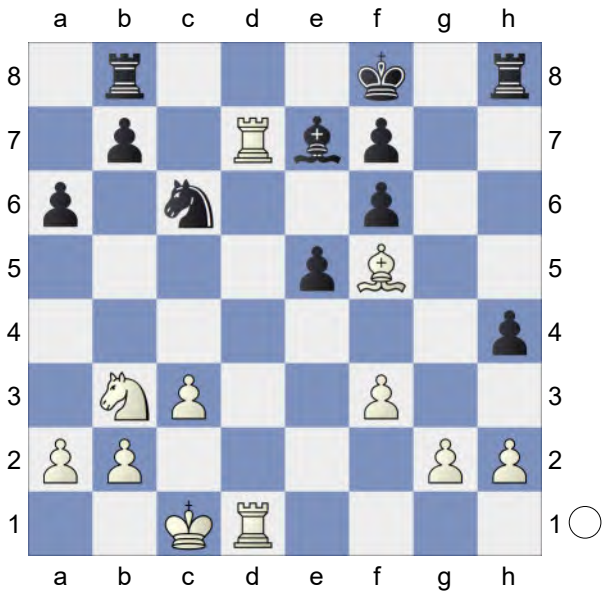


11.Nc3 Bc6 0.89/20
[11...Be6!= 0.24/19]
12.0-0-0± Bb4 1.36/23
[⌓12...Nd7 0.87/17]
13.Nd5 0.89/22
[⌓13.Nb5 1.36/23]
13...Bxd5 White is better. **14.Rxd5 Nc6 15.c3 Be7**

(Diagram)

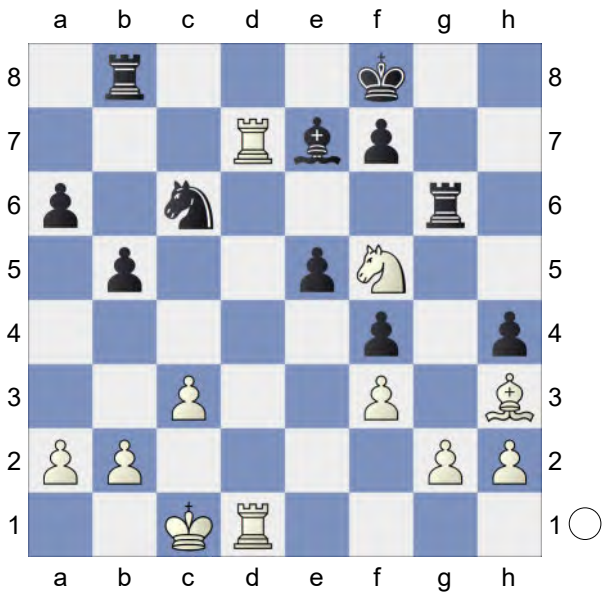


16.Bb5 a6 17.Bd3 h5 18.Rd1 h4 19.Bf5 Kf8 20.Rd7 Rb8

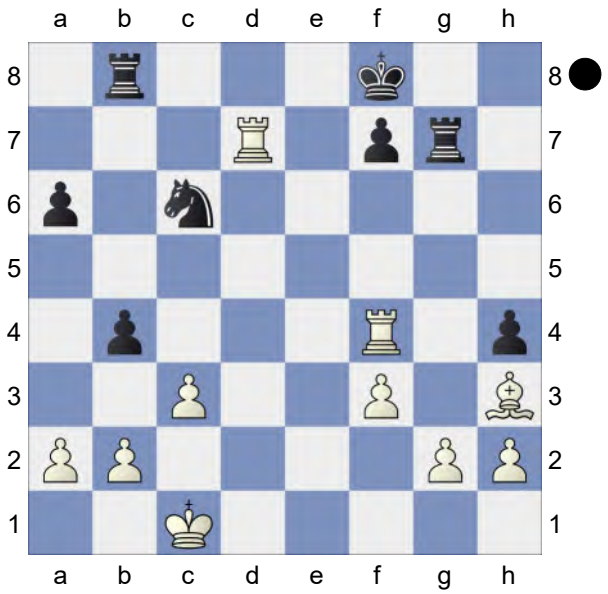


21.Nd2 &Bianco is much more active. The black rooks are badly placed.
21...Rg8 22.Bh3 f5 23.Nc4
[Reject 23.Bxf5?! Rxg2 24.h3 Bg5=]
23...b5 1.62/22
[23...Rg6± 1.28/19 keeps fighting.]
24.Nd6+- f4 25.Nf5 Rg6

(Diagram)

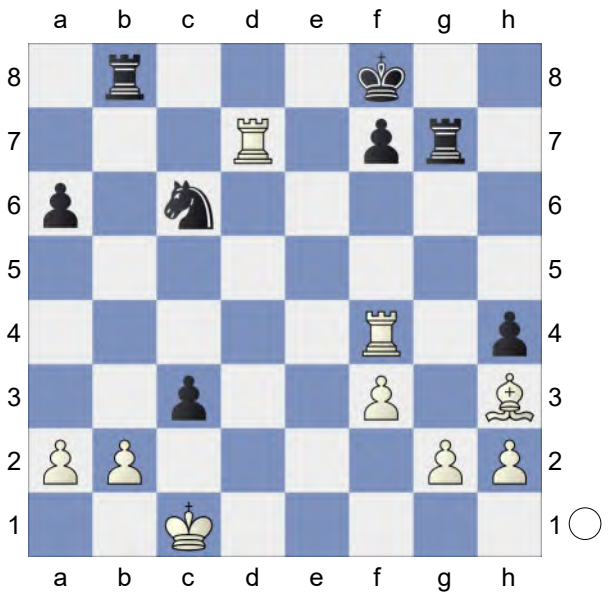


26.R1d5 b4 2.11/19
[26...Re8± 1.45/19 27.Rb7 Bg5]
27.Nxe7 Nxe7 28.Rxe5 Nc6 29.Rf5 Rg7 30.Rxf4

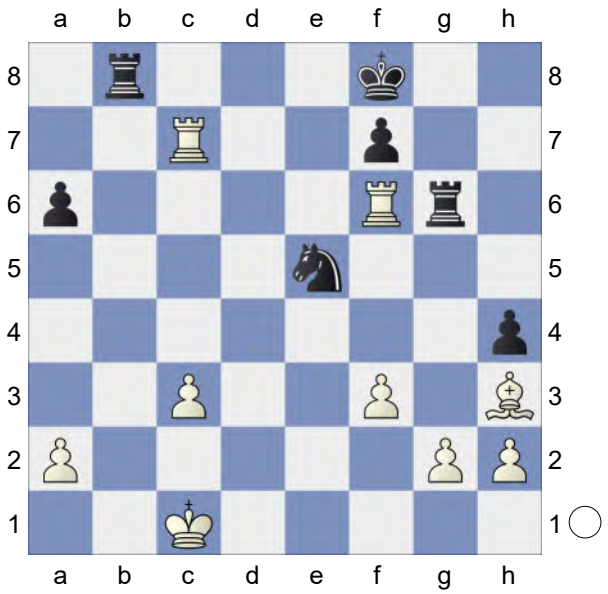


Black must now prevent Rd6. **30...bxc3**

(Diagram)

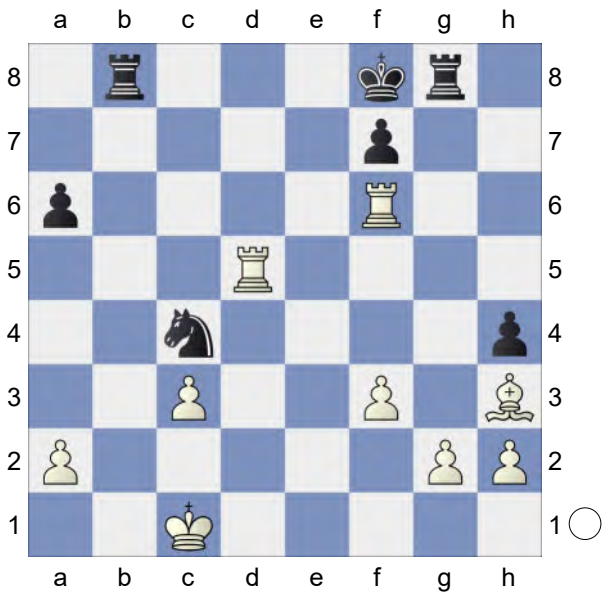


31.bxc3 Ne5 32.Rd5 Ng6 33.Rf6 Rg8 34.Rd7 Ne5 35.Rd5 0.01/19
[White should try 35.Rc7+- 3.37/21 Rg6

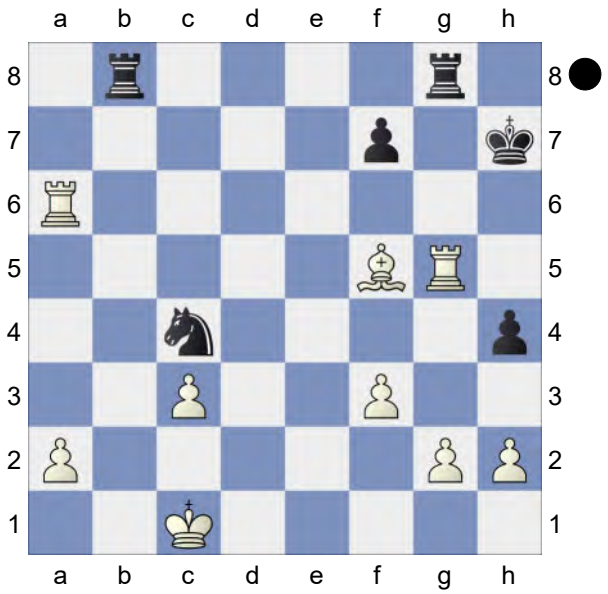


36.Rcxf7+!! Nxf7 37.Rxg6]
35...Nc4? 3.87/22
[35...Ng6!= 0.01/19 and Black stays safe. 36.a4 Kg7]

(Diagram)



36.Rxa6 Kg7 5.52/22
[36...Re8 3.49/21 was necessary. 37.Rh5 Ne3]
37.Rg5+ Kh7 38.Bf5+

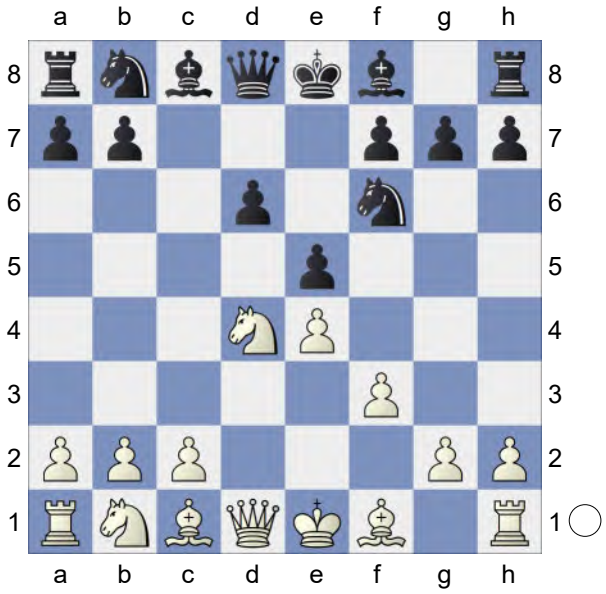


Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/Black=0.48
1-0

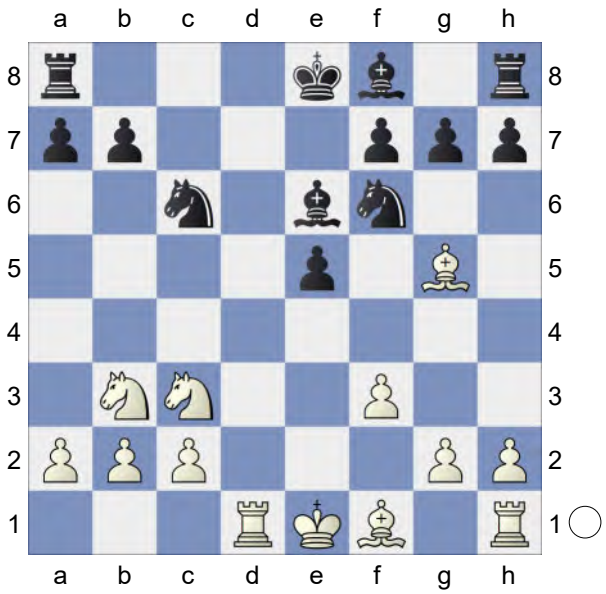
27 **B54**
□ **Ooopscheck** **2953**
■ **Gryzlo** **2703**
Blitz 28.03.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244

1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

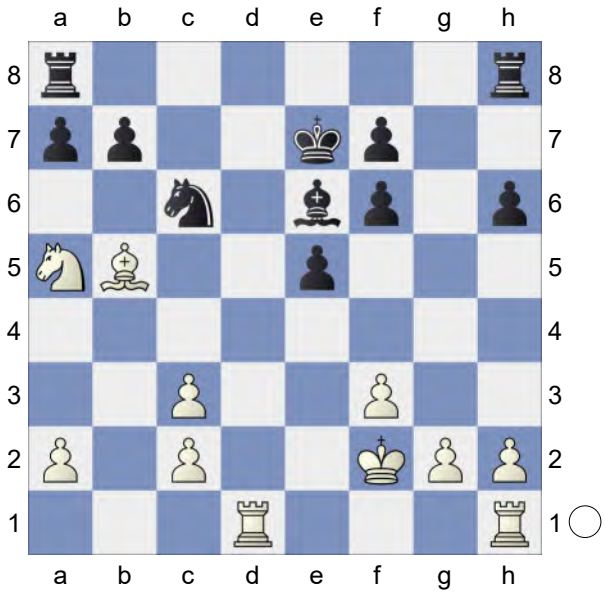


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.exd5 Qxd5 9.Nc3 Qxd1+ 10.Rxd1 Nc6



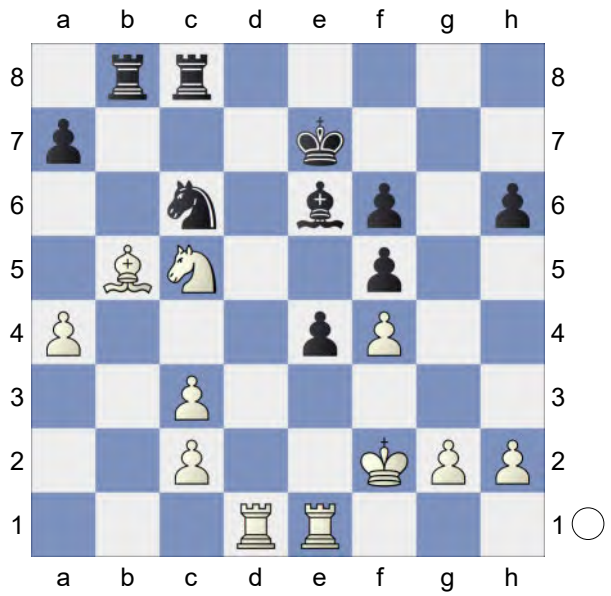
11.Bb5 The position is equal. **11...Bb4** Prevents Na5. **12.Kf2 Bxc3 13.bxc3 h6 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Na5 Ke7**

(Diagram)

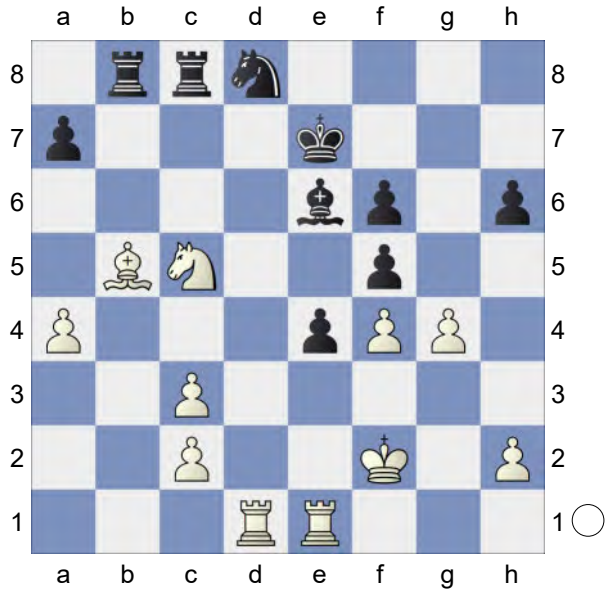


16.Nxb7 Rhc8 17.Nc5 -0.01/21
[17.Rd6± 0.48/17 Nd8 18.Rxd8 Rxd8 19.Nxd8 Rxd8 20.Bd3]
17...Rab8 0.65/20
[Black should play 17...Nd8= -0.01/21 18.Nxe6 Nxe6]
18.a4± f5 1.12/18
[18...Rb6!± 0.62/21]
19.Rhe1± &Bianco is more active.
19...f6 2.33/21 A mistake that costs the game.
[19...Rb6± 1.09/18 was necessary. 20.Re2 Kf6]
20.f4+- e4? 4.19/22
[20...Ra8 2.39/20 keeps fighting. 21.fxe5 fxe5 22.Bxc6 Rxc6 23.Rxe5 Kf6]

(Diagram)

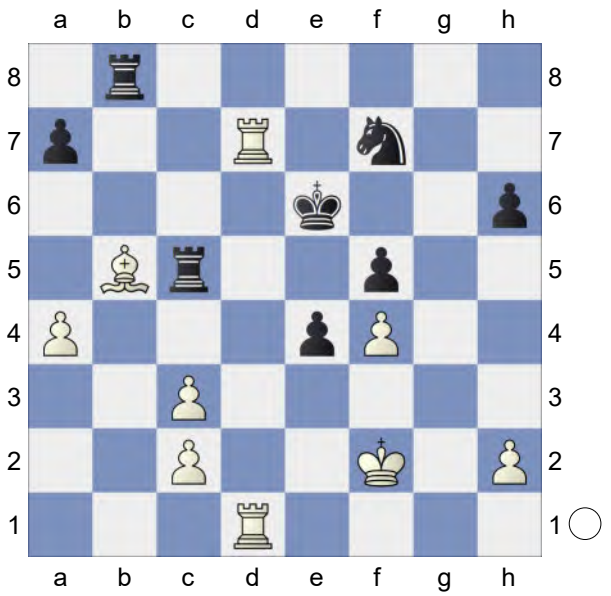


21.g4 Nd8

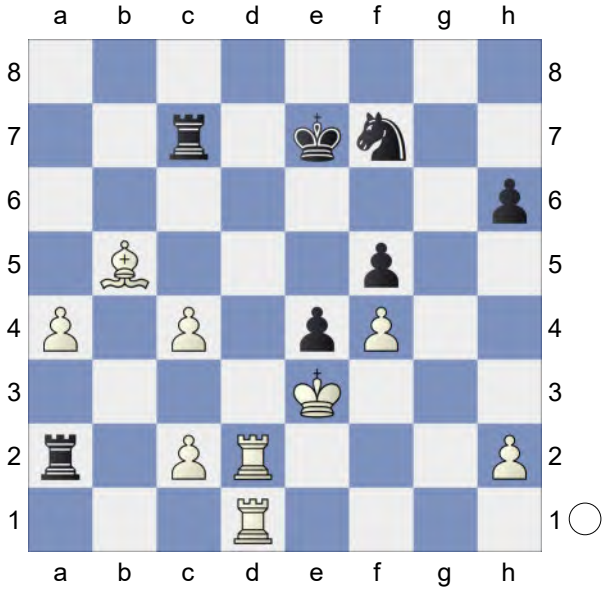


22.gxf5! The board is on fire. **22...Rxc5**
23.fxe6 f5 4.51/21
[23...Nxe6 2.56/21 24.Rd7+ Kf8 25.Rxe4 Rcxb5]
24.Rd7+ Kxe6 25.Red1 Nf7

(Diagram)

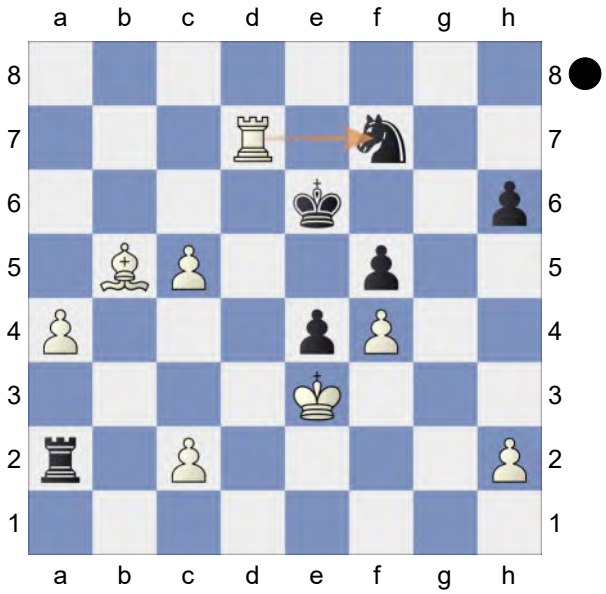


Prevents R1d6+. **26.c4 a6 27.Bxa6 Rb2 28.R7d2** Strongly threatening Ke3.
28...Rc7 29.Bb5 Hoping for a5.
29...Ke7? 4.11/22
[29...Ra2 1.96/22 was called for.
30.Ke2 h5]
30.Ke3 Ra2

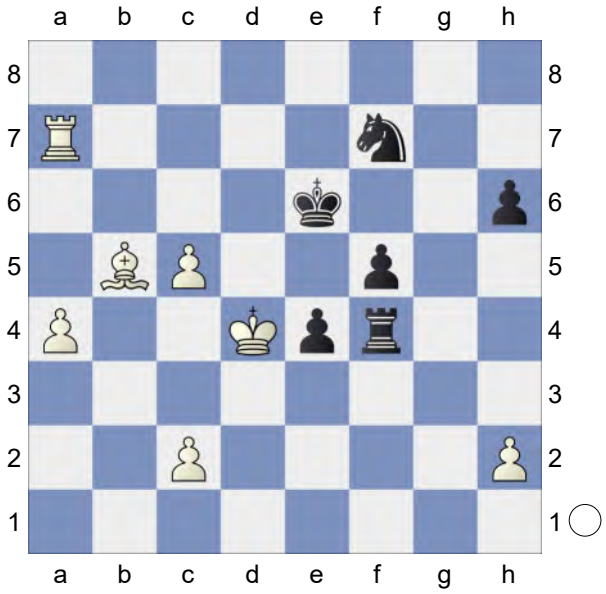


31.Rd7+ Rxd7 32.Rxd7+ Endgame KRB-KRN
[Not 32.Bxd7 Nd6±]
32...Ke6 33.c5

(Diagram)

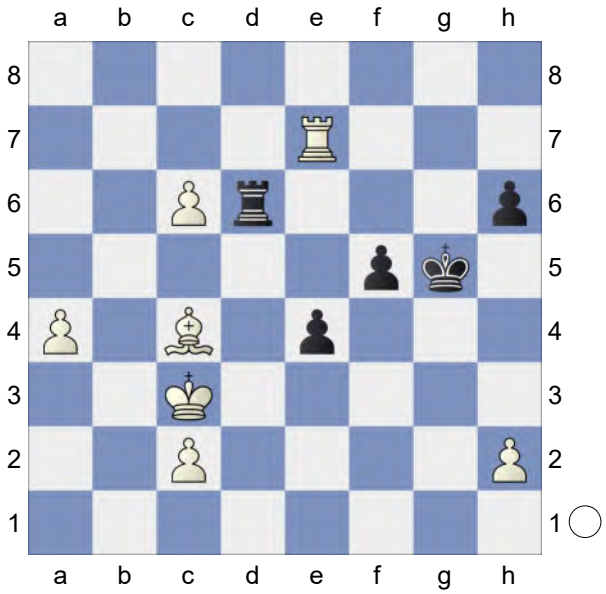


Prevents Nd6. aiming for Rxf7! **33...Ra3+ 34.Kd4 Rf3 35.Ra7 Rxf4**

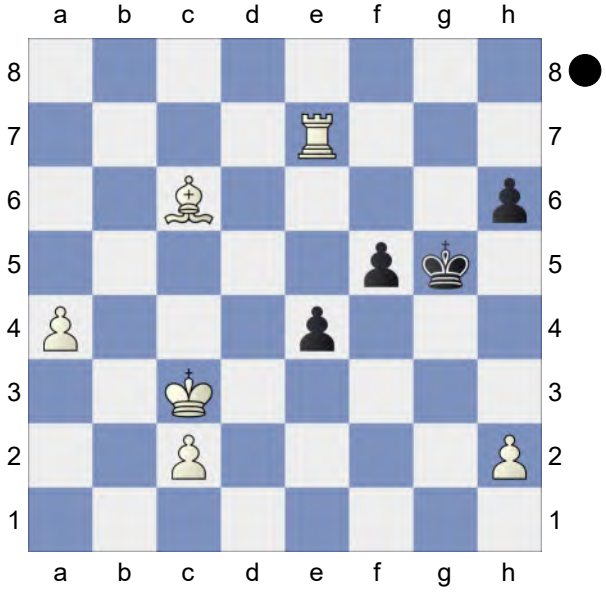


36.Bc4+ Kf6 37.Rxf7+ Kg5 38.Re7 Rf2 39.c6 White threatens c7 and mate. **39...Rd2+ 40.Kc3 Rd6**

(Diagram)



41.Bb5 Rxc6+ 42.Bxc6

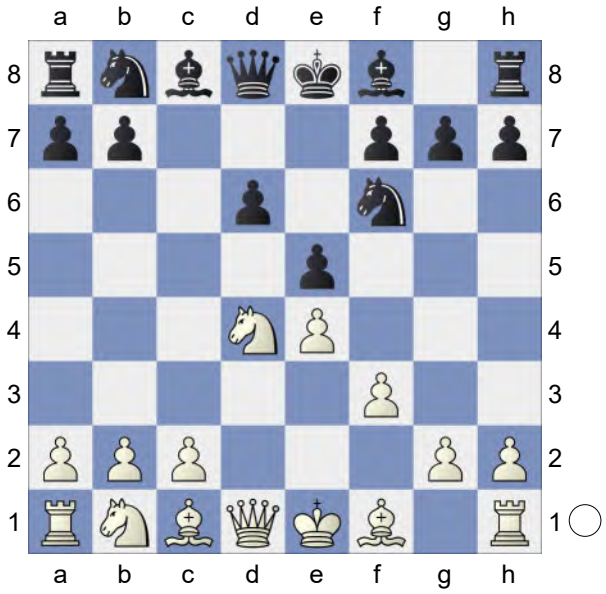


Weighted Error Value: White=0.39/ Black=0.51

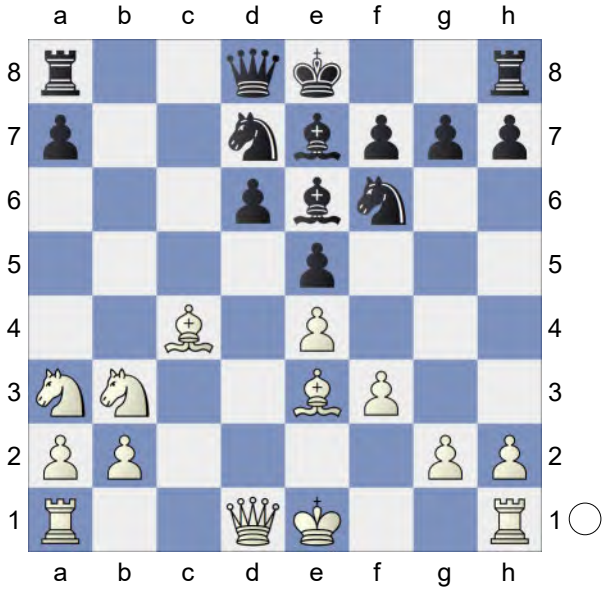
1-0

28 **B54**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2953**
■ **Patetico** **2789**
Blitz 13.05.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

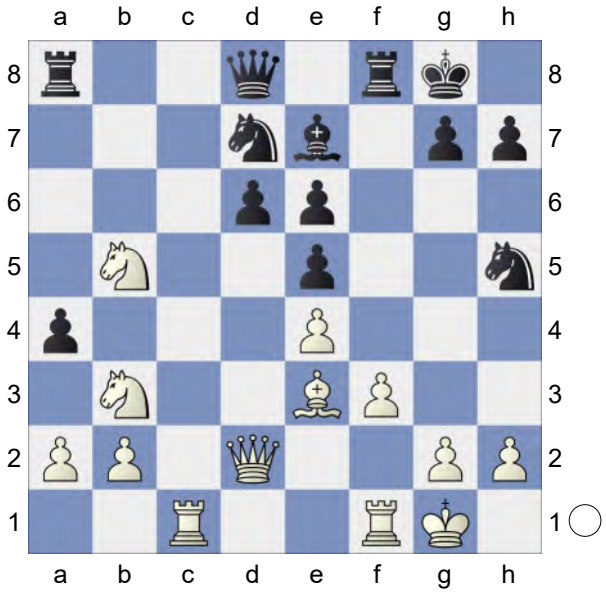


6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 Nbd7
[Much less strong is 7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]
8.Be3 b5 9.Na3 bxc4 10.Bxc4
The position is equal. **10...Be7**

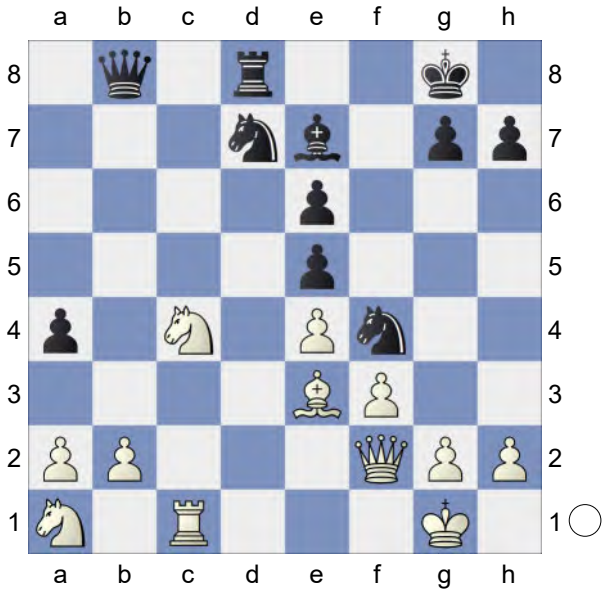


11.0-0 0-0 12.Rc1 Nh5 1.09/20
[12...Bxc4± 0.44/18 13.Nxc4 Nb6]
13.Qd2 0.63/21
[13.Bxe6± 1.09/20 Strongly threatening Bd5. fxe6 14.Nb5]
13...a5!± **14.Bxe6**

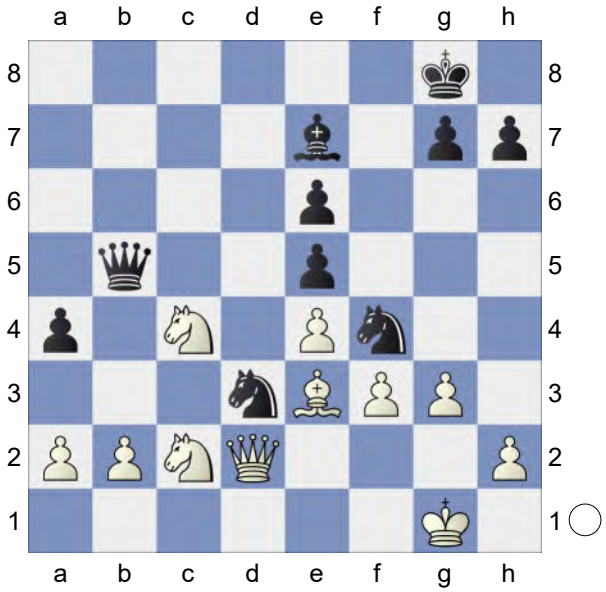
0x0.00209a826646dp-1022s more active pieces. **14...fxe6 15.Nb5 a4**



16.Na1 Rc8 1.01/18 Inhibits Nc7.
[16...Nc5± 0.51/20]
17.Nxd6± Rxc1 18.Rxc1 Qb8 Prevents Rc8. **19.Nc4**
[19.Nf5 feels hotter. exf5 20.Qxd7 a3 21.bxa3 Bxa3 22.Rd1]
19...Rd8 1.40/19
[⌓19...Nc5 1.05/20]
20.Qf2 0.76/19
[⌓20.Qa5 1.40/19]
20...Nf4

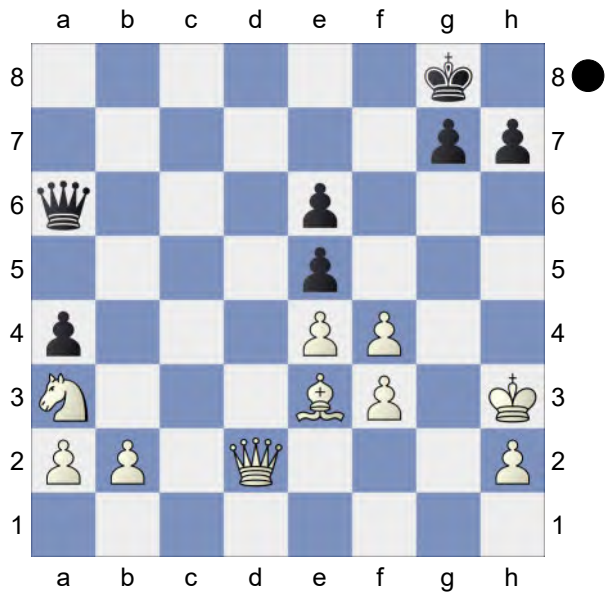


aiming for ...Nd3. **21.Rd1** Against Nd3 **21...Nc5** 1.18/20 **22.Rxd8+ Qxd8 23.Qd2** Prevents Qd1+. Black must now prevent Qxd8+. **23...Qb8** 1.26/21
[Black should play 23...Qc7 0.90/22]
24.Nc2 Ncd3 2.24/22
[24...Qc7± 1.26/20]
25.g3 1.16/21
[25.Bxf4+- 2.24/22 Nxf4 26.Qd7]
25...Qb5? 3.46/22

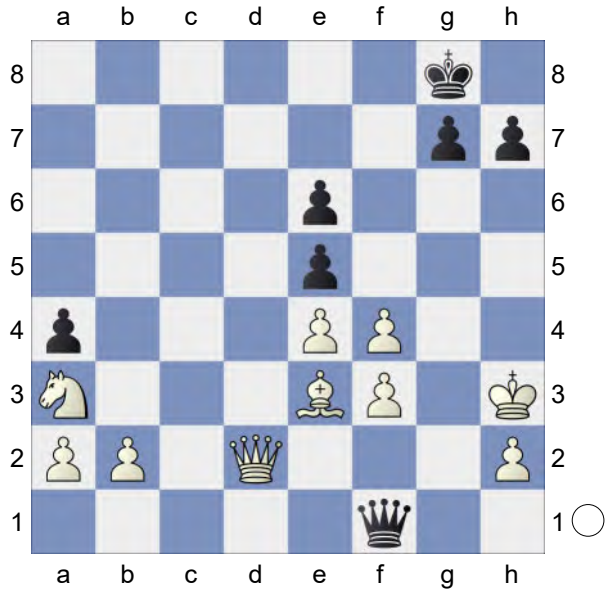


This move loses the game for Black.
26.N2a3+-
[Worse is 26.Bxf4 Qxc4 27.Bg5 Bxg5 28.Qxg5 Qc5+ 29.Ne3 Kf7=]
26...Bxa3 27.Nxa3 Nh3+ 28.Kg2 White is clearly winning. **28...Qa6 29.Kxh3 Nf4+ 30.gxf4**

(Diagram)

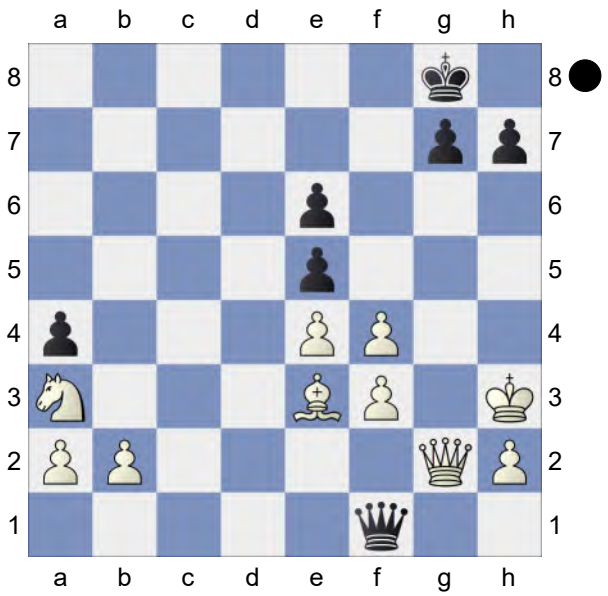


Qd8+ would kill now. **30...Qf1+**



31.Qg2

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.39

1-0

29 **B54**

□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2952**

■ **Markov,M** **2766**

Blitz 30.03.2022

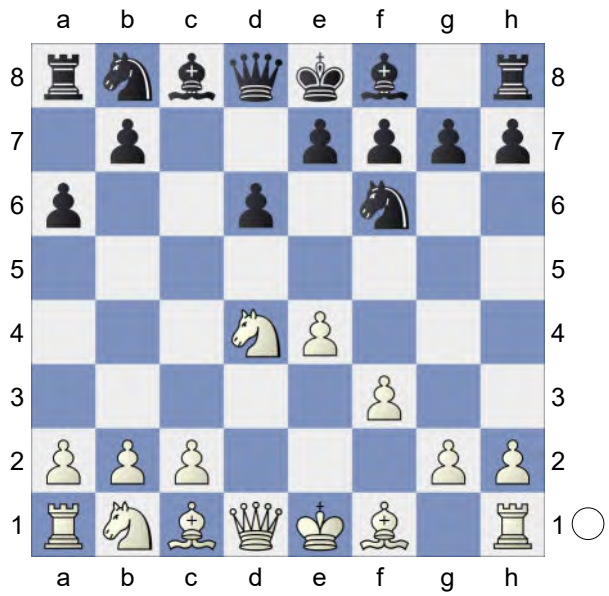
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6

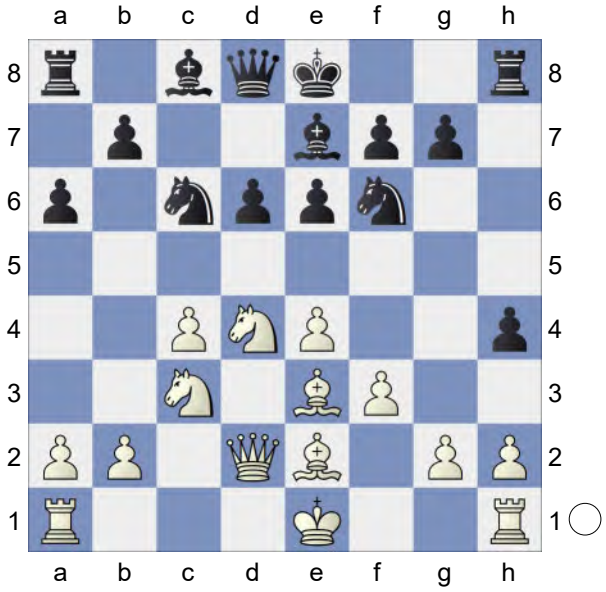
(Diagram)



6.c4 h5N

[6...e6 7.Nc3 Be7 *(7...b6 8.Be3 Bb7 9.Be2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Be7 11.a4 Ne5 12.a5 bxa5 13.Qa4+ Qd7 14.Qxa5 Nc6 15.Qa2 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 0-0 17.Rfd1 Qc7 18.Rac1 Nd7 19.b4 Rfc8 20.Na4 Qb8 21.Qa1 Bf8 22.Rb1* Chapter-Games Game 2 (42) *)* 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Qc7 *(11...Nbd7 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson]*)* 12.Rac1 *(12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2 Bc6* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53) *)* 12...Nbd7 13.Rfd1 Rac8 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Nc2 Rfe8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bf4 Ne5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Qd6 Bc7 20.Qa3 Rcd8 21.b4 Chumichev,G (2416)-12.0-0 b6 13.Rad1 Bb7 (2599) Moscow 2012 CBM 017 [Ham/Harding] 0-1 (46)]

7.Nc3 h4 8.Be3 Nc6 White is slightly better. **9.Be2 e6 10.Qd2 Be7**



11.0-0 Bd7 12.Rfd1 &Bianco is more active. **12...Rc8 13.Nxc6 Bxc6 14.b4 g5** 1.62/18

[14...h3± 0.59/17]

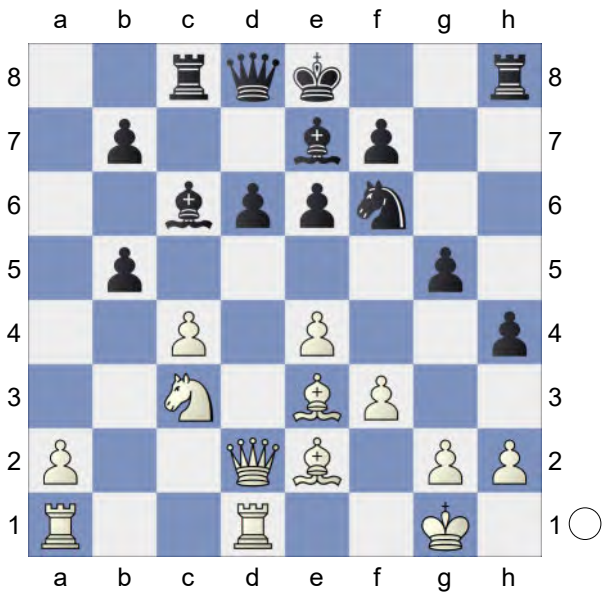
15.b5+-

[Don't take 15.Bxg5 Qb6+ 16.Kf1 Qxb4±]

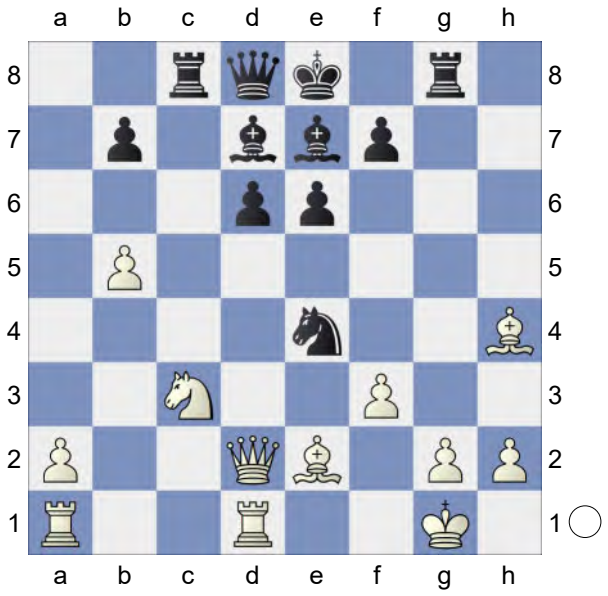
15...axb5 2.12/19

[15...Bd7 1.71/19 was worth a try. 16.Rab1 *(16.Bxg5 h3±)* 16...Qc7 17.bxa6 *(17.Bxg5 axb5 18.Nxb5 Bxb5+-)* 17...bxa6 18.Bxg5 h3]

(Diagram)

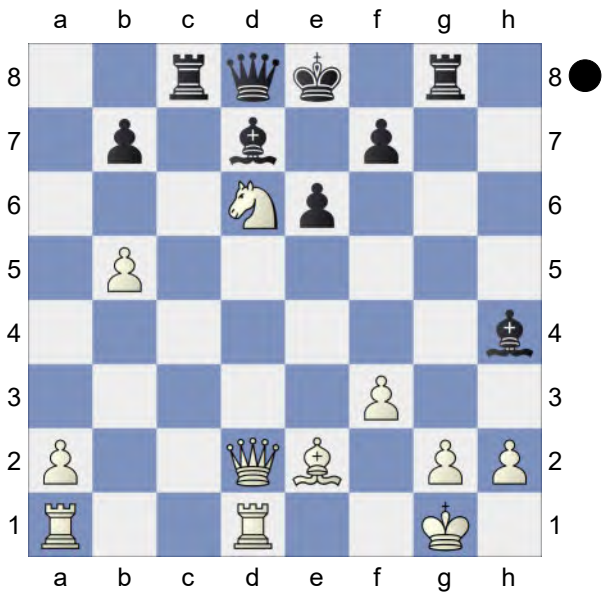


16.cxb5 Bd7 17.Bxg5 0.83/18
[17.Na4+- 1.74/17 and White stays clearly on top. Bb6 is the strong threat. Kf8 18.Nb6 *(18.Bxg5 Ra8+-)*]
17...Rg8 1.97/19
[17...h3± 0.83/18 was called for.]
18.Bxh4 Nxe4? 7.90/20
[18...Ng4 2.16/20]



19.Nxe4 Bxh4 20.Nxd6+

(Diagram)



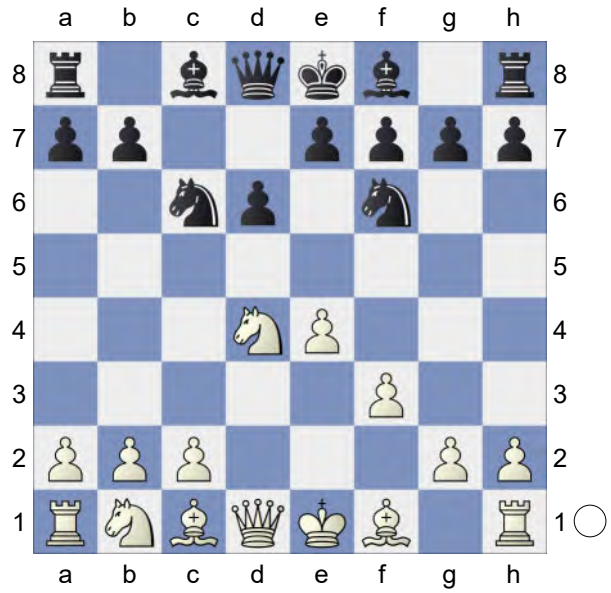
Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.40
1-0

30	**B56**
☐ **Lu,Shanglei**	**2952**
■ **Betterattictactoe**	**2867**
Blitz	13.05.2022

[Kitty Kat]

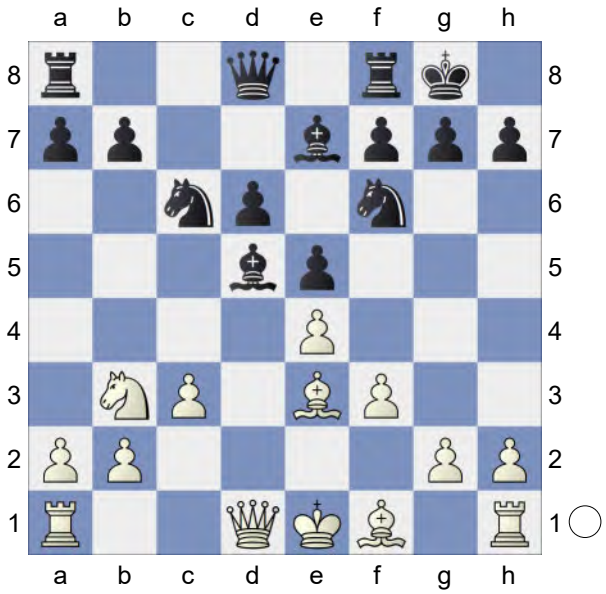
Blitz 3min
B56: Classical Sicilian: Unusual Lines
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-

Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

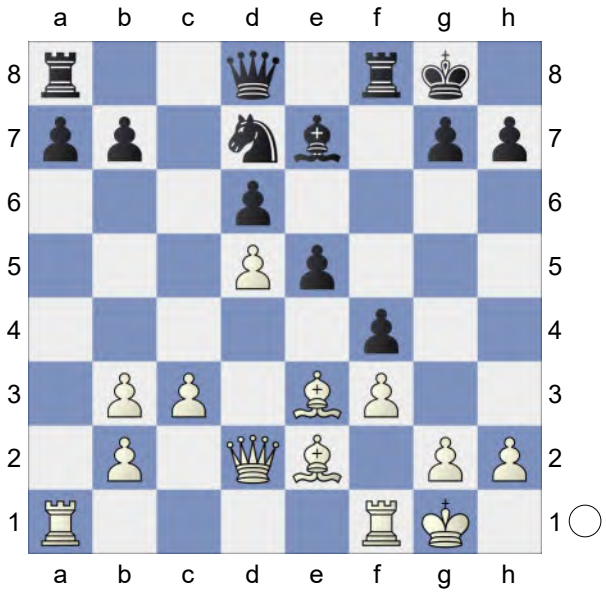


6.Nc3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Nd5 Be7 9.Be3 0-0 10.c3 Bxd5

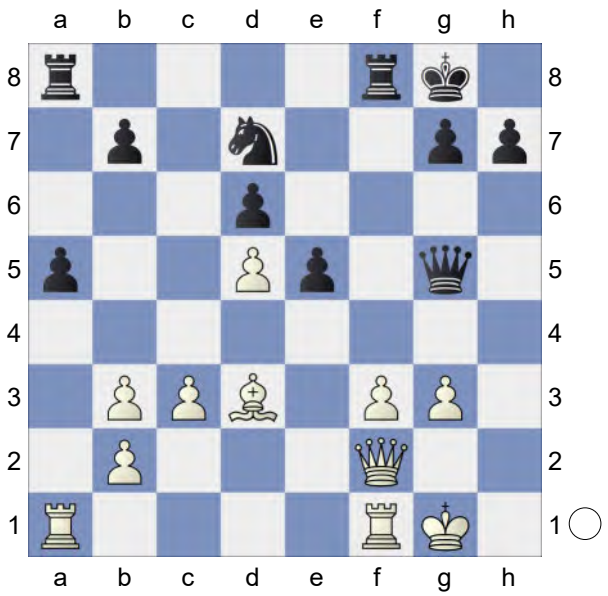
(Diagram)



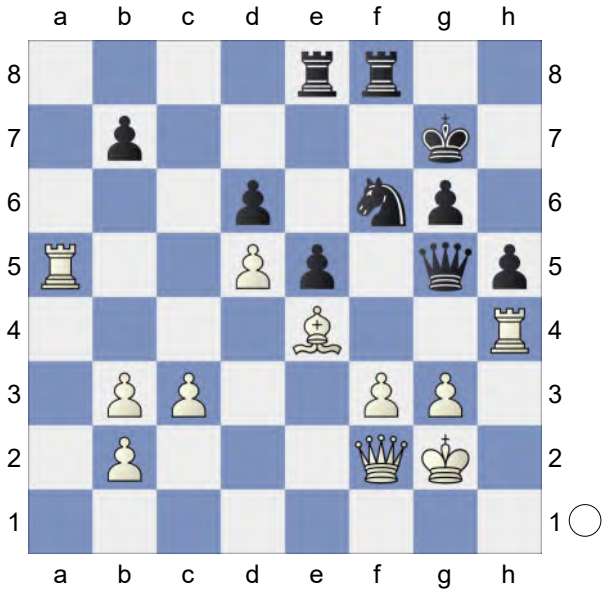
11.exd5 Na5 White has an edge.
12.Be2 Nxb3 13.axb3 Nd7 14.Qd2 f5 15.0-0
[15.Rxa7 f4 16.Bg1 Rxa7 17.Bxa7 b6∓]
15...f4



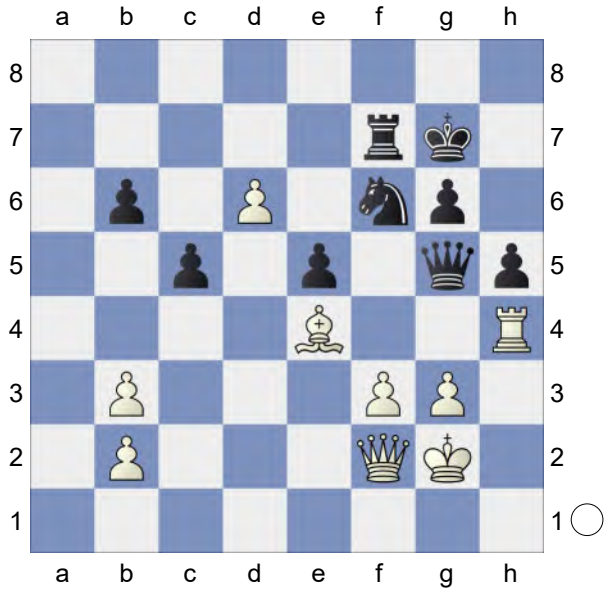
16.Bf2
[16.Bxa7? Rxa7! 17.Rxa7 Qb6+ 18.Kh1 Qxa7-+]
16...Bh4 17.Bd3 Bxf2+ 18.Qxf2 a5 19.g4 -0.41/16
[19.Ra3= 0.29/18]
19...fxg3∓ 20.hxg3 Qg5



Against Qe3 **21.Kg2 Nf6** -0.01/19
[21...Nc5∓ -0.39/19 deserves consideration. 22.Bc2 e4]
22.Rh1 -0.49/18
[22.Ra4= -0.01/19]
22...g6 23.Rh4 Rae8 -0.01/17
[23...Rf7∓ -0.59/18]
24.Be4 -0.65/19
[24.Rxa5 e4 25.f4 Ng4∓]
[24.Qe1= -0.01/17]
24...h5 -0.01/19
[24...Re7∓ -0.65/19]
25.Rxa5= Kg7

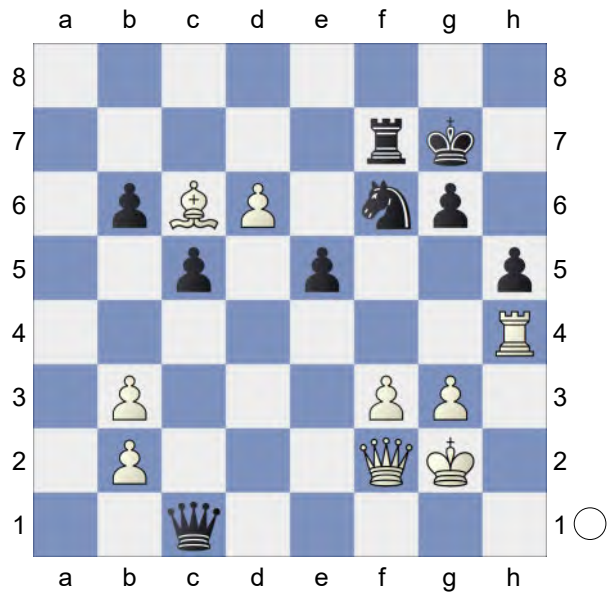


26.Ra7? -1.80/22
[26.Qe1= -0.01/20]
26...Re7-+ 27.c4 -2.36/21
[27.Bb1∓ -1.44/19]
27...Ref7!
[Stronger than 27...Ng4 28.Qe2 Ne3+ 29.Kh2=]
28.c5 dxc5 29.d6 b6 -0.25/23
[29...Nxe4-+ -2.35/22 30.Rxe4 Rxf3 31.Qxf3 Rxf3 32.Kxf3 Qf6+ 33.Ke2 Qxd6 34.Rxb7+ Kh6]
30.Rxf7+= Rxf7

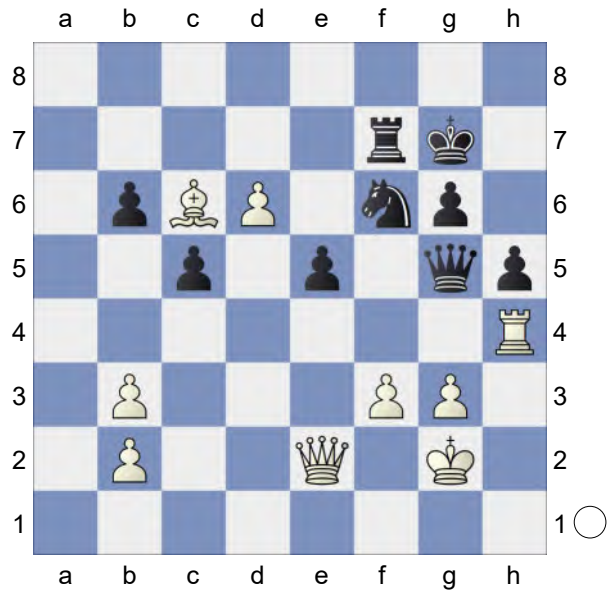


31.Bc6 Prevents Rd7. **31...Qc1** 1.22/20
[31...e4= -0.06/20 32.Rf4 *(32.Bxe4 Rd7∓)* 32...Qe5]

(Diagram)

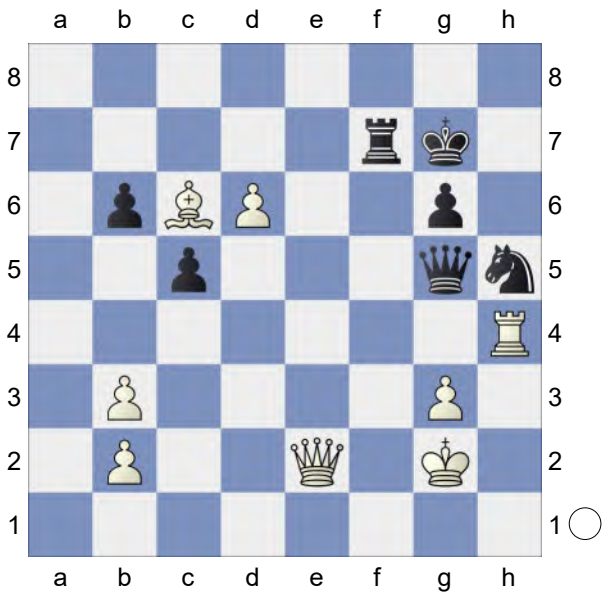


32.Qe2!± Qg5 1.75/20
[32...Ra7± 1.26/21 might work better.]

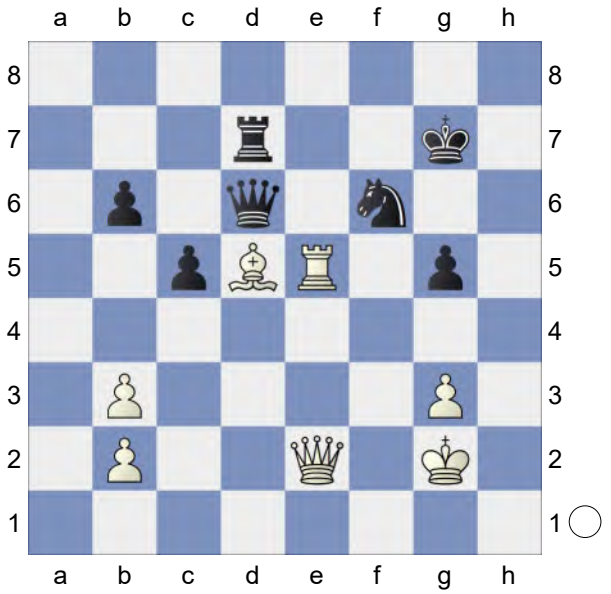


33.f4!+- exf4 34.Rxf4 h4 35.Rxh4 Active counter play! **35...Nh5?** 3.30/21
[35...Nd5 1.79/22]

(Diagram)



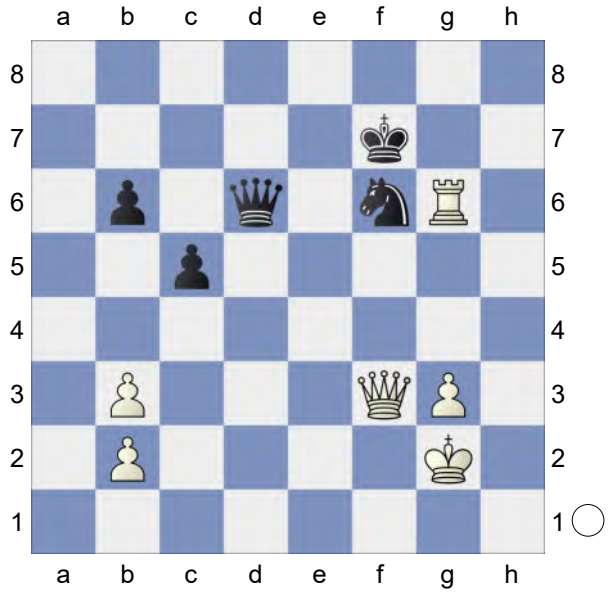
36.Rg4 Qf6 37.Be4
[Don't play 37.Be8 Qxd6 38.Bxf7 Kxf7+-]
37...g5 38.Bd5 2.29/20
[⌓38.Bd3 4.48/21]
38...Rd7 39.Re4? 0.17/21 Chess con chili.
[39.Bf3+- 1.87/20]
39...Qxd6 0.82/21 **40.Re5↑** Black is under strong pressure. **40...Nf6**



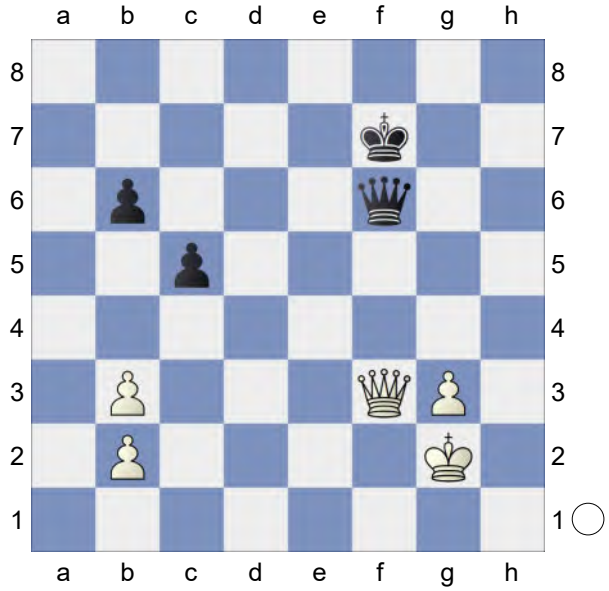
41.Rxg5+ Kf8 42.Qf3 0.65/19
[42.Rf5± 0.99/21]
42...Re7? #1/6

[42...Ke7± 0.65/19 43.Rg7+ Kd8 44.Rxd7+ Nxd7]

43.Rg6 4.35/22 **Rf7+-** White is clearly winning. **44.Bxf7 Kxf7**

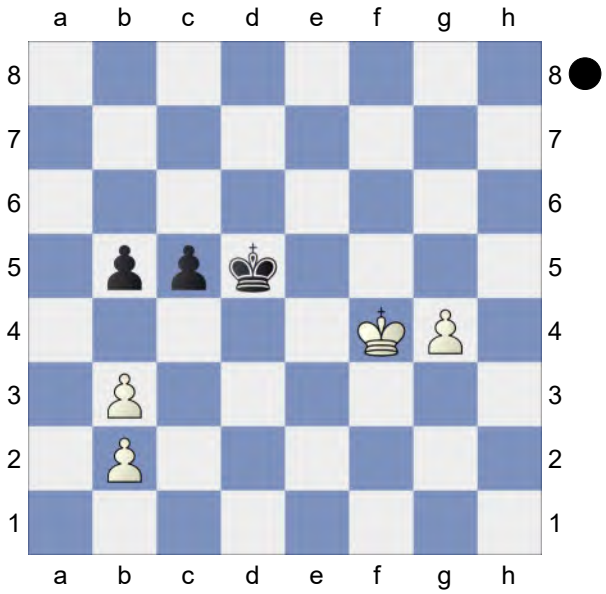


45.Rxf6+ Qxf6



46.Qxf6+ Kxf6 K3P-KPP **47.Kf3 Ke5 48.g4 b5 49.Ke3 Kd5 50.Kf4**

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/ Black=0.52

1-0

31 **B54**

□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2950**

■ **Crazysage** **2837**

Blitz 13.05.2022

[Kitty Kat]

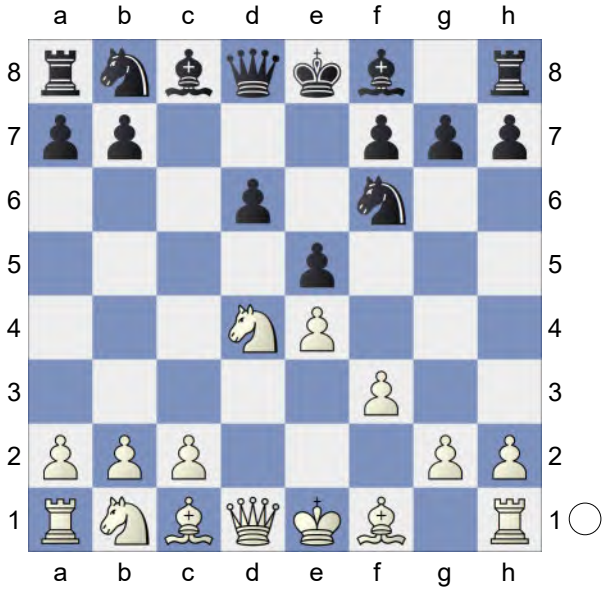
Blitz 3min

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

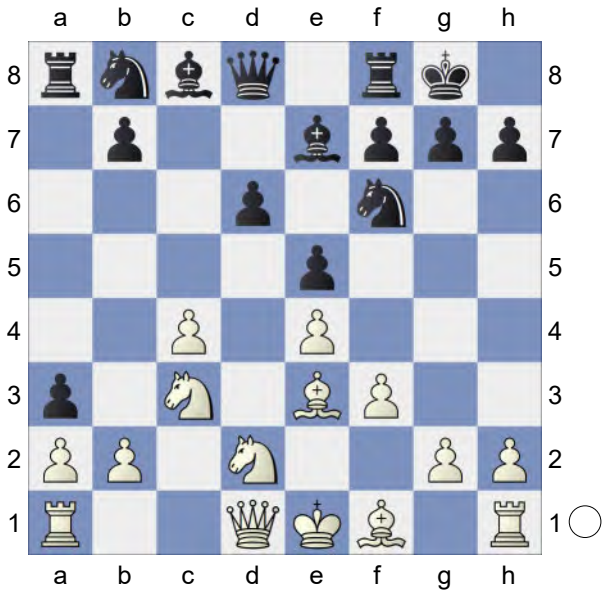
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/ Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1

Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

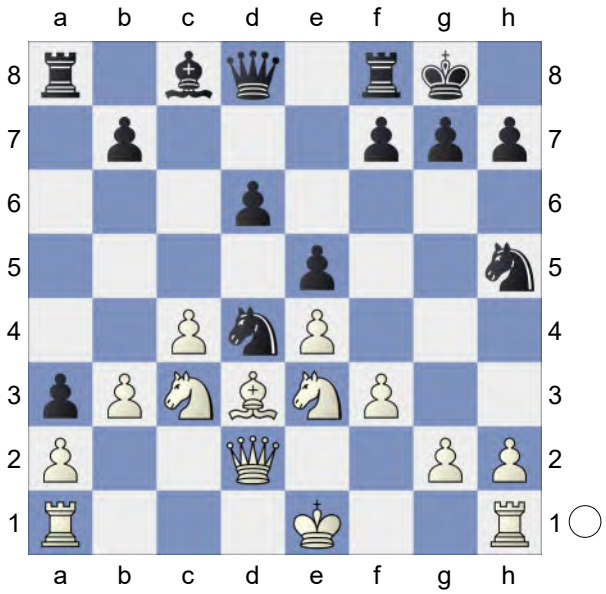


6.Nb3 Be7 7.c4 a5 8.Be3 0-0 9.Nc3 a4 10.Nd2 The position is equal. **10...a3**

(Diagram)



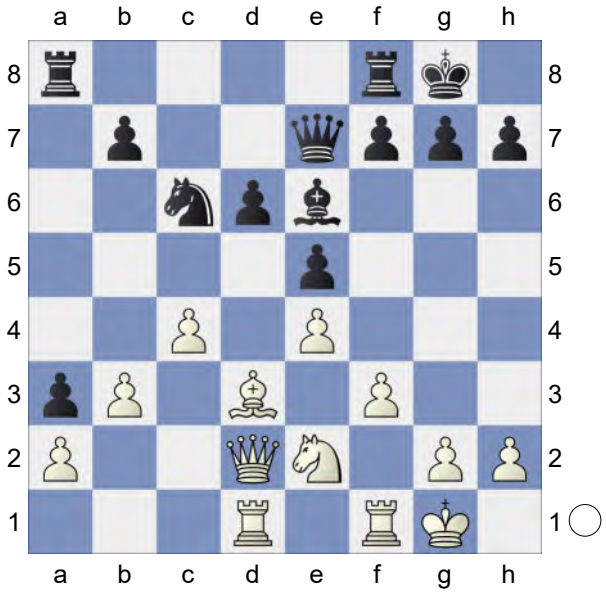
11.b3 Nh5 12.Bd3 -0.50/18
[12.Nd5= 0.15/18]
12...Bg5 -0.17/19
[12...Nf4∓ -0.50/18 is superior. 13.Bxf4 exf4]
13.Nf1= Nc6
[13...Nf4 feels hotter. 14.Kf2 Nc6 15.Bb1 Ne6]
14.Qd2 Bxe3 0.15/19
[14...Nf4 -0.27/16 should be considered.]
15.Nxe3 Nd4



16.Ned5 Be6

[16...Qh4+ is interesting. 17.Qf2 Nf4 18.Nxf4 Qxf4 19.0-0 Be6]

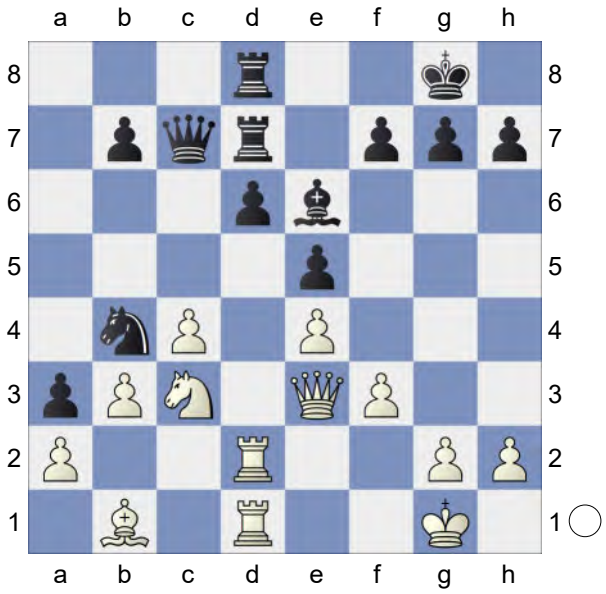
17.0-0 Nf6 18.Nxf6+ Qxf6 19.Ne2 Nc6 20.Rad1 Qe7



21.Bb1 Rfd8 22.Qe3 Qc7 23.Rd2 Nb4 0.54/20

[23...Qa5= 0.01/18]

24.Rfd1± Rd7 25.Nc3 Rad8



26.Nb5 Qa5 27.Rxd6 -0.16/22

[Much weaker is 27.Nxd6 Nc6 28.Rd3 Nd4=]

[27.Qc3± 0.72/20]

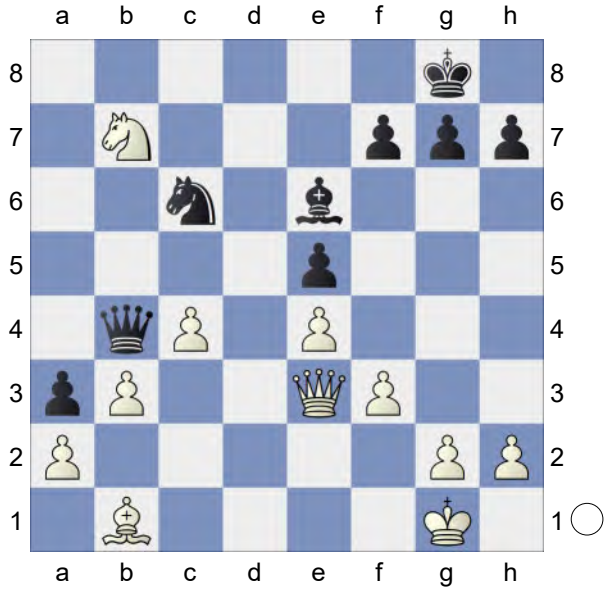
27...Rxd6= 28.Rxd6 Rxd6 29.Nxd6 Nc6 0.53/21

[29...Qd8= 0.15/21 30.c5 *(30.Qc5 Qg5=)* 30...b6]

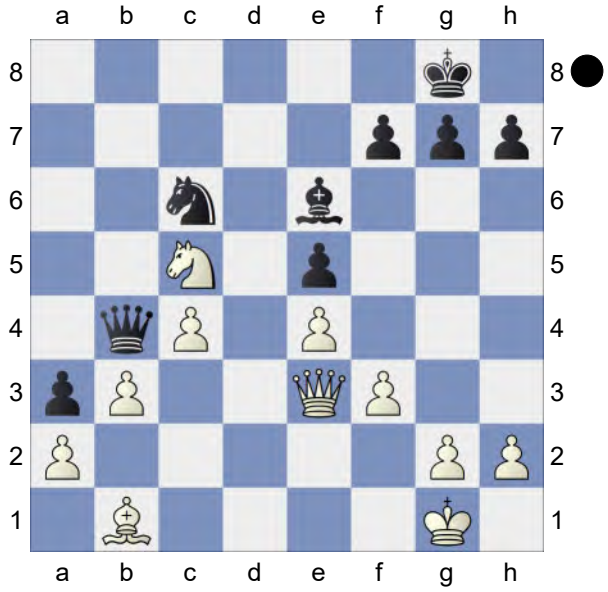
30.Nxb7 0.01/23

[White should play 30.Nb5± 0.53/21]

30...Qb4



31.Nc5



Bxc4 32.Kf2

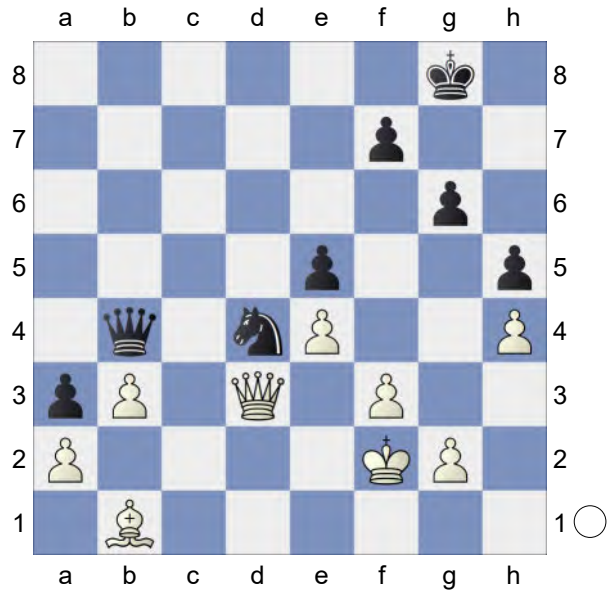
[32.Bd3 Bxd3]

32...Nd4 33.Nd3 -0.36/21

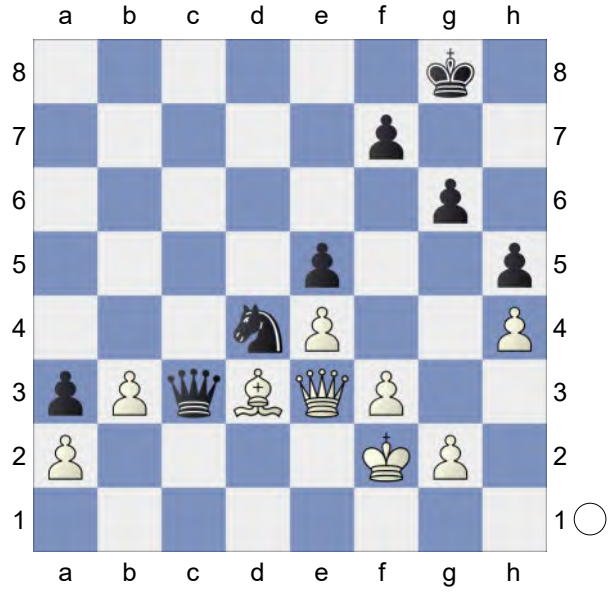
[33.Nd7= 0.01/20]

33...Bxd3∓ 34.Qxd3 h5 35.h4 g6

[35...Qb6!? 36.Qe3 Qe6=]



Black has compensation. **36.Qe3 Qc5!**
37.Bd3 -0.14/25
[37.Kf1⩲ -0.49/21]
37...Qc3=

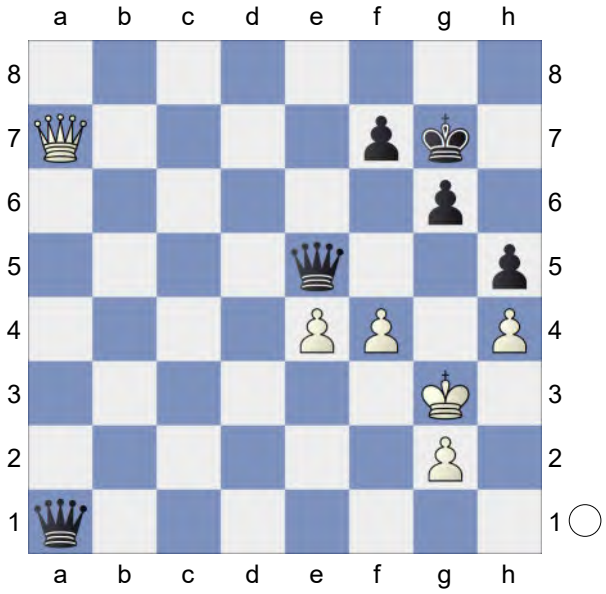


...Qb2+ is the strong threat. **38.Bc4!**
[Not 38.Kg3? Ne6 39.b4 Nf4-+]
38...Qb2+ -0.01/25
[38...Qxe3+!⩲ -0.50/25
was preferrable. 39.Kxe3 Nc2+
40.Kd3 Nb4+ 41.Kd2 Nxa2]
39.Kg3 Qxa2 40.Qg5? -13.16/24
This move loses the game for White.
[40.Qh6= -0.01/25 Ne2+ 41.Kh2]
40...Ne2+-+

41.Bxe2 Qxe2 42.Qxe5 Endgame KQ-KQ **42...Qa6?** -3.95/22
[42...Qb2 -13.23/25 43.Qe8+ Kg7]
43.Qa1 a2 44.b4? -12.18/25
[44.e5 -2.38/21]
44...Qc4 Black is clearly winning. **45.b5 Qb3**

aiming for ...Qb1. **46.b6 Qb1 47.b7 Qxa1 48.b8Q+ Kg7** (-> ...Qe1+)
49.Qa7 Qe5+ 50.f4 a1Q -#17/25
[50...Qc3+-+ -24.85/24 51.Kf2 a1Q

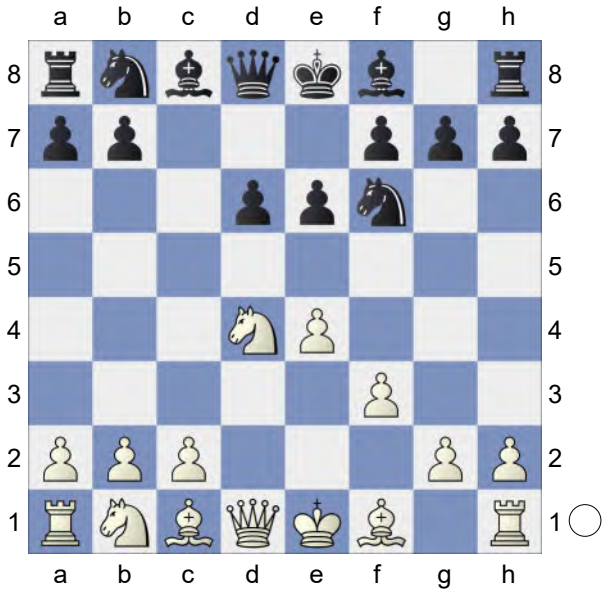
52.Qxa1 Qxa1]



Weighted Error Value: White=0.78/ Black=0.35
0-1

32 **B80**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2950**
■ **Gabuzyan Chessmood** **2783**
Blitz 03.11.2022
[Kitty Kat]

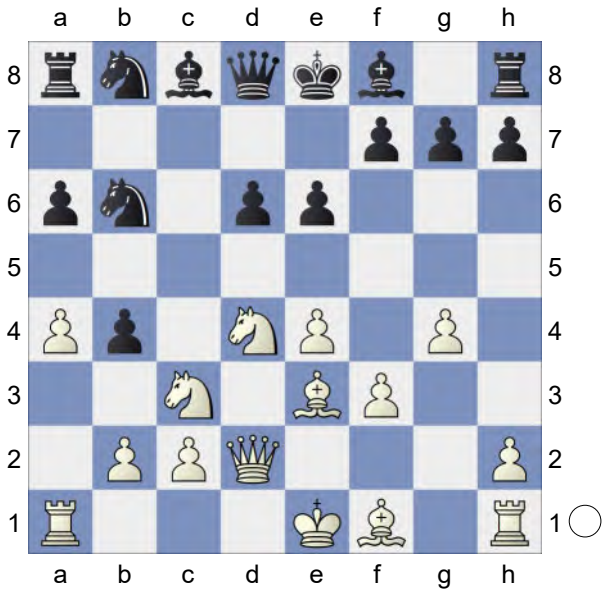
Blitz 3min
B80: Sicilian Scheveningen: 6 g3 and 6 Be3, including English Attack
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e6
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 *(12.Rac1 Rc8 13.Rfd1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Kh8 17.b4 Rg8 18.Nb3 Bc7 19.Qg1 g5 20.Bd3 Qa8 21.Nd2 Rg7 22.Bd4 Rcg8 23.Na4 g4 24.f4 Qd8 25.Bb1 g3 26.h3 b5* Chapter-Games Game 5 (54) *)* 12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



6.Nc3N
[6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1

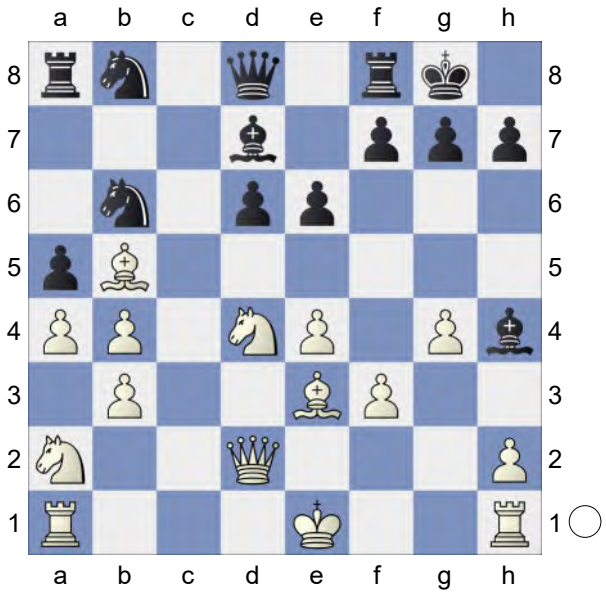
Bxe3 20.Qxe3 Qc7 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

6...a6 7.Be3 b5 8.g4 Nfd7 9.Qd2 Nb6 10.a4 b4



11.Na2 White has an edge. **11...a5 12.c3 Be7 13.Bb5+ Bd7 14.b3 0-0 15.cxb4 Bh4+** 1.12/19

[15...axb4± 0.58/19 16.Nxb4 d5]



16.Bf2 0.61/18

[16.Ke2± 1.12/19]

16...axb4 17.Nxb4 Bxb5 18.Nxb5 N8d7 1.50/19

[Black should play 18...N6d7 0.81/18]

19.Qxd6? -0.06/19 &Bianco is more active.

[19.Nxd6?! Ne5 20.Bxh4 Qxh4+ 21.Qf2 Nxf3+ 22.Ke2 Qd8±]

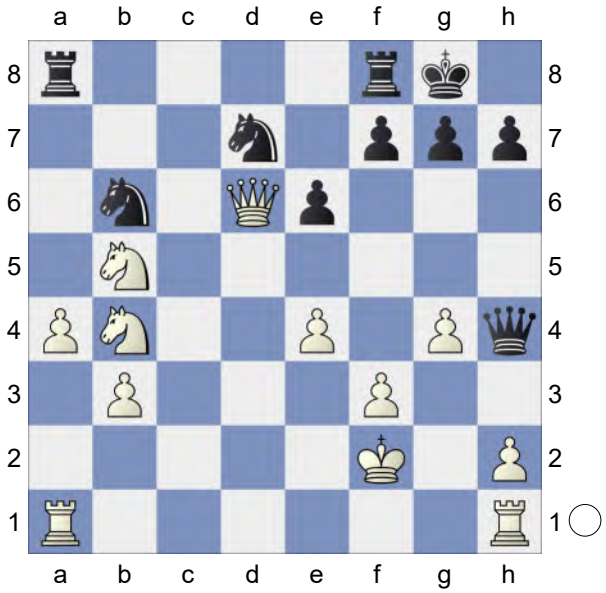
[19.Nc6± 1.50/19 Bxf2+ 20.Qxf2 *(20.Kxf2 Qh4+ 21.Kg2 f5±)*]

19...Bxf2+ 1.35/19

[19...Be7!= -0.06/19 20.Qd2 Ne5 21.Qxd8 Bxb4+ 22.Qd2 *(22.Kf1 Rfxd8 23.Bxb6 Rd2±)* 22...Nxf3+ 23.Ke2 Nxd2 24.Bxb6 Nxe4]

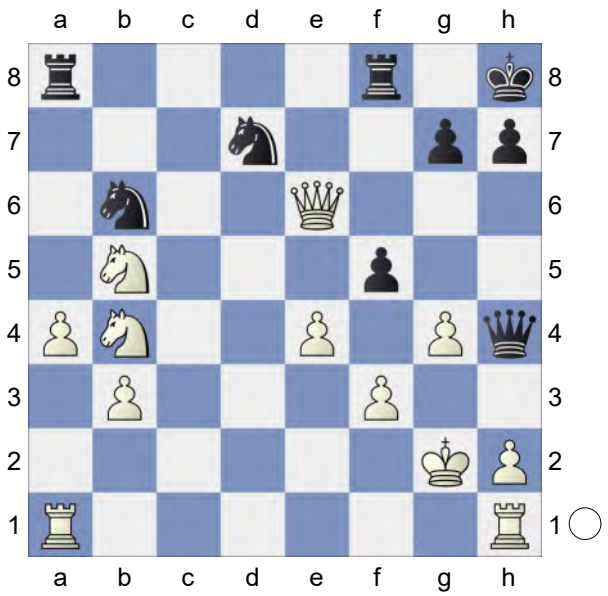
20.Kxf2± Nc6 is the strong threat.

20...Qh4+



21.Kg2 f5 22.Qxe6+ Kh8

(Diagram)



And now ...Rae8 would win. **23.Nd6** Prevents Rae8.

[Weaker is 23.exf5 Rae8 24.Nd4 Rxe6 25.Nxe6 Re8-+]

[Not 23.gxf5? Rf6 24.Rhd1 *(24.Qe7? Rg6+ 25.fxg6 Qxe7-+)* 24...Rxe6 25.fxe6 Ne5-+]

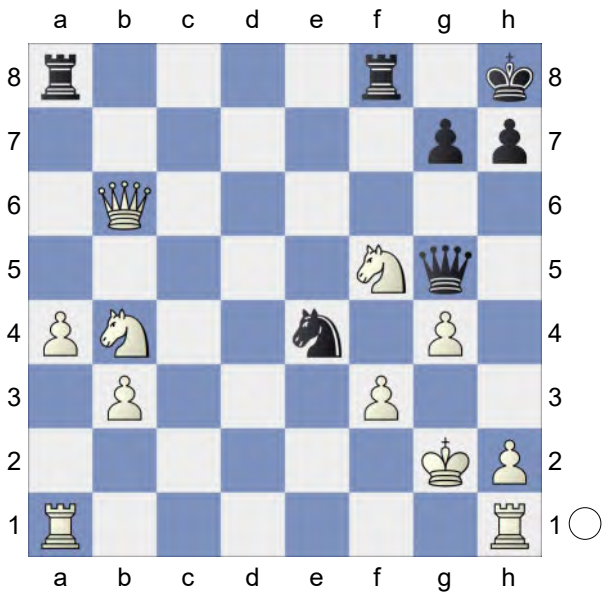
23...Nc5? 3.64/21

[23...fxg4± 1.22/20 24.Qxg4 Qf6]

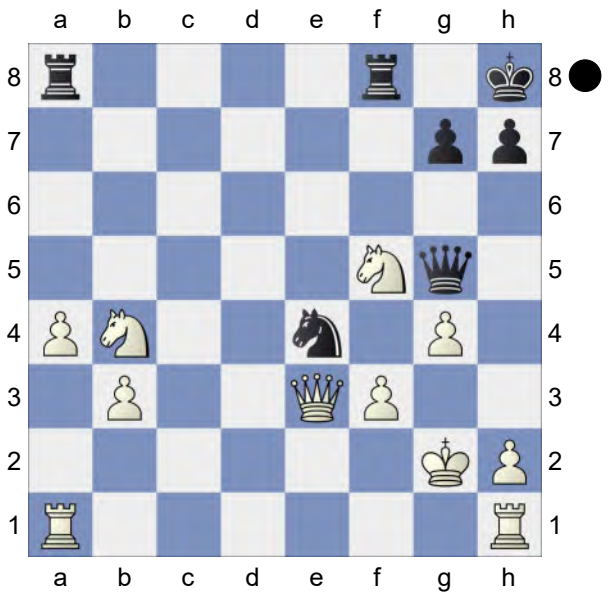
24.Nxf5+- Qg5? 6.42/21

[24...Qxg4+ 3.31/21 25.fxg4 Nxe6]

25.Qxb6 Nxe4



26.Qe3!



Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.54

1-0

33	**B54**
☐ **Lu,Shanglei**	**2949**
■ **Alexandr Khlebovich**	**2806**
Blitz	19.05.2022

[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

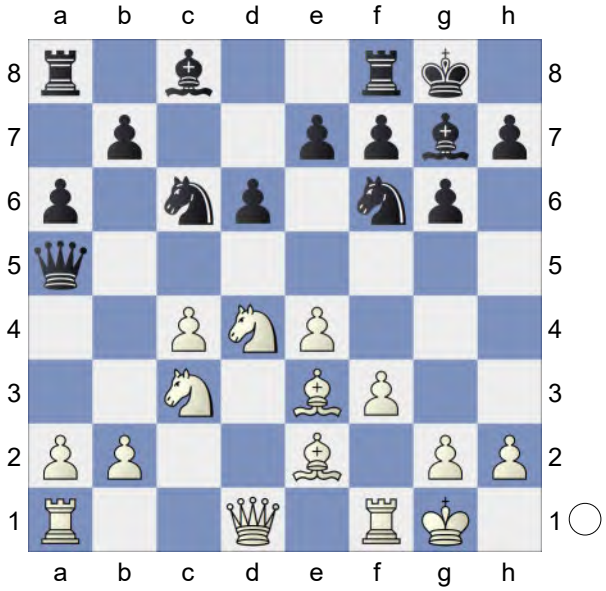
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6

(Diagram)

6.c4 g6N

[6...e6 7.Nc3 Be7 *(7...b6 8.Be3 Bb7 9.Be2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Be7 11.a4 Ne5 12.a5 bxa5 13.Qa4+ Qd7 14.Qxa5 Nc6 15.Qa2 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 0-0 17.Rfd1 Qc7 18.Rac1 Nd7 19.b4 Rfc8 20.Na4 Qb8 21.Qa1 Bf8 22.Rb1* Chapter-Games Game 2 (42) *)* 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Qc7 *(11...Nbd7 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson]*)* 12.Rac1 *(12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2 Bc6* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53) *)* 12...Nbd7 13.Rfd1 Rac8 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Nc2 Rfe8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bf4 Ne5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Qd6 Bc7 20.Qa3 Rcd8 21.b4 Chumichev,G (2416)-12.0-0 b6 13.Rad1 Bb7 (2599) Moscow 2012 CBM 017 [Ham/Harding] 0-1 (46)]

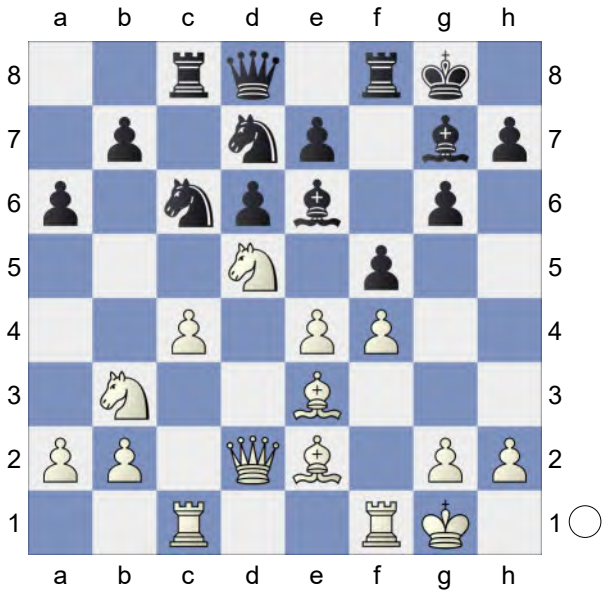
7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 White has an edge. **9...Qa5 10.0-0 Nc6**



11.Nb3 Qd8 12.Rc1 Be6 13.Nd5 Rc8 0.63/19

[13...a5= 0.29/18]

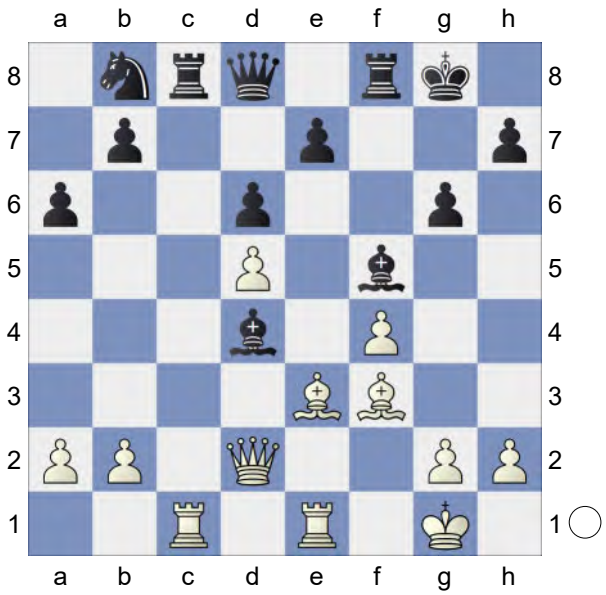
14.Qd2± Nd7 15.f4 &Bianco is much more active. **15...f5**



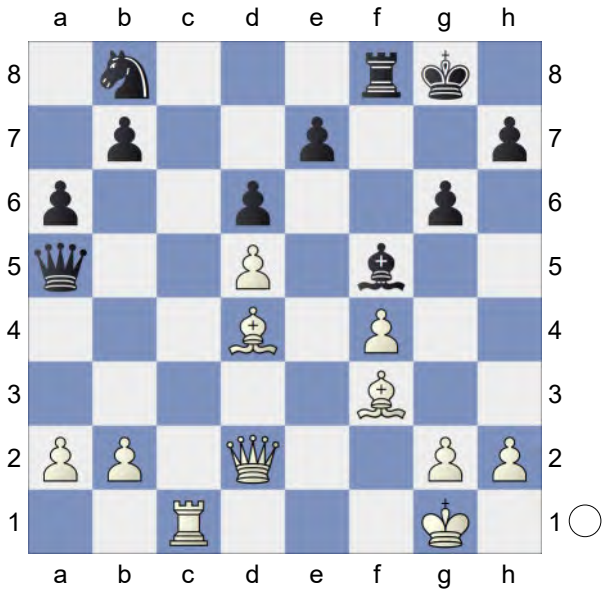
16.exf5 Bxf5 17.Bf3 Nf6 1.12/17

[17...e5± 0.68/15]

18.Rfe1 Nxd5 1.69/20
[18...e5± 0.99/17]
19.cxd5+- Nb8 20.Nd4 Bxd4 1.83/19
[20...Rxc1± 1.51/20 21.Rxc1 Qd7]

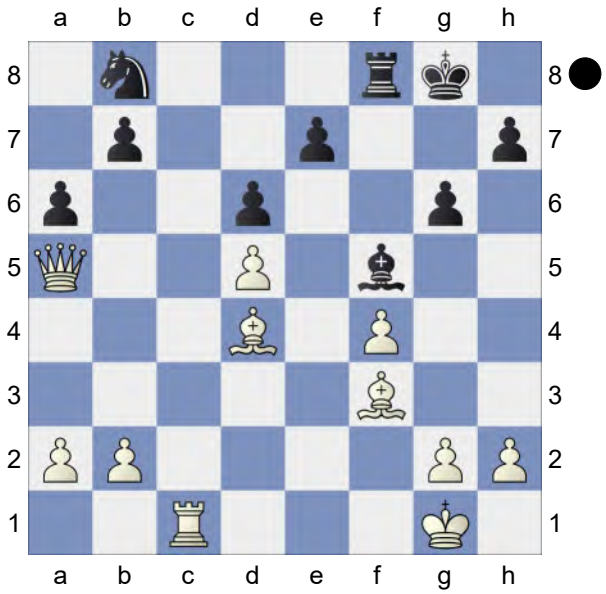


21.Bxd4 Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Qa5? 16.97/20
[22...Nd7 1.77/19 23.g4 e5]



23.Qxa5

(Diagram)

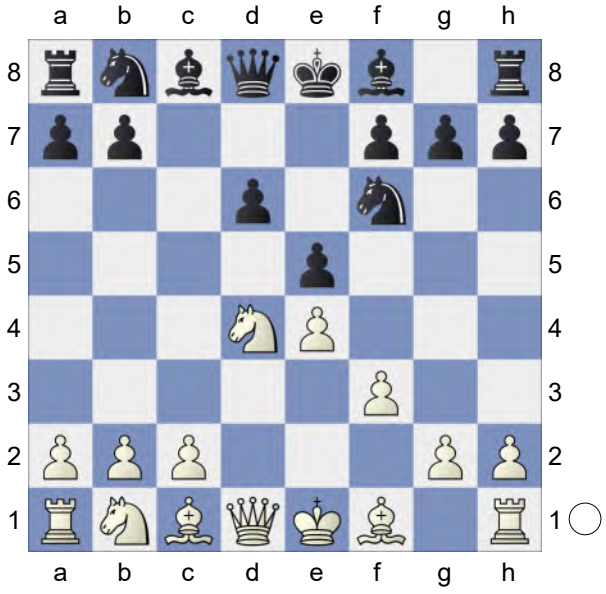


Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.16 (very precise)
1-0

34 **B54**
□ **Arka50** **2947**
■ **Gabrielian** **2717**
Blitz 10.02.2024
[Kitty Kat]

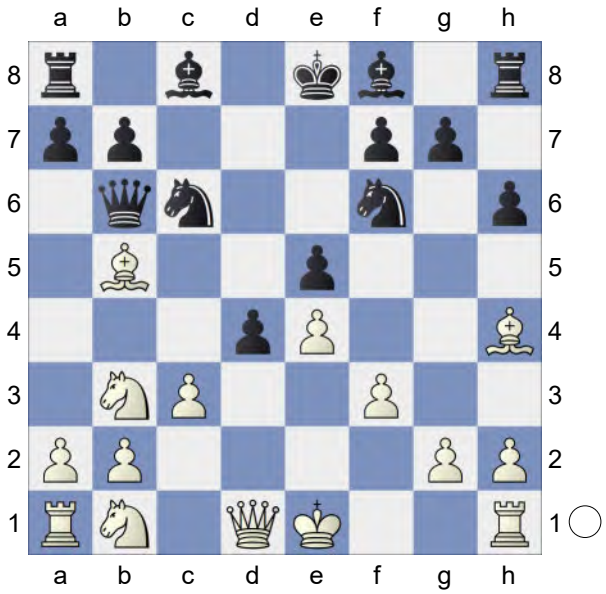
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1

Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

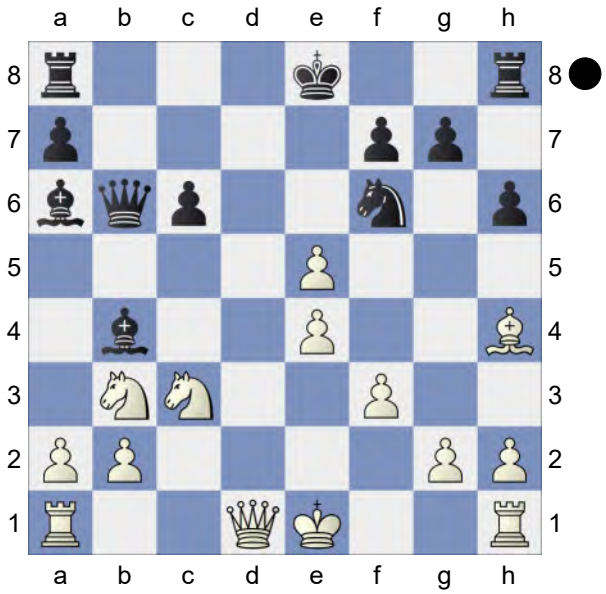


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.Bb5 The position is equal. **9...h6 10.Bh4 Qb6!**

(Diagram)

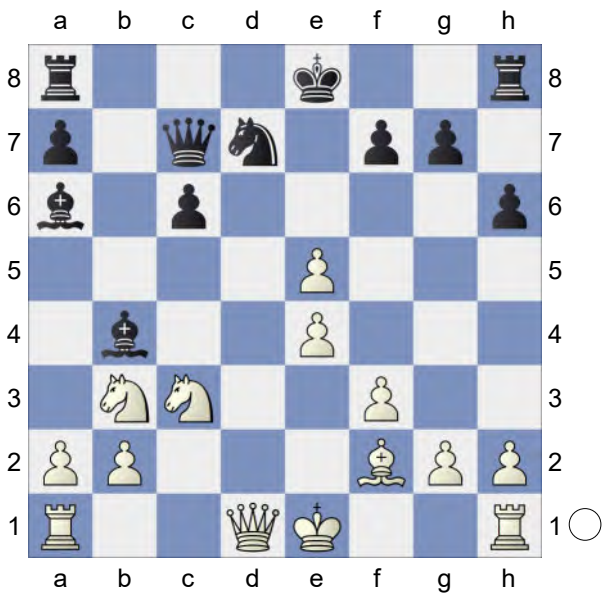


11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.cxd4
[But not 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.cxd4 Ba6∓]
12...Bb4+ 0.54/19
[12...Ba6!= -0.07/19]
13.Nc3± Ba6 14.dxe5? -#2/6
[14.a3± 0.45/20 Be7 15.Bf2 *(15.dxe5? Nxe4 16.fxe4 Bxh4+ 17.g3 Bg5-+)*]



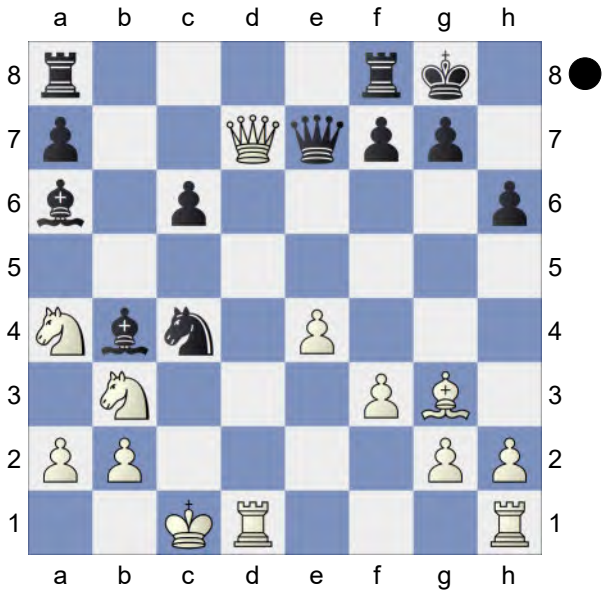
14...Nd7? 0.93/22
[14...Qe3+ -#2/6 mates 15.Qe2 Qxe2#]

15.Bf2± Qc7 1.39/20
[⌓15...Qb7 0.91/20]

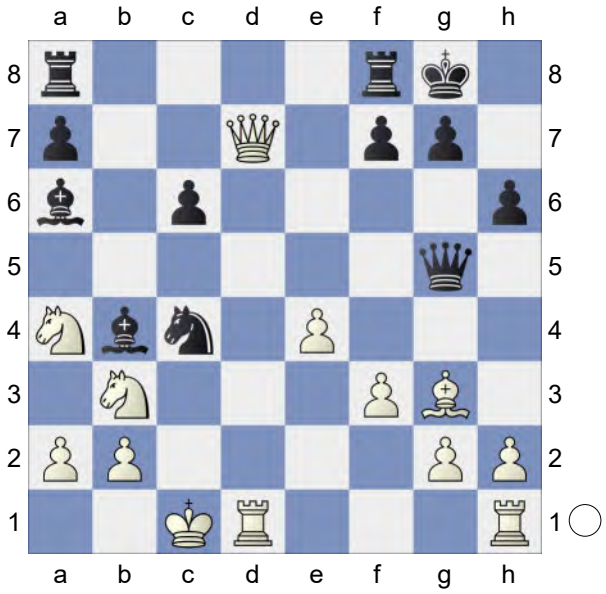


16.Qd4 Nxe5 ...Nd3+ is the strong threat. **17.0-0-0 Qe7** 2.58/22
[17...Be7± 1.41/22 was called for. 18.Bg3 f6]
18.Bg3? 0.95/24
[18.f4+- 2.58/22]
18...Nc4 2.47/22
[18...f6± 0.95/24]
19.Na4 1.28/23
[Better is 19.Qxg7+- 2.47/22 Qg5+ 20.Qxg5 hxg5 21.Bf2]
19...0-0 20.Qd7? -1.24/23
[Reject 20.Kb1?! Rad8 21.Qf2 Bb5∓]
[20.Nac5± 1.17/23 Rad8 21.Qf2]

(Diagram)

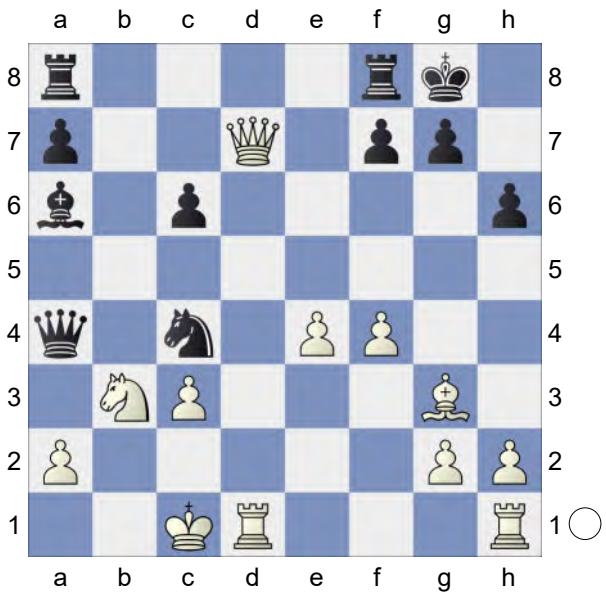


20...Qg5+!∓



21.f4? -3.59/23
[21.Kb1∓ -1.23/22 Bb5 22.Rc1]
21...Qb5-+ 22.Nc3 -7.47/23
[22.Be1 -3.54/21 Qxa4 23.Bxb4 Qxa2 24.Qd4 Qxb3 25.Bxf8 Rxf8 26.h4]
22...Bxc3 23.bxc3 Qa4

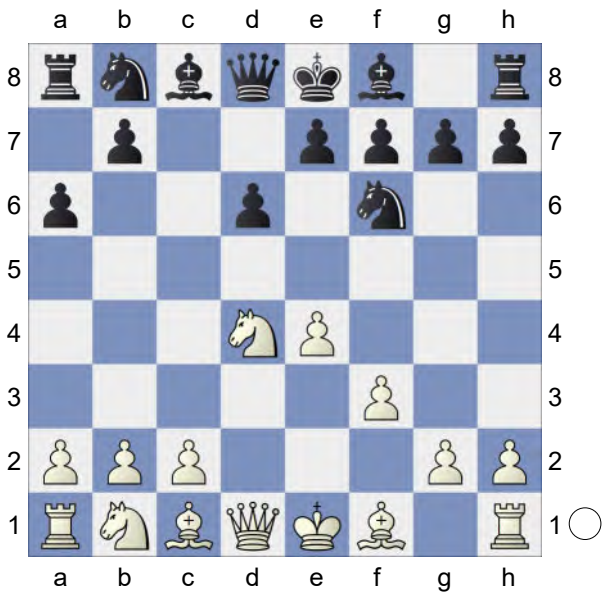
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=1.31/ Black=0.48
0-1

35 **B54**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2946**
■ **Woodtree** **2803**
Blitz 13.05.2022
[Kitty Kat]

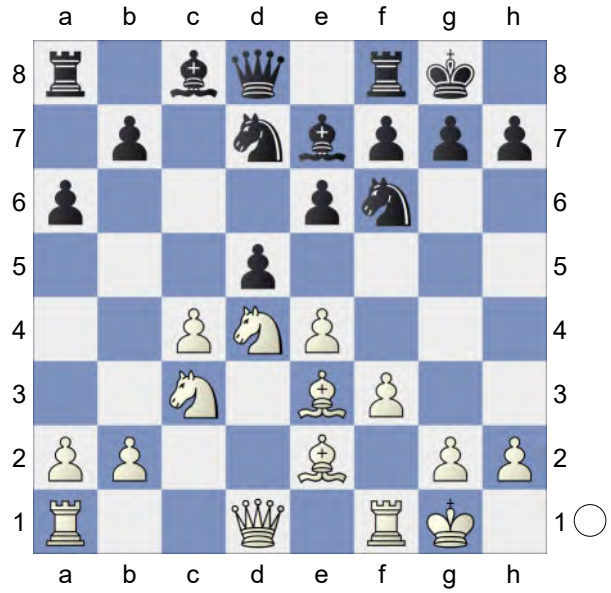
Blitz 3min
B41: Sicilian: Kan Variation: 5 c4
In this chapter we will examine 5...a6!?, a variation which is seen in practice from time to time, especially at club level. The reasons for choosing 5...a6 can be the desire to enter a Hedgehog position or simply to play the Najdorf move anyway. In my opinion, neither are dangerous for us, and we have good prospects of achieving an opening advantage.
We reach our initial position after the following moves:
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6
(Diagram)



6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7
[7...b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rac1 Nbd7 13.Rfd1 Rac8 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Nc2 Rfe8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bf4 Ne5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Qd6 Bc7 20.Qa3 Rcd8 21.b4 Bd6 22.Qb2 Nd7 23.Rd2 Qc7 24.Rcd1 Be7 25.Qb3 h5 26.Na4* Chumichev,G (2416)-12.0-0 b6 13.Rad1 Bb7 (2599) Moscow 2012 CBM 017 [Ham/Harding] 0-1 (46)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.Rad1 Qb6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson]]
8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 Nbd7N
[9...Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 Qc7 21.Nb3 Qb8 22.Nd2 Rfd8 23.c5 Bb7 24.b5 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012

CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/ Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

10.0-0 d5



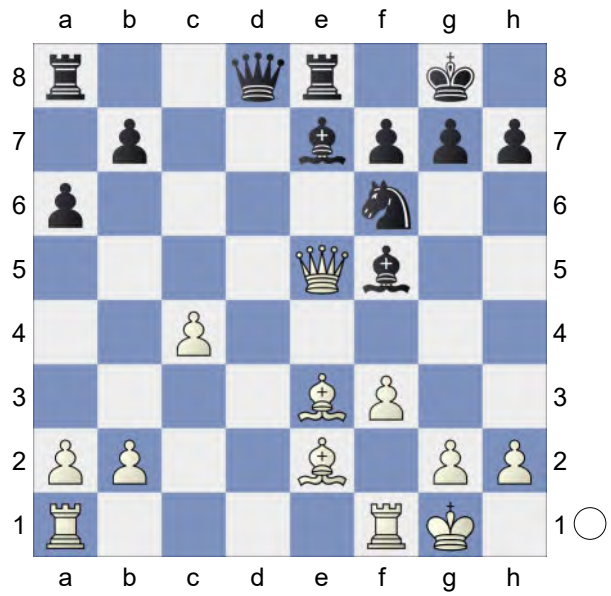
11.exd5 exd5 12.Nf5 Re8 The position is equal. **13.Nxd5** -0.40/19

[White should play 13.cxd5= 0.24/16 Bf8 14.Re1]

13...Nxd5∓ Remove Defender **14.Qxd5** -1.30/20

[14.cxd5∓ -0.43/21 Nf6 15.Bd3 *(15.Nxe7+? Qxe7 16.Bd4 Qxe2-+)*]

14...Nf6!∓ 15.Qe5 Bxf5



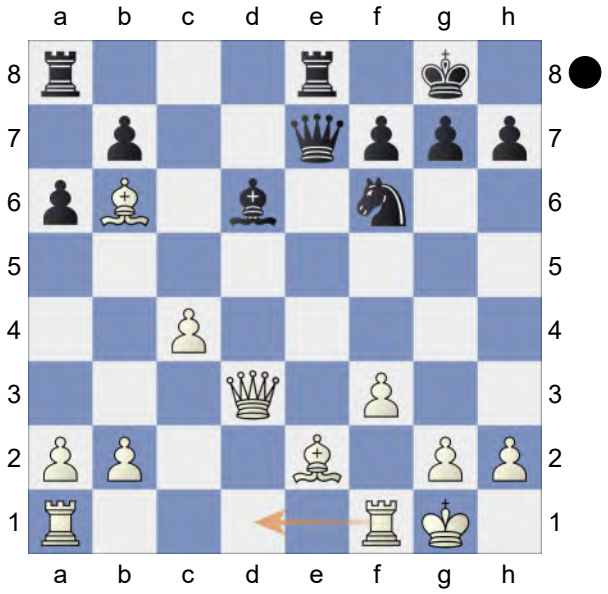
16.Qxf5 Bd6 17.Qd3

[17.Qg5? h6 18.Qh4 Rxe3-+]

17...Qe7 -1.23/22

[⌓17...Qc7 -1.57/22 18.Kh1 Bxh2]

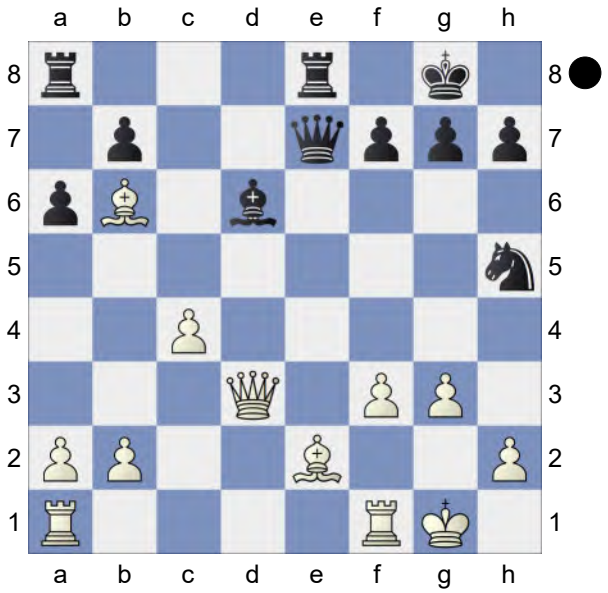
18.Bb6



Bc5+? 0.06/20

[Weaker is 18...Qxe2 19.Qxd6 Qxc4 20.b3=]

[18...Nh5!-+ -1.95/19 19.g3



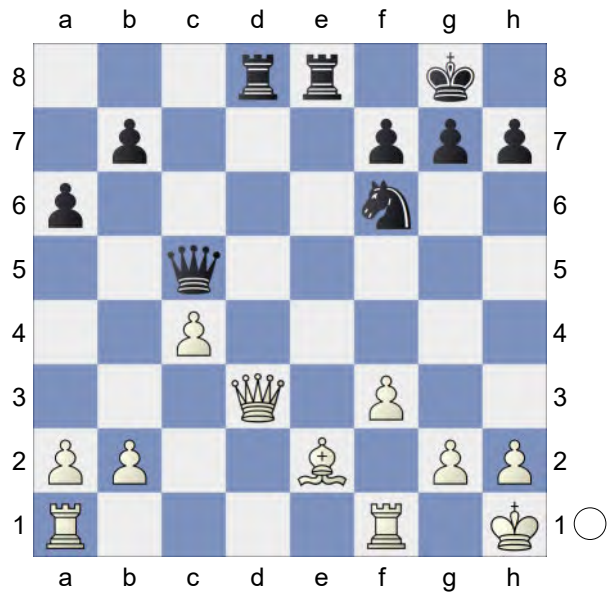
Bxg3! 20.hxg3 Nxg3]

19.Bxc5= Qxc5+ 20.Kh1 -0.42/18

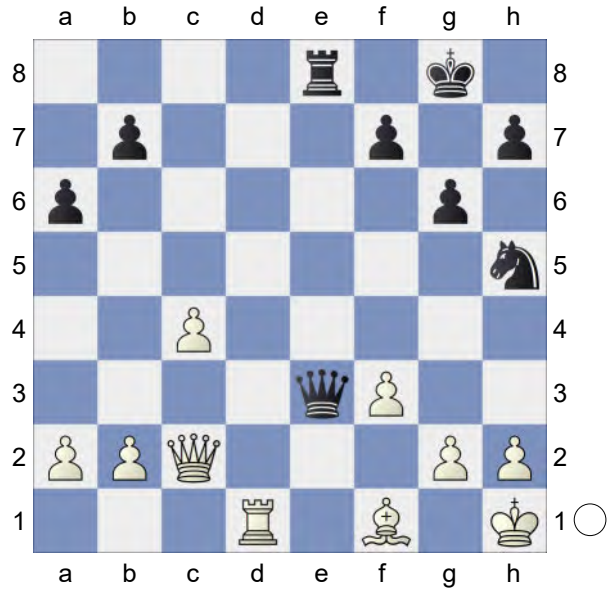
[Better is 20.Rf2!= 0.17/22]

20...Rad8∓

(Diagram)

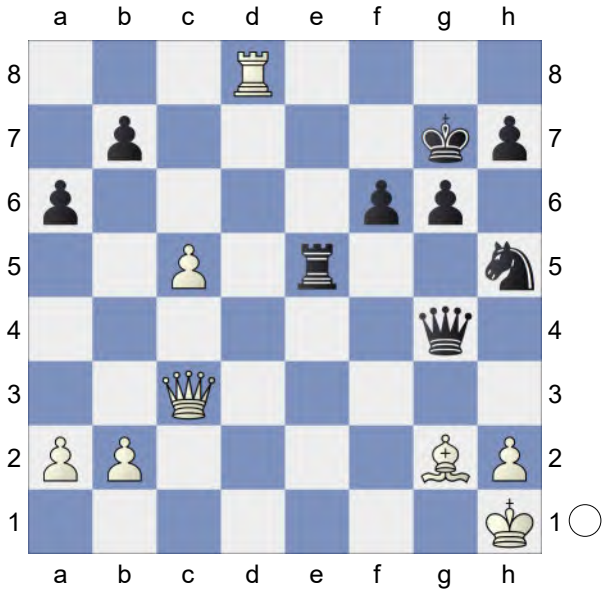


21.Qc2 Qe3 Prevents Bd3. **22.Rad1** Inhibits Rd2. **22...g6** 0.32/19
[Black should try 22...Rxd1∓ -0.46/20 23.Bxd1 g6]
23.Rxd8± Rxd8 24.Rd1 Prevents Rd2. **24...Re8** 0.75/20
[24...Rxd1+= 0.21/19 keeps the balance. 25.Qxd1 h5]
25.Bf1± Nh5



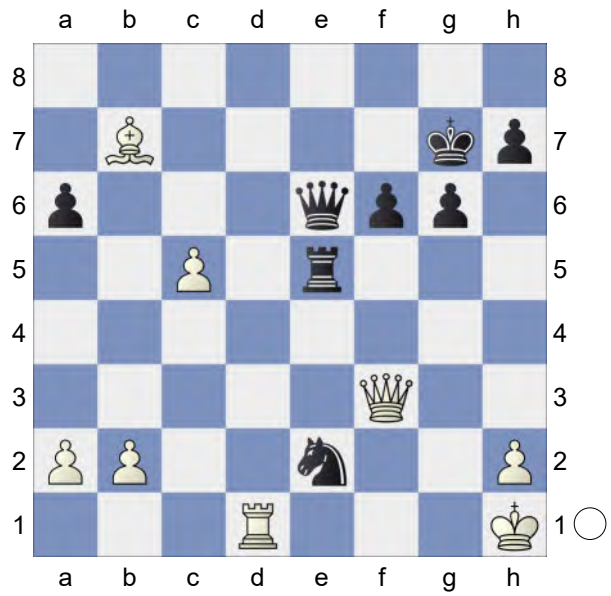
26.c5 -0.21/20
[26.Qd2± 1.04/20]
26...Re5!= 27.g4 -1.61/20
[27.g3= -0.11/21]

27...Qxf3+-+ 28.Bg2 Qxg4 29.Rd8+ Kg7 30.Qc3 Prevents Re1+. **30...f6**



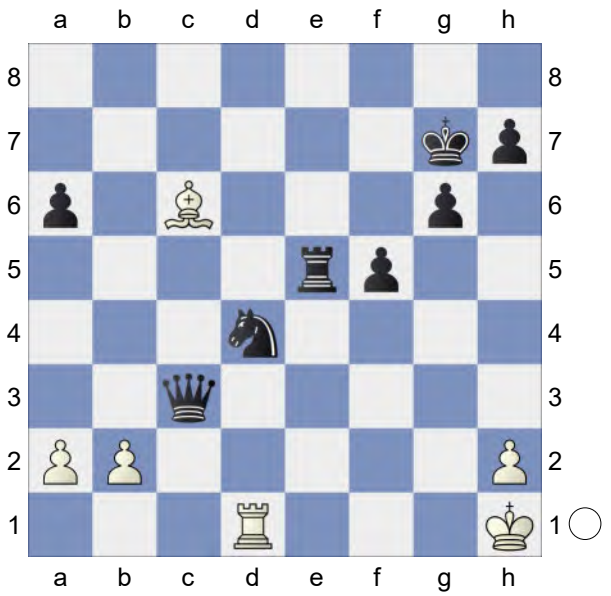
Hoping for ...Nf4. **31.Bxb7?** -7.41/28
[31.Qd2 -1.83/21]
31...Rg5? -1.58/22
[31...Re2-+ -7.41/28 and Black stays clearly on top. 32.Rd1 Qh4]
32.Qe3∓ Re5? 0.01/18 Against Qe7+. Chess con chili.
[32...Qf5-+ -1.63/21 33.Qe7+ Kh6 34.Qf8+ Ng7]
33.Qc3!= Nf4?→ -2.52/22 Black goes for the king.
[33...Re2 -7.05/24 (-> ...Qf4) 34.Rd1 Qh4]
34.Rd1? -#2/6
[34.Qg3-+ -2.52/22 Qf5 35.Rd1]
34...Ne2? -0.01/22
[34...Qxd1+ -#2/6 mates 35.Qe1 Rxe1#]
35.Qf3 Qe6

(Diagram)

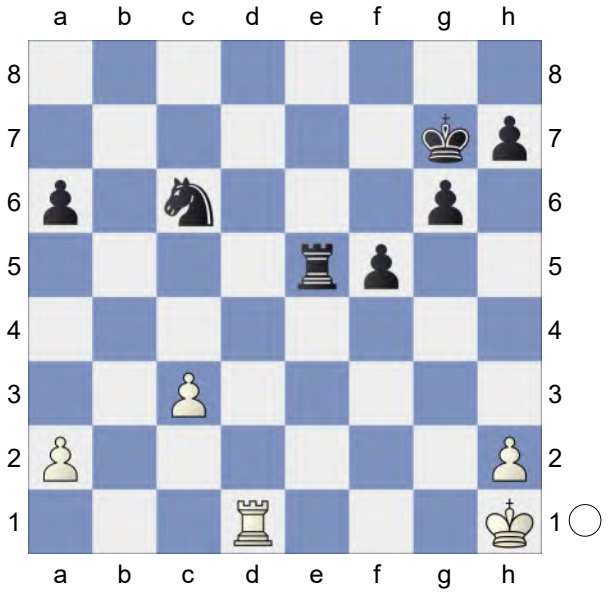


36.Bd5 Qe7 37.Bc6? -1.79/21
[37.c6!= 0.01/21 Rf5 38.Qb3]
37...Qxc5-+ White must now prevent ... Rg5!
[37...Rxc5? 38.Rd7 Qxd7 39.Bxd7+-]
38.Rf1? -9.45/21
[38.Ba8 -1.82/20]
38...f5? -2.07/18 Active counter play!
[38...Rf5 -9.45/21 39.Qxf5 gxf5]
39.Rd1? -8.07/23
[39.Ba8 -2.07/18]
39...Nd4 Black is clearly winning.
40.Qc3 Qxc3

(Diagram)



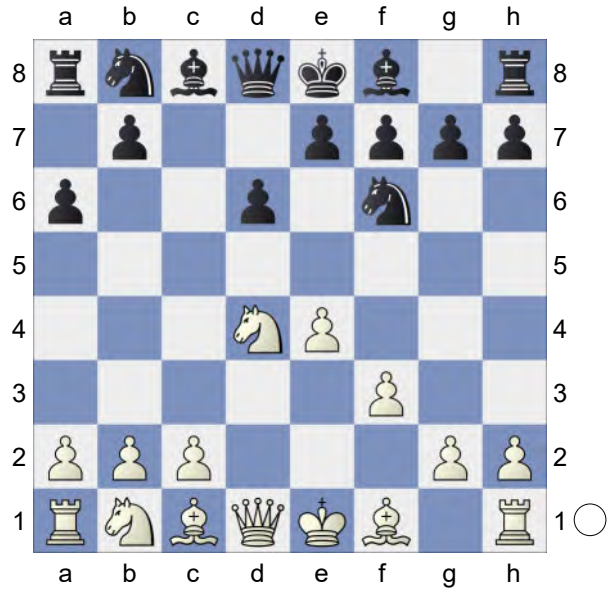
41.bxc3 Nxc6



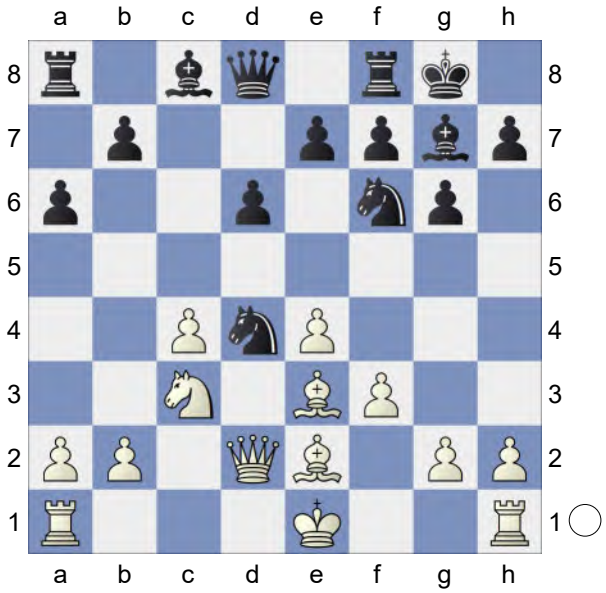
Weighted Error Value: White=1.14/ Black=0.96
0-1

36 **B54**
□ **Kacparov** **2946**
■ **Mrdalica** **2716**
Blitz 10.04.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B38: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind with 5...Bg7 and 7...0-0
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6

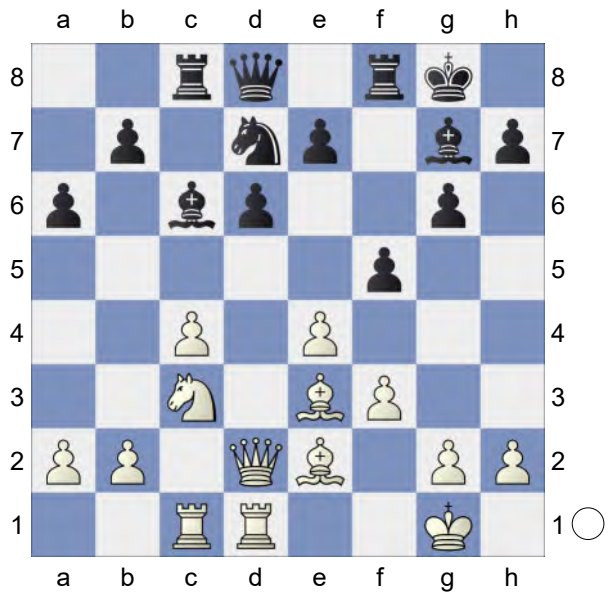


6.c4 g6N
[6...e6 7.Nc3 Be7 *(7...b6 8.Be3 Bb7 9.Be2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Be7 11.a4 Ne5 12.a5 bxa5 13.Qa4+ Qd7 14.Qxa5 Nc6 15.Qa2 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 0-0 17.Rfd1 Qc7 18.Rac1 Nd7 19.b4 Rfc8 20.Na4 Qb8 21.Qa1 Bf8 22.Rb1* Chapter-Games Game 2 (42) *)* 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Qc7 *(11...Nbd7 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson]*)* 12.Rac1 *(12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2 Bc6* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53) *)* 12...Nbd7 13.Rfd1 Rac8 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Nc2 Rfe8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bf4 Ne5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Qd6 Bc7 20.Qa3 Rcd8 21.b4 Chumichev,G (2416)-12.0-0 b6 13.Rad1 Bb7 (2599) Moscow 2012 CBM 017 [Ham/Harding] 0-1 (46)]
7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 Nc6 10.Be2 Nxd4



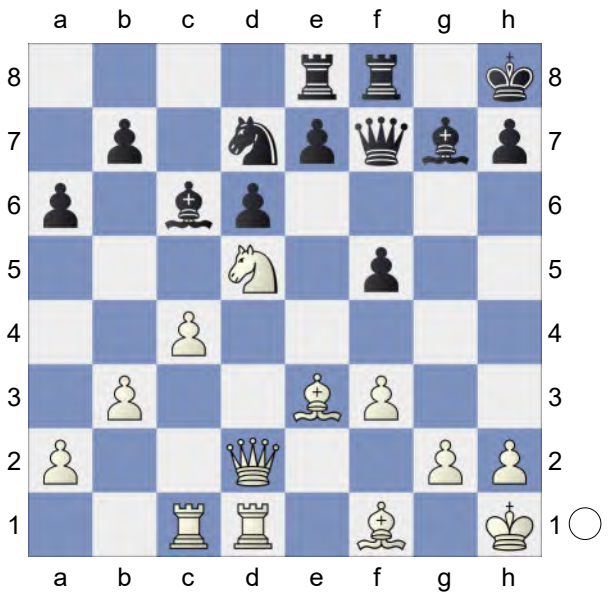
11.Bxd4 Bd7 12.0-0 Rc8 13.Rac1 Bc6 14.Rfd1 Nd7 15.Be3 f5 1.06/19
[15...Nc5± 0.46/17]

(Diagram)

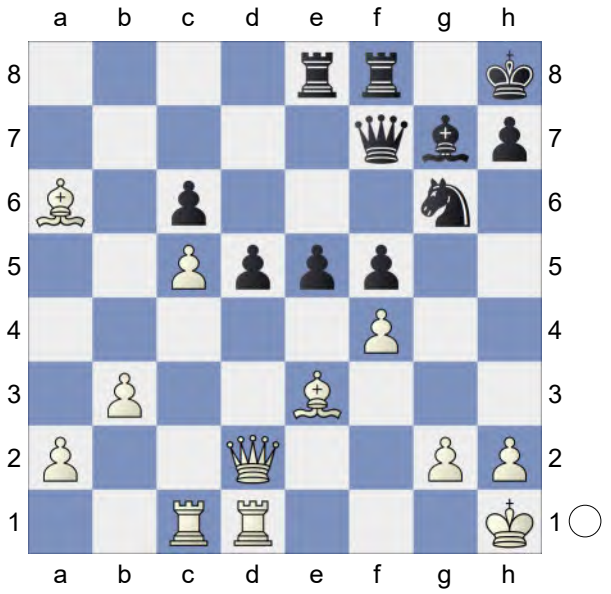


16.exf5± White is better. **16...gxf5**
17.b3 0.81/19
[⌓17.b4 1.39/19]
17...Kh8 1.19/18
[⌓17...Qa5 0.81/19]
18.Kh1 0.84/18
[⌓18.b4 1.19/18]
18...Qe8 1.39/20
[⌓18...Qa5 0.84/18]
19.Nd5 1.01/18
[Better is 19.b4 1.39/20]
19...Qf7 20.Bf1 0.79/17
[⌓20.Nb4 1.11/17]
20...Rce8 1.26/18
[⌓20...Ne5 0.79/17]

(Diagram)

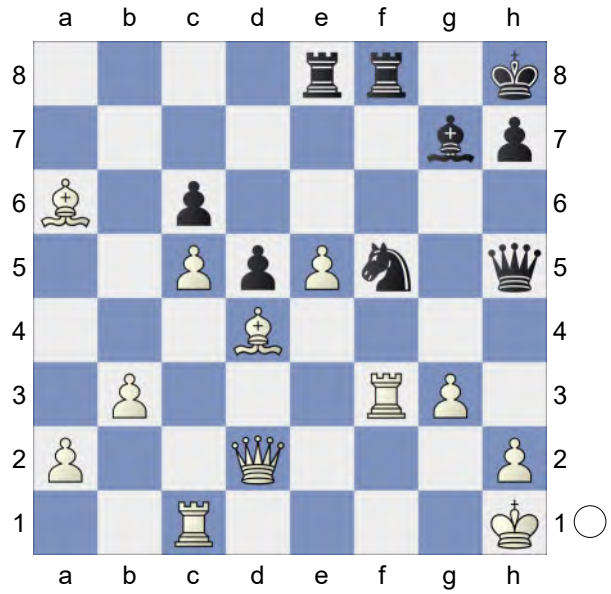


21.Nb4 Ne5 22.Nxc6 bxc6 1.63/20
[22...Nxc6± 1.32/21 23.f4 Rd8]
23.c5 d5 24.Bxa6 Ng6 25.f4 0.71/19
[⌓25.b4 1.36/19]
25...e5

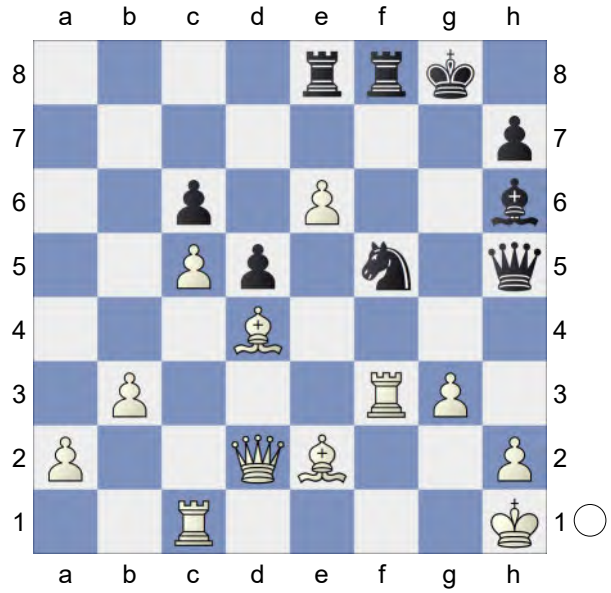


26.fxe5 &Bianco is more active. **26...f4**
27.Bd4 f3 28.Rf1! Nh4 1.38/21
[⌓28...Qf4 0.74/20 29.Rcd1 *(29.Qxf4 Rxf4 30.Bc3 Ra8±)* 29...Qe4]
29.g3 Nf5 1.90/20
[29...Ng6± 1.36/21 is a better defense.]

30.Rxf3+- Qh5



31.Be2 Bh6 32.e6+ Kg8



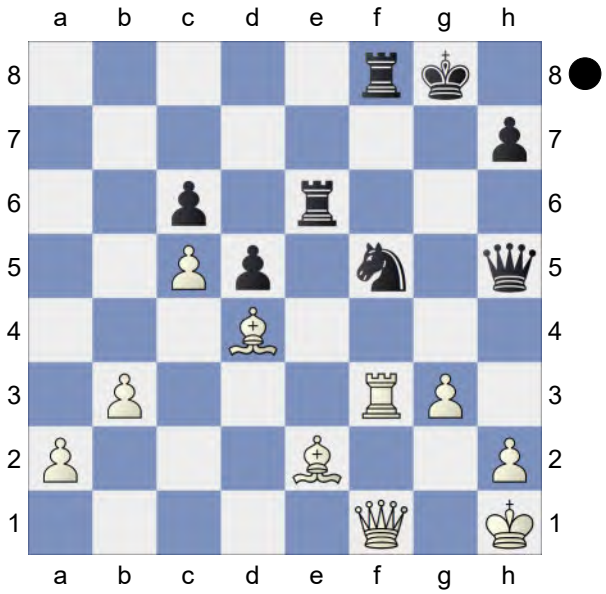
33.Qd1 -2.16/21

[33.Rxf5 Qxf5 34.Qxh6 Qe4+ 35.Bf3 Qxf3+ 36.Kg1 Qg4∓]

[33.Be3!+- 2.06/21 is the narrow road to win. Rxe6 34.Bxh6 Rxh6 35.Bd1]

33...Bxc1-+ 34.Qxc1 Rxe6 35.Qf1

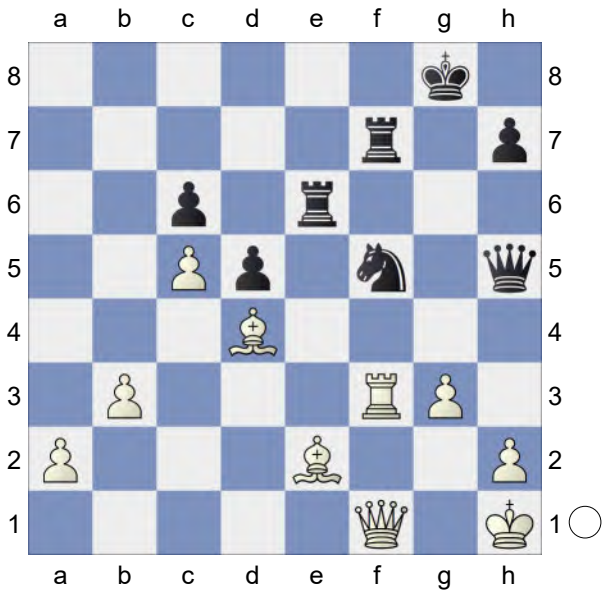
(Diagram)



Rf7? 0.25/20

[35...Rh6 36.Qf2 Rf7 37.Bb2±]

[35...Rxe2!-+ -2.64/22 36.Qxe2 Re8]



36.Bb2? -2.26/20

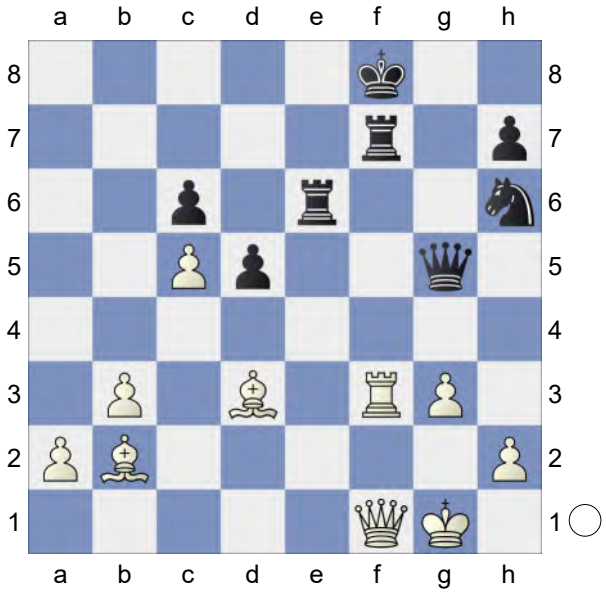
[36.Bg1= 0.25/20 and White has nothing to worry.]

36...Kf8? 0.21/23

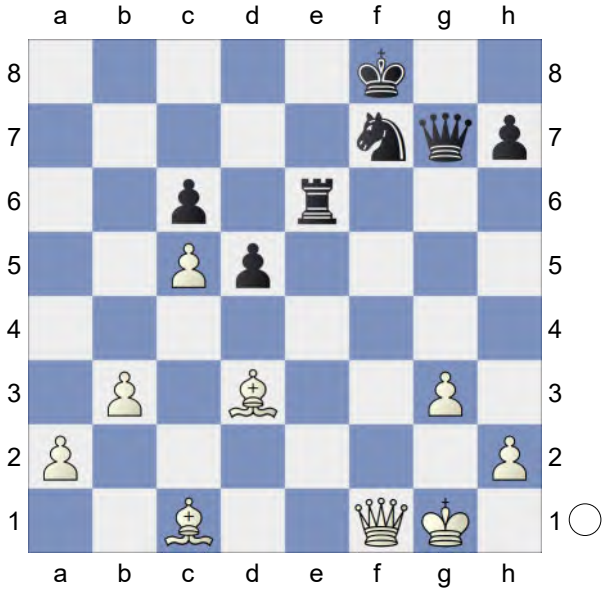
[Not 36...Rh6 37.Qf2±]

[36...Re3!-+ -2.26/20 Strongly threatening ...Rxf3. 37.Qf2 Rxf3 38.Bxf3 Ne3! 39.Qxe3 Qxf3+ 40.Qxf3 Rxf3]

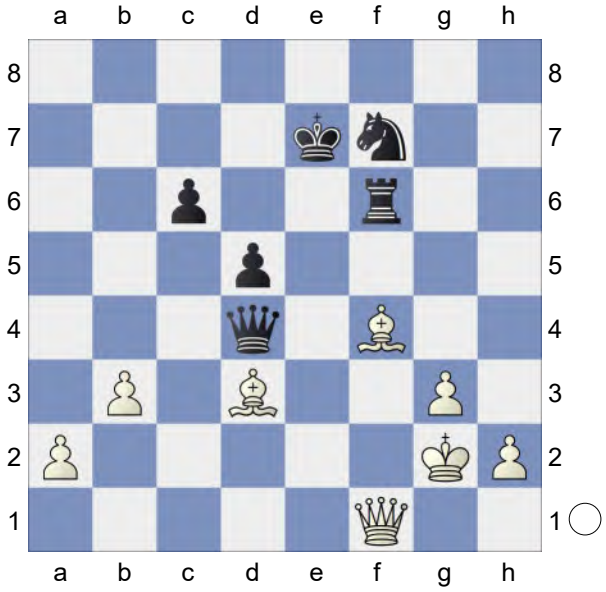
37.Kg1= aiming for Rf2. **37...Qg5** 1.21/21
[37...Kg8± 0.46/21]
38.Bd3 Nh6



39.Bc1!↑ White is on the roll. The board is on fire. **39...Qg7** 1.23/19
[⌓39...Qh5 0.90/20 40.Kg2 Ree7]
40.Rxf7+ 0.43/21
[White should play 40.Kg2± 1.23/19]
40...Nxf7±

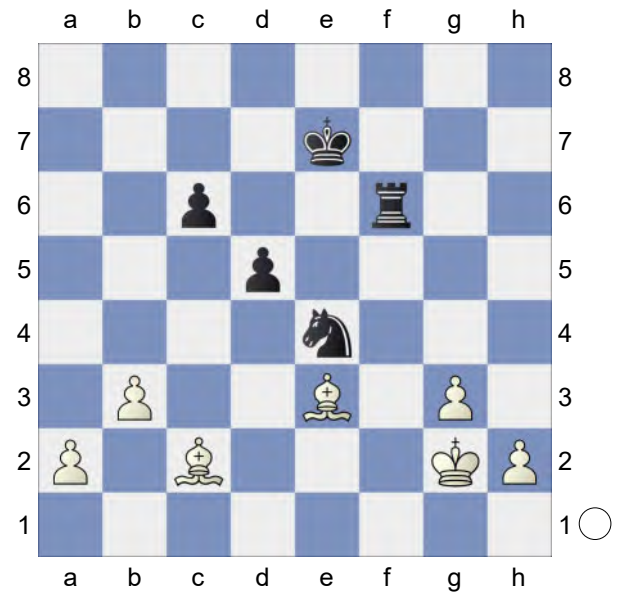


41.Bf4 Qd4+ 42.Kg2 Ke7 43.Bxh7 0.01/21
[43.a4± 0.37/19]
43...Qxc5 1.32/20
[43...Qb2+= 0.01/21 keeps the balance. 44.Kh1 Re2]
44.Bf5± Rf6 45.Bd3 0.99/20
This bishop pair is nice.
[⌓45.Qe2+ 1.43/18 Kf8 46.g4]
45...Qd4

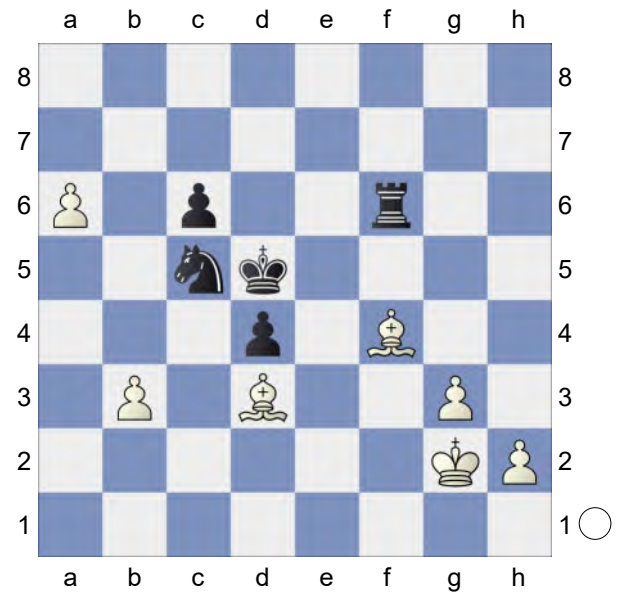


46.Qe2+ Kf8 1.46/20
[Black should try 46...Re6± 0.61/19 47.Qf1 Nh6]
47.Bc2 1.04/20
[⌓47.a4 1.46/20]
47...Nd6? 9.24/19
[47...Rxf4± 1.04/20 48.gxf4 Qxf4]
48.Qd2? 0.74/21
[48.Be5+- 9.24/19 and the rest is easy. Qb4 49.Bxf6]
48...Qxd2+ 1.14/19
[⌓48...Nf5 0.74/21]
49.Bxd2 Endgame KRN-KB **49...Ne4**
50.Be3 Against Rf2+. And now a4 would win. **50...Ke7?** 6.62/21
[50...Kf7± 1.08/21]

(Diagram)

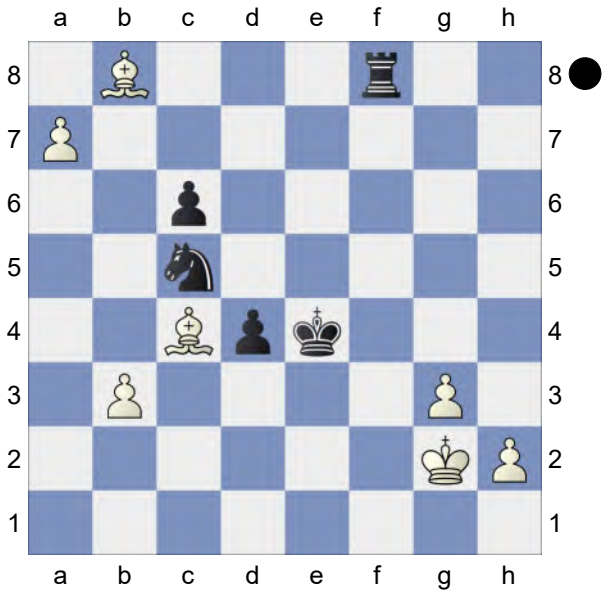


51.a4? 2.22/20
[51.Bxe4 6.62/21 Re6 52.Bc5+ Kf6 53.Bd3]
51...Ke6+- 52.a5 a6 is the strong threat.
52...Ke5 53.a6 d4? 12.61/19
[53...c5 1.62/22]
54.Bf4+ Kd5 55.Bd3? 2.42/21
[55.a7 13.51/21 Rf8 56.Bxe4+ Kxe4 57.Bb8]
55...Nc5? 17.15/23
[55...Rf8 2.42/21 56.h3 Rh8]



56.Bc4+ White is clearly winning.

56...Ke4 57.a7 Rf8 58.Bb8



Weighted Error Value: White=0.82/ Black=0.62
1-0

37 **B54**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2944**
■ **Dmdonch** **2842**
Blitz 13.05.2022
[Kitty Kat]

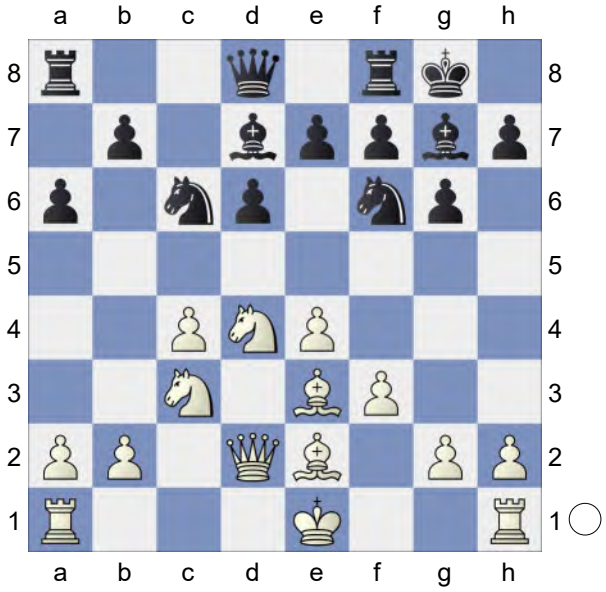
Blitz 3min
B38: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind with 5...Bg7 and 7...0-0
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6

(Diagram)

6.c4 g6N

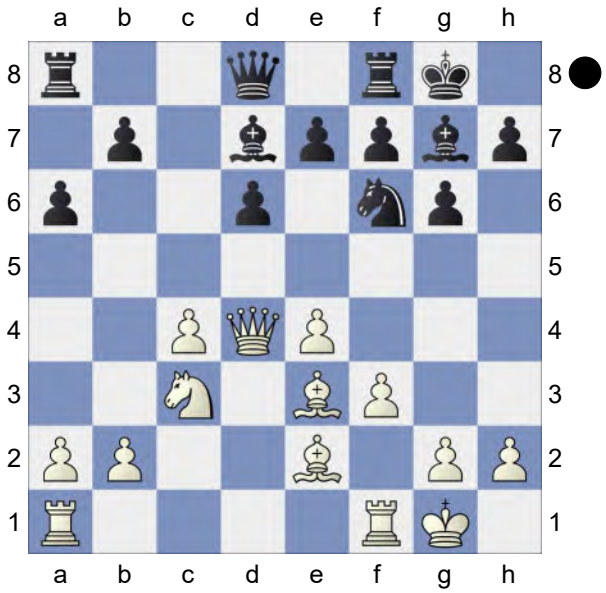
[6...e6 7.Nc3 Be7 *(7...b6 8.Be3 Bb7 9.Be2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Be7 11.a4 Ne5 12.a5 bxa5 13.Qa4+ Qd7 14.Qxa5 Nc6 15.Qa2 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 0-0 17.Rfd1 Qc7 18.Rac1 Nd7 19.b4 Rfc8 20.Na4 Qb8 21.Qa1 Bf8 22.Rb1* Chapter-Games Game 2 (42) *)* 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Qc7 *(11...Nbd7 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson]*)* 12.Rac1 *(12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2 Bc6* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53) *)* 12...Nbd7 13.Rfd1 Rac8 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Nc2 Rfe8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bf4 Ne5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Qd6 Bc7 20.Qa3 Rcd8 21.b4 Chumichev,G (2416)-12.0-0 b6 13.Rad1 Bb7 (2599) Moscow 2012 CBM 017 [Ham/Harding] 0-1 (46)]

7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 Bd7 10.Be2 Nc6



11.0-0 Nxd4 12.Bxd4

[But not 12.Qxd4



Ng4! 13.Qd2 Nxe3 14.Qxe3 Bc6=]

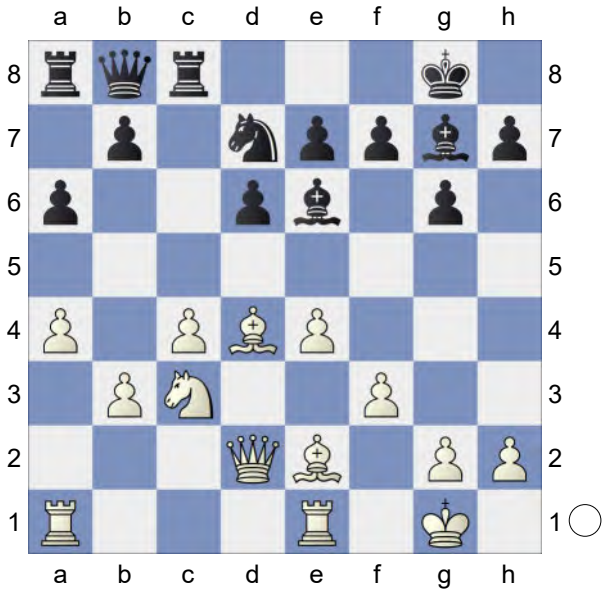
12...Qb8 13.a4 Rc8 14.b3 0.46/17

[14.a5± 0.79/17]

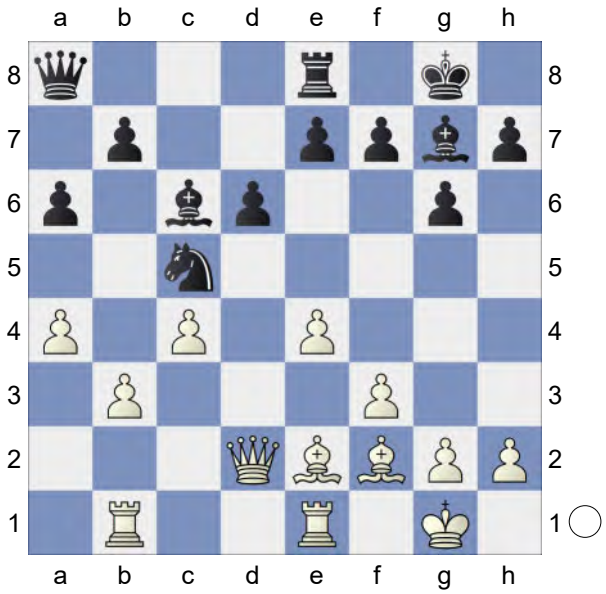
14...Be6 0.99/16

[14...a5± 0.46/17]

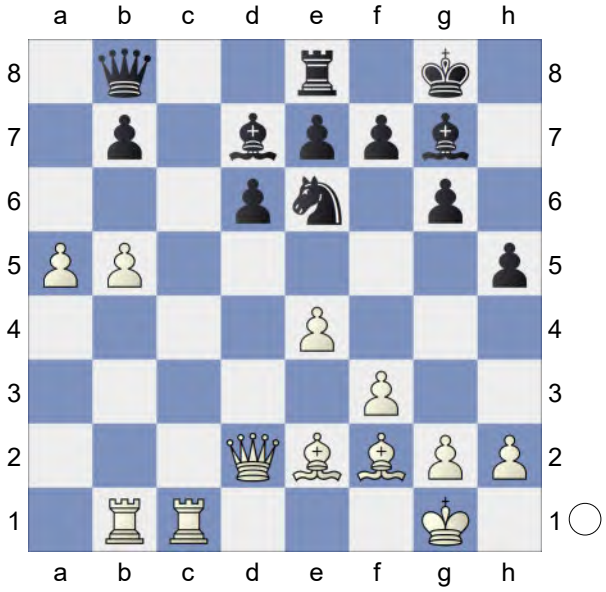
15.Rfe1 0.58/19
[15.f4± 0.99/16]
15...Nd7



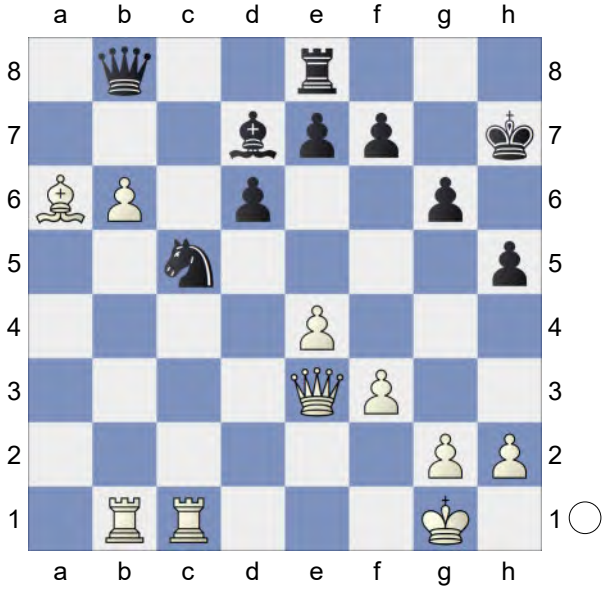
16.Bf2 0.09/18 &Bianco is more active.
[16.Bxg7± 0.64/18 Kxg7 17.Qd4+ f6 18.Nd5]
16...Nc5 17.Rab1 Bd7? 1.80/20 Loses the game.
[17...b5= 0.19/18 and Black stays safe.]
18.Nd5+- Re8 19.Nb6 Bc6 20.Nxa8 Qxa8



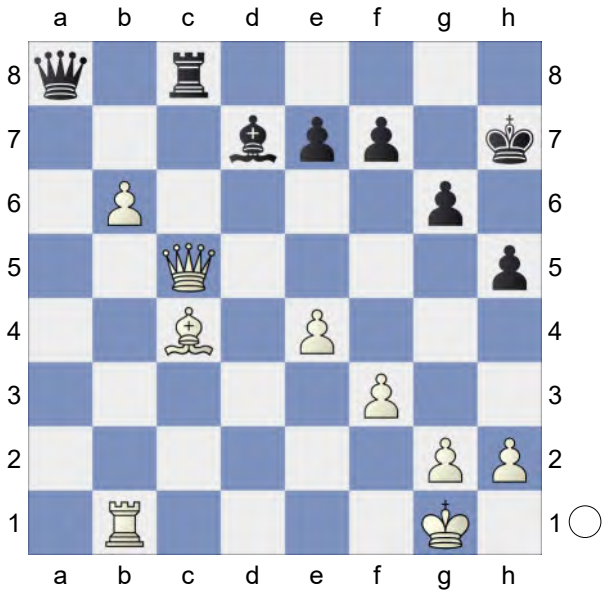
21.a5 Qb8? 3.72/21
[21...Qc8 1.94/18 was worth a try. 22.b4 Ne6]
22.b4 Ne6 23.b5 axb5 24.cxb5 Bd7 25.Rec1 Inhibits Qc8. **25...h5** 4.74/21
[⌓25...Be5 3.37/19 26.g3 Rd8]



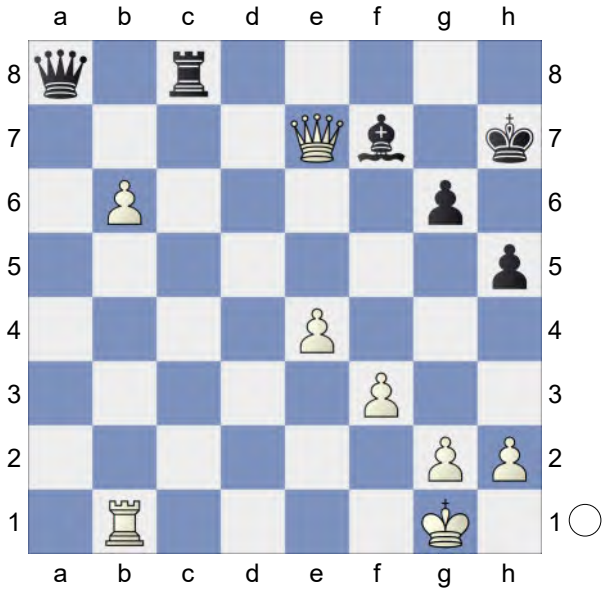
26.b6 Kh7 27.a6 Strongly threatening a7. **27...bxa6 28.Bxa6 Bh6 29.Be3 Bxe3+ 30.Qxe3 Nc5**



31.Rxc5 dxc5 32.Qxc5 Qa8 33.Bc4 Rc8 9.92/20
[⌓33...e6 4.19/22 34.b7 Qb8]

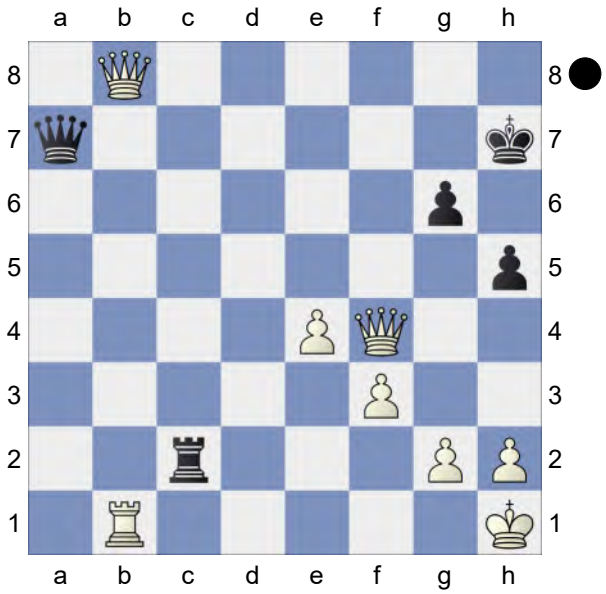


34.Qxe7! Be8
[34...Kh6 35.Bxf7]
35.Bxf7 Bxf7



36.Qxf7+ Kh6 37.b7 Qa7+ 38.Kh1
Threatening mate with Qf4+. **38...Rc2**
39.Qf4+ Kh7 40.b8Q

(Diagram)

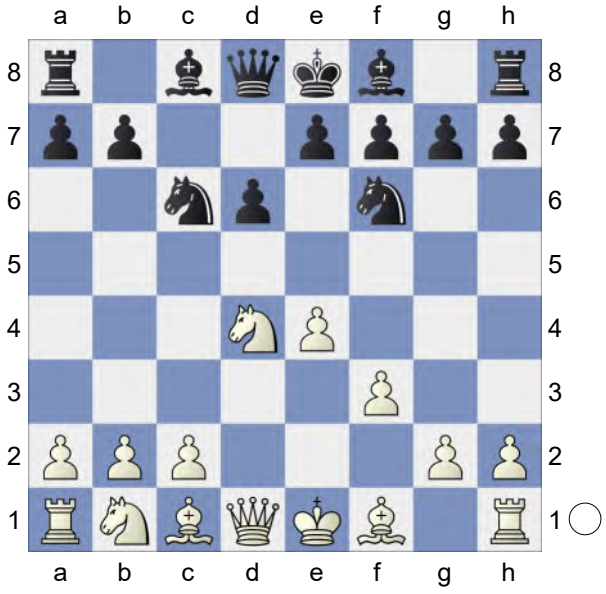


Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.79
1-0

38	**B80**
□ **Lu,Shanglei**	**2943**
■ **Betterattictactoe**	**2876**
Blitz	13.05.2022
[Kitty Kat]	

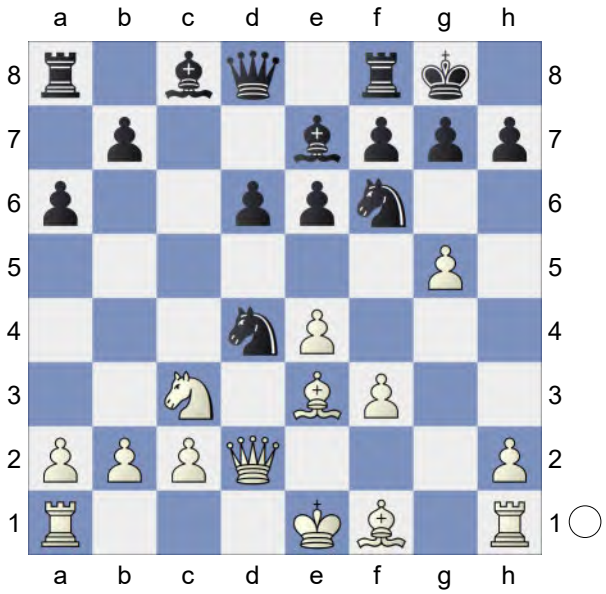
Blitz 3min
B80: Sicilian Scheveningen: 6 g3 and 6 Be3, including English Attack
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/ Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1

Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

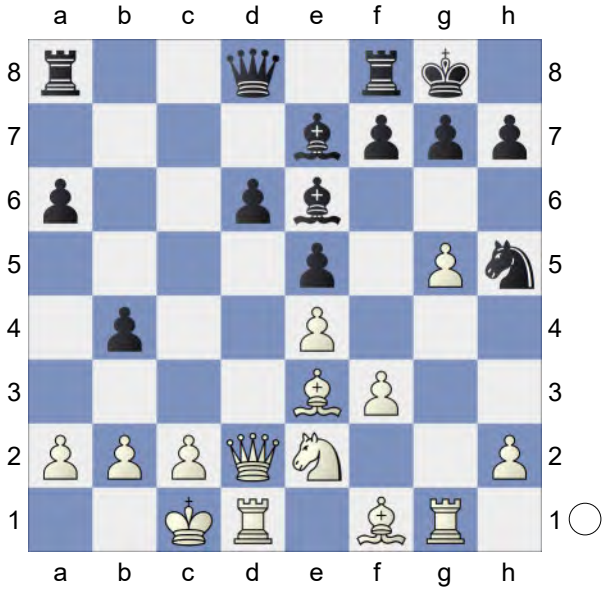


6.Nc3 e6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Qd2 0-0 9.g4 a6 10.g5 Nxd4

(Diagram)



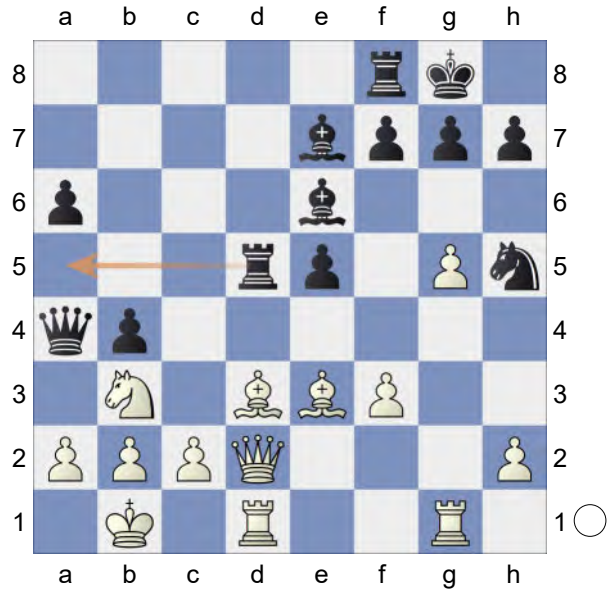
11.Bxd4 Nh5 12.Rg1 White has an edge. **12...b5 13.0-0-0 b4! 14.Ne2 e5** 0.26/22
[⌓14...d5 -0.05/17]
15.Be3= Be6



16.Kb1!
[16.Qxb4 d5 17.Bc5 Bxc5 18.Qxc5 Rc8∓]
16...Qa5 17.Nc1 Rad8 18.Nb3 Qa4 19.Bd3 d5 0.52/20
[19...g6= 0.01/17]
20.exd5 -0.25/20
[20.Nc5!± 0.52/20 Qc6 21.Nxe6

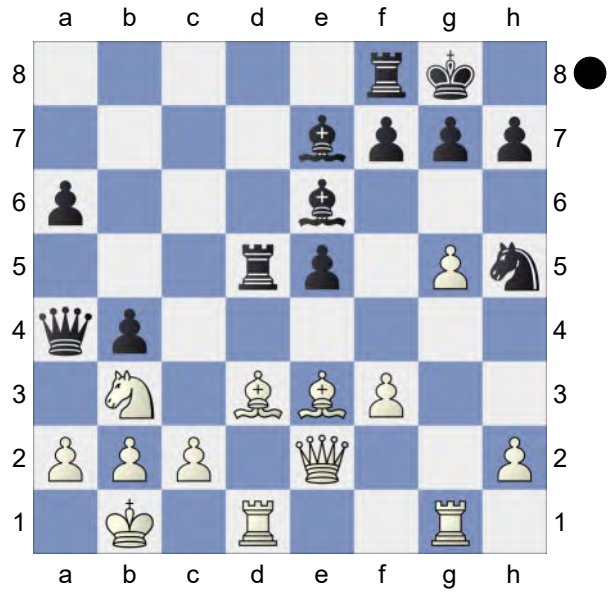
(21.Nxa6? d4-+) 21...fxe6 22.g6]

20...Rxd5



21.Qe2 -1.00/22

[21.Nc1∓ -0.61/19 deserves consideration.]



21...Ra5!∓ 22.Nxa5 -1.57/20

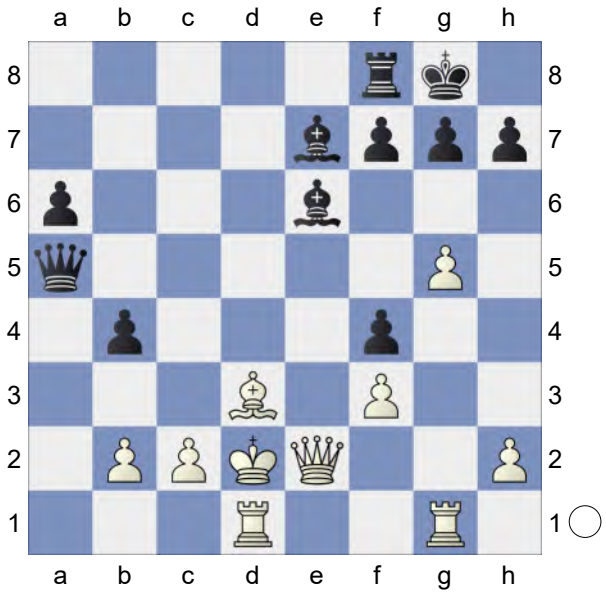
[⌓22.a3 -1.02/21 bxa3 23.Nxa5 axb2 24.Nb3]

[22.Bc4 Qxa2+]

22...Qxa2+ 23.Kc1 Qxa5 24.Kd2 Nf4 -0.84/20

[⌓24...b3+! -1.42/20 25.c3 Rd8]

25.Bxf4 exf4



26.g6 -2.33/19

[Much worse is 26.Qe4 g6 27.Ra1 *(27.Qxf4 Rd8∓)* 27...Qb6]

[26.Ra1∓ -1.06/20 is a better defense. Qc5 27.Rge1]

26...hxg6? -0.28/22

[26...Bf6-+ -2.33/19 Threatens to win with ...Re8. 27.Qe4 *(27.gxh7+ Kh8∓)* 27...hxg6 28.Rxg6 Bf5! 29.Qxf5 Qxf5 30.Bxf5 fxg6 31.Be6+ Kh7]

27.Rxg6= Rdg1! is the strong threat.

27...Qb6 28.Rxe6 Qxe6

[28...fxe6 looks sharper. 29.Re1 Kf7 30.Qe4 Bf6]

29.Qxe6 fxe6 30.Bxa6 -0.63/20

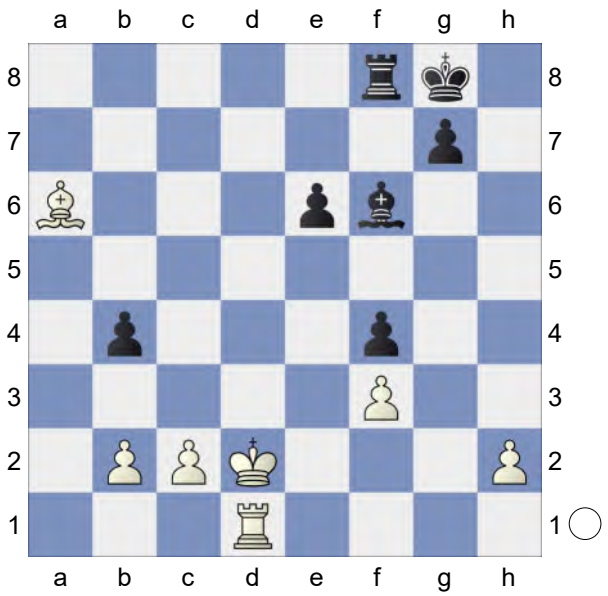
Endgame KRB-KRB

[White should try 30.Ra1!= -0.01/21]

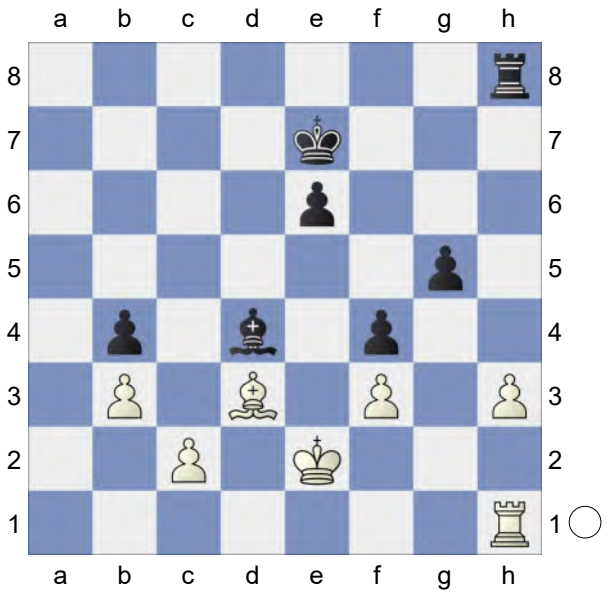
30...Bf6 -0.01/19

[30...Kf7∓ -0.63/20]

(Diagram)

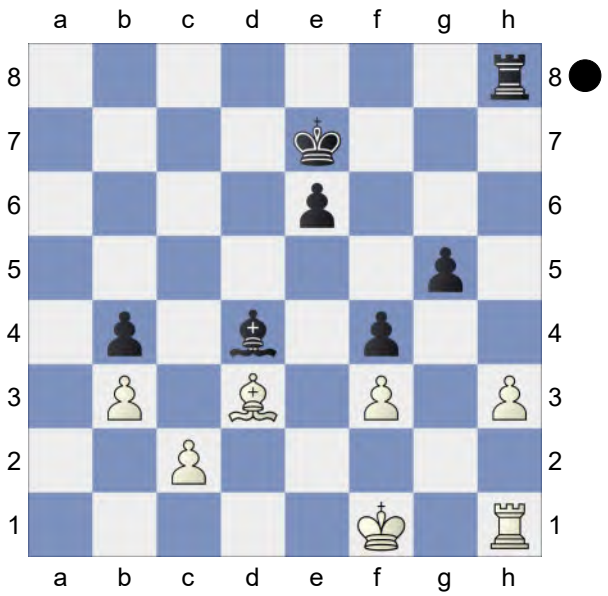


31.b3 -0.54/22
[31.Re1= -0.01/19]
31...Kf7!∓ 32.Ke2 Rh8 33.Rh1! Ke7 34.Bd3 g5 35.h3 Bd4

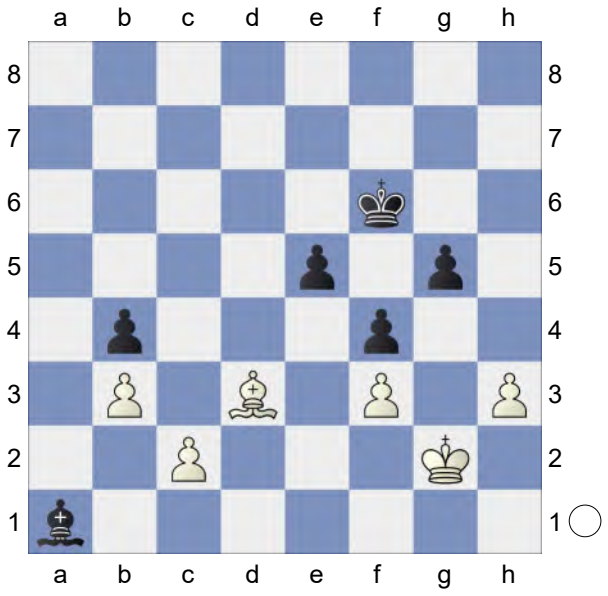


36.Kf1 -0.78/22
[36.Be4∓ -0.35/22]

(Diagram)



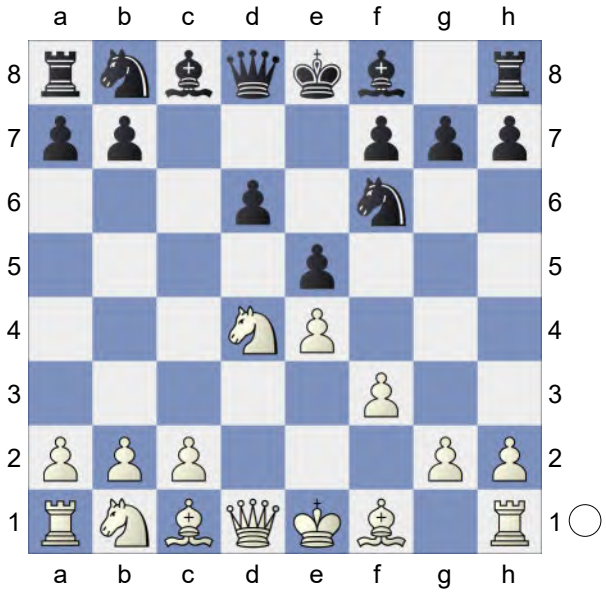
36...Kf6 -0.15/25
[36...g4!∓ -0.78/22 37.fxg4 f3]
37.Kg2= e5 38.Re1 Ra8 39.Rd1 Ra1 0.26/27
[39...Ke6 -0.14/24
is more appropriate.]
40.Rxa1 Bxa1



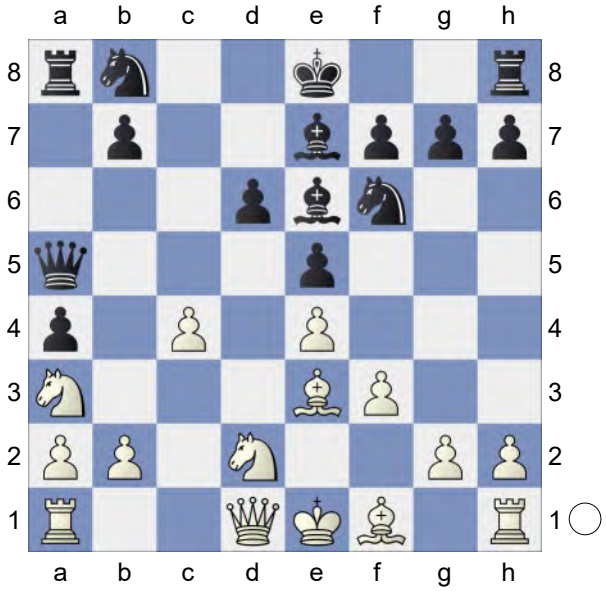
Weighted Error Value: White=0.24 (precise) /Black=0.30
½-½

39 **B54**
□ **Zubov,Alexander** **2942**
■ **Chesszxj** **2752**
Blitz 23.06.2021
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

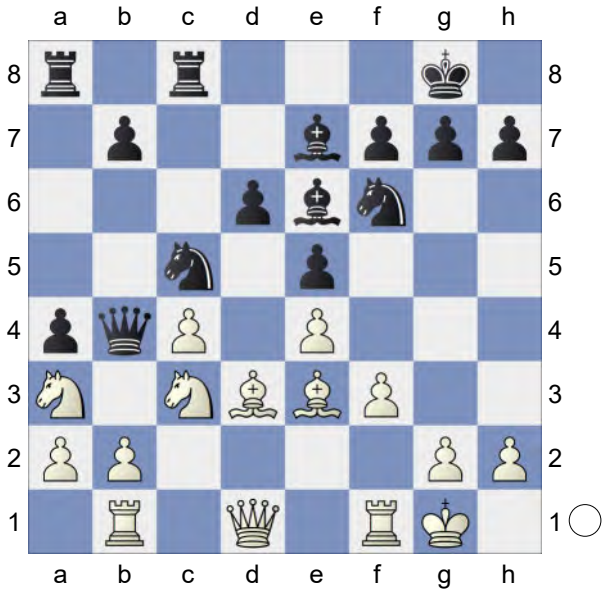


6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 a5
[Much less strong is 7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]
8.Be3 a4 9.N3d2 Qa5 The position is equal. **10.Na3 Be7**

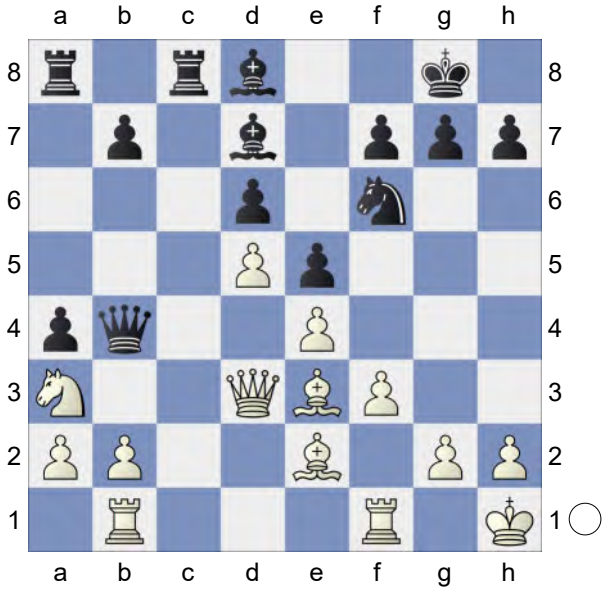


11.Bd3 0-0 12.0-0 Na6 0.33/18
[12...Bd8= 0.01/19 might be stronger.]
13.Ndb1± Nc5 14.Nc3 Qb4 15.Rb1 -0.01/21
[15.Be2± 0.41/20]

15...Rfc8 0.67/19
[15...Nxd3= -0.01/21 16.Qxd3 Rfc8]

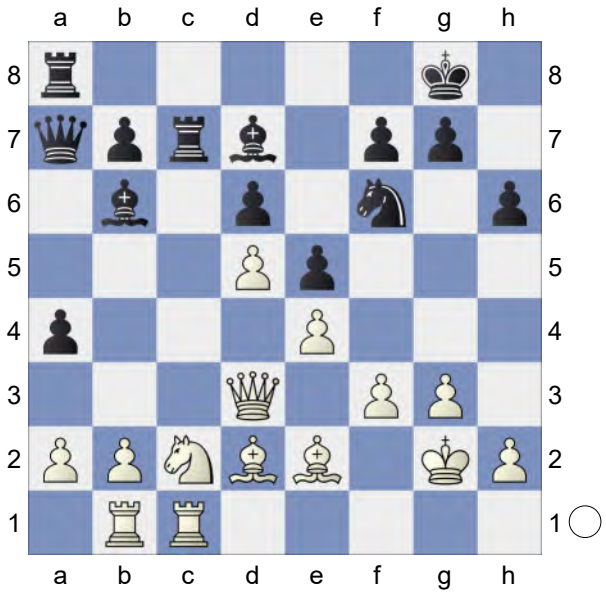


16.Be2 Ncd7 17.Kh1 Nb6 18.Nd5 Nbxd5 19.cxd5 Bd7 20.Qd3 Bd8

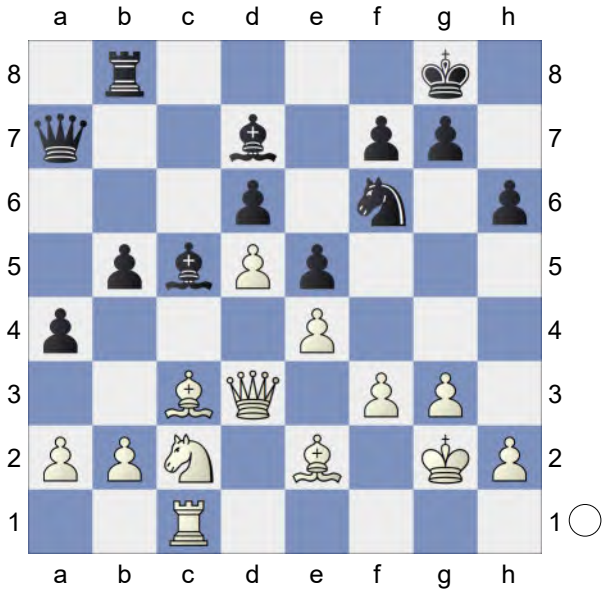


21.Nc2 Qa5 22.Rfc1 Bb6 23.Bd2 Qa7 24.g3 h6 25.Kg2 Rc7

(Diagram)

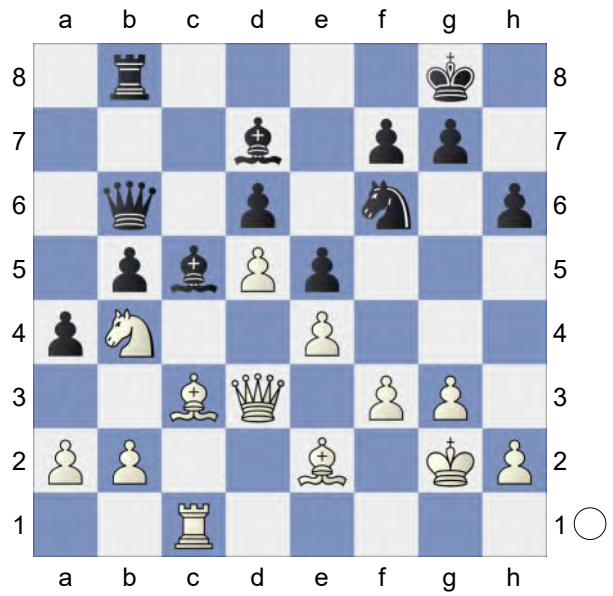


26.Na3 Rxc1 27.Rxc1 Bc5 28.Bc3 Rb8 29.Nc2 b5

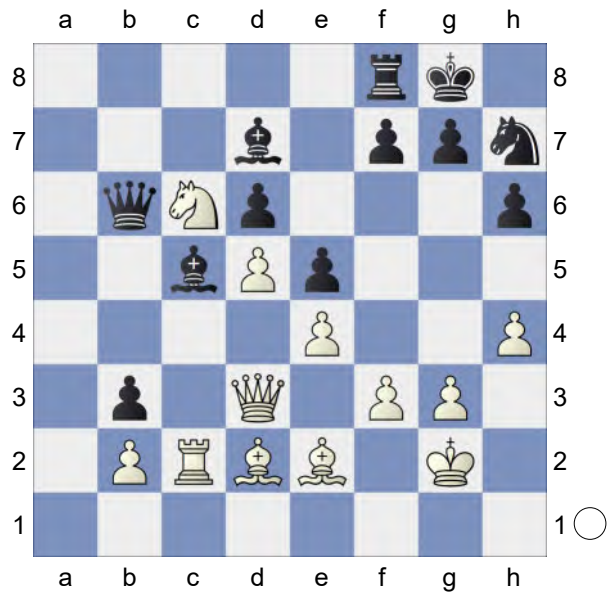


White must now prevent ...b4. **30.Nb4 Qb6**

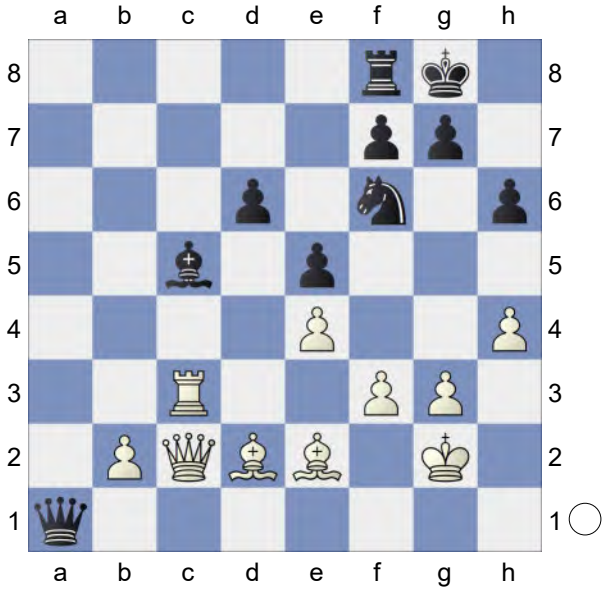
(Diagram)



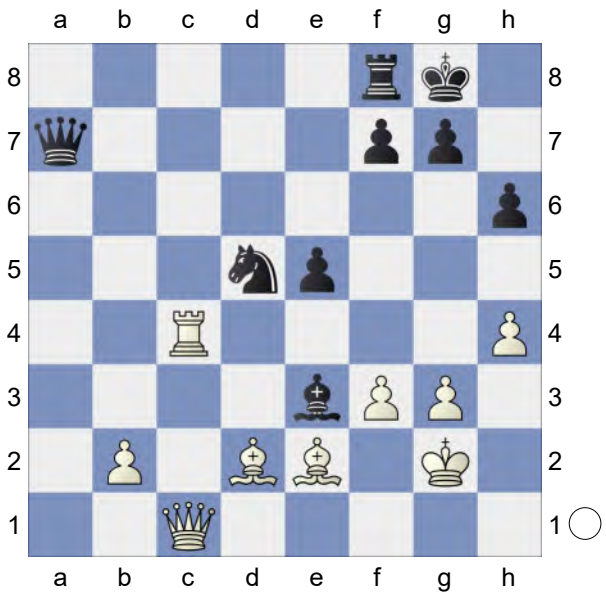
31.Rc2 Nh7 32.h4 Rf8 0.70/21
[32...Nf6= 0.11/17]
33.Nc6 b4
[33...Bg1? 34.Bf1+-]
34.Bd2 Hoping for Qb5. **34...b3** 0.94/20
[34...Bg1 35.Be1±]
[34...Bxc6± 0.60/21 35.dxc6 b3 36.axb3 axb3]
35.axb3 axb3 1.25/23
[Black should try 35...Bxc6 0.76/23 36.dxc6 axb3]



36.Rc3 Bxc6
[36...Bg1? 37.Be1+- *(37.Be3 Bxe3 38.Qxe3 Qxe3+-)*]
37.dxc6 0.65/22
[37.Rxb3± 1.18/22 Qc7 38.dxc6 Qxc6 39.Qa6 Qxa6 40.Bxa6]
37...Qxc6 38.Rxb3 Qa4 39.Qc2 Nf6 40.Rc3 Qa1

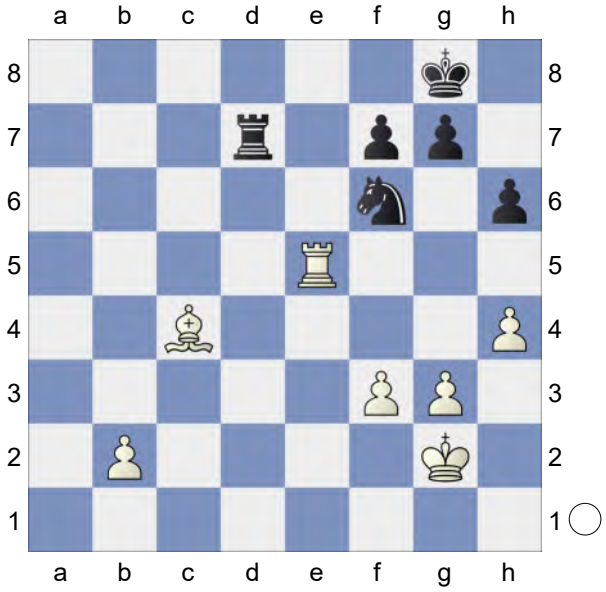


(-> ...Qg1+) **41.Qc1** Prevents Qg1+.
41...Qa7 42.Rc4 Bd4 43.Bc3 0.01/20
[White should play 43.b4± 0.54/19]
43...d5 44.exd5 Nxd5 ...Bxc3 is the strong threat. **45.Bd2 Be3**



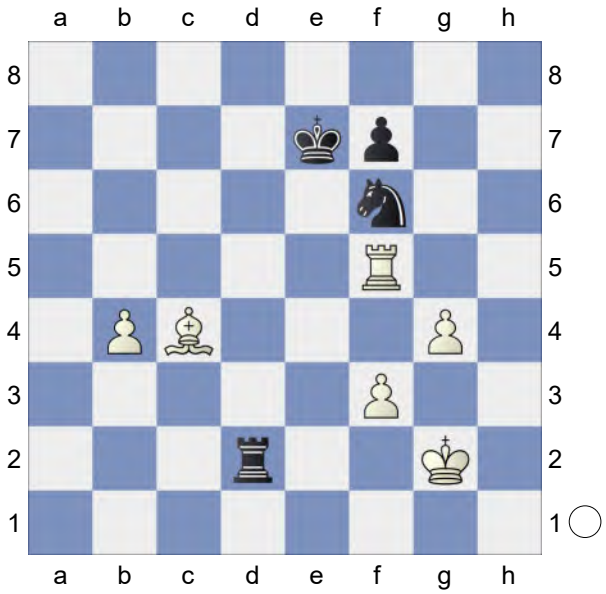
Threatens to win with ...Bxd2. **46.Re4**

Bxd2 1.04/19
[46...Bd4= -0.11/21 remains equal.]
47.Qxd2± **Rd8** And now ...Nf4+! would win. **48.Rxe5** **Qd7** **49.Bc4** **Nf6** **50.Qxd7** &Bianco is more active.
50...Rxd7

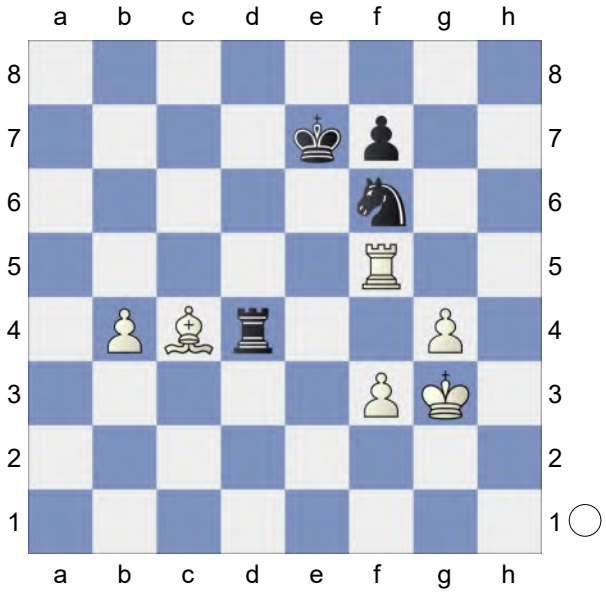


Endgame KRB-KRN **51.b4** **g5** 2.78/22
[51...Rd2+± 1.52/20 52.Re2 Rxe2+ 53.Bxe2 Nd5]
52.hxg5+- **hxg5** **53.Rxg5+** **Kf8** **54.Rf5** **Ke7** **55.g4?** 1.09/22
[55.Kf2+- 3.21/19]
55...Rd2+? 4.31/24
[55...Rd4± 1.09/22 is more resistant.]

(Diagram)

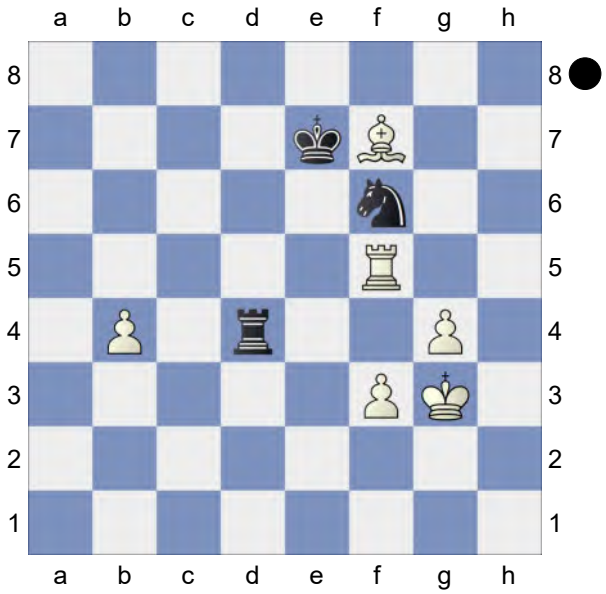


56.Kg3 **Rd4**



57.Bxf7!

(Diagram)

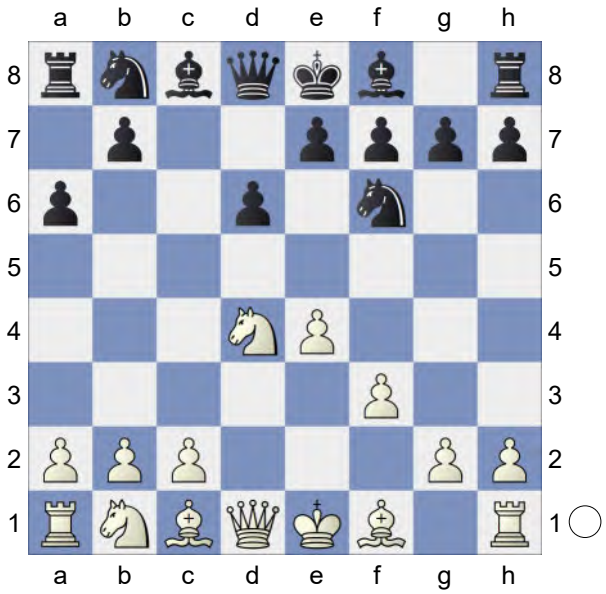


Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.32
1-0

40 **B54**
□ **Zubov,Alexander** **2941**
■ **Elfugitivo** **2720**
Blitz 01.08.2021
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6

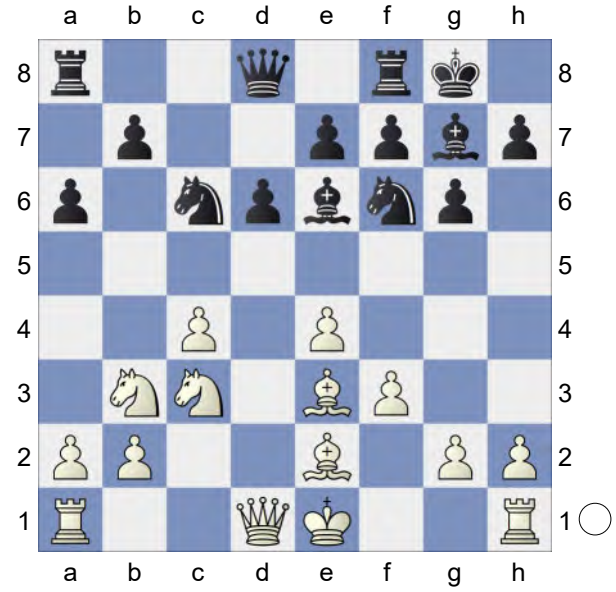
(Diagram)



6.c4 g6N
[6...e6 7.Nc3 Be7 *(7...b6 8.Be3 Bb7 9.Be2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Be7 11.a4 Ne5 12.a5 bxa5 13.Qa4+ Qd7 14.Qxa5 Nc6 15.Qa2 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 0-0 17.Rfd1 Qc7 18.Rac1 Nd7 19.b4 Rfc8 20.Na4 Qb8 21.Qa1 Bf8 22.Rb1* Chapter-Games Game 2 (42) *)* 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Qc7 *(11...Nbd7 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson]*)* 12.Rac1 *(12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2 Bc6* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53) *)* 12...Nbd7 13.Rfd1 Rac8 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Nc2 Rfe8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bf4 Ne5 18.Bxe5 dxe5

19.Qd6 Bc7 20.Qa3 Rcd8 21.b4 Chumichev,G (2416)-12.0-0 b6 13. Rad1 Bb7 (2599) Moscow 2012 CBM 017 [Ham/Harding] 0-1 (46)]

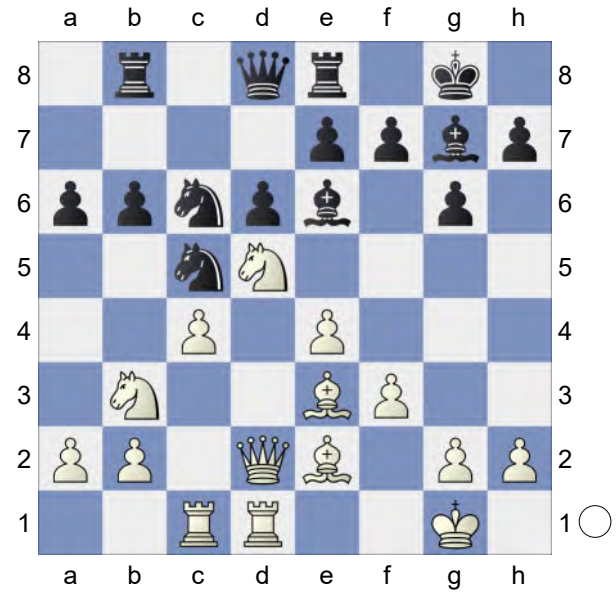
7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 White is slightly better. **9...Nc6 10.Nb3 Be6**



11.Rc1 Nd7 12.0-0 b6 0.50/17

[12...Nb6= 0.05/17 should be considered.]

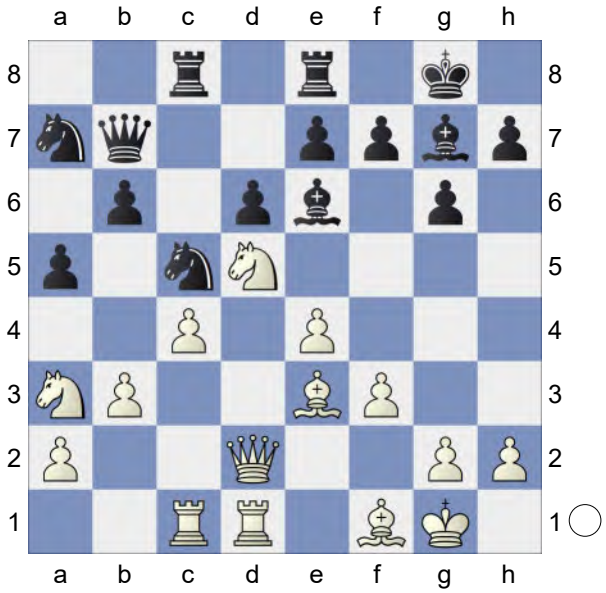
13.Qd2 Nc5 14.Nd5 Rb8 15.Rfd1 Re8



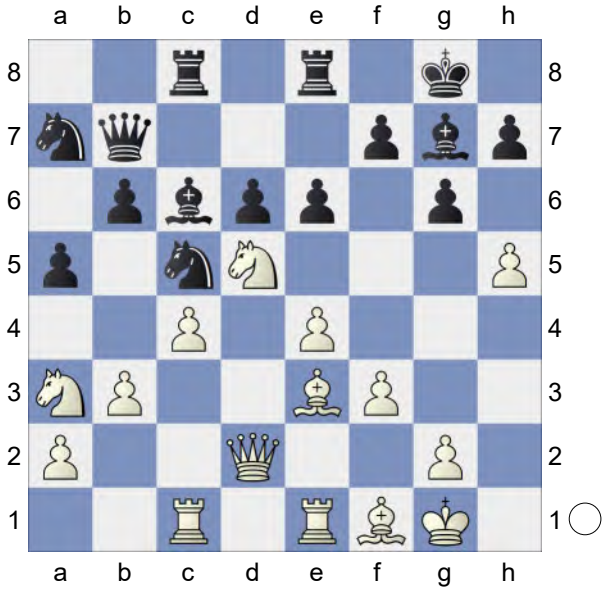
16.Bf1 Qc8 0.78/18

[16...a5± 0.38/17]

17.Na1± a5 18.b3 Qb7 19.Nc2 Rbc8 20.Na3 Na7



21.Re1 Bd7 22.Bg5 Bc6 23.h4 Ne6 24.Be3 0x0.00209a826646dp-1022s more active pieces. The black rooks are badly placed. **24...Nc5 25.h5 e6**



26.Nc3 Qe7 27.h6 0.64/20

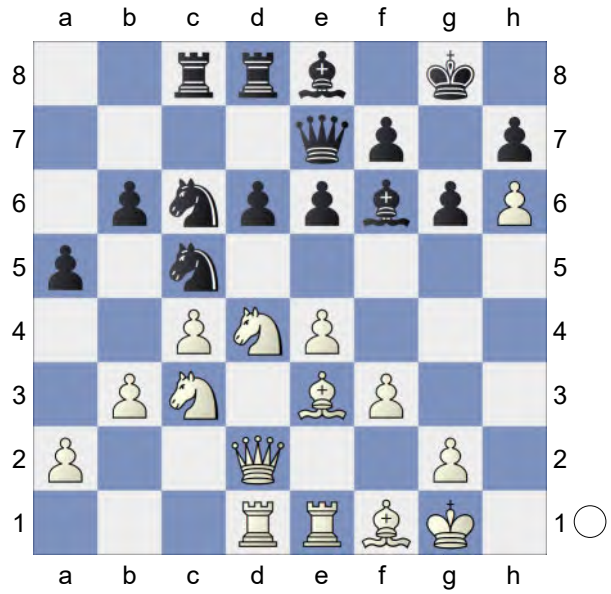
[White should try 27.Nab5± 0.97/19]

27...Bf6 28.Nc2 Red8 0.96/18

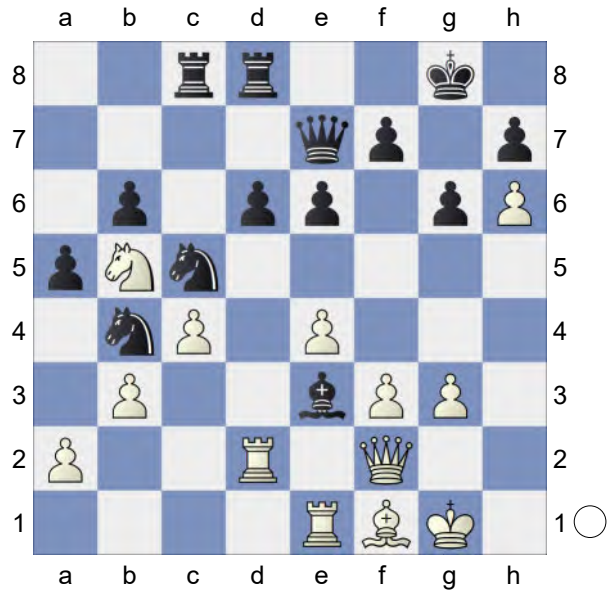
[28...Be5± 0.58/17]

29.Nd4 Be8 30.Rcd1 Nc6 1.09/20

[⌓30...Bh4 0.75/16]

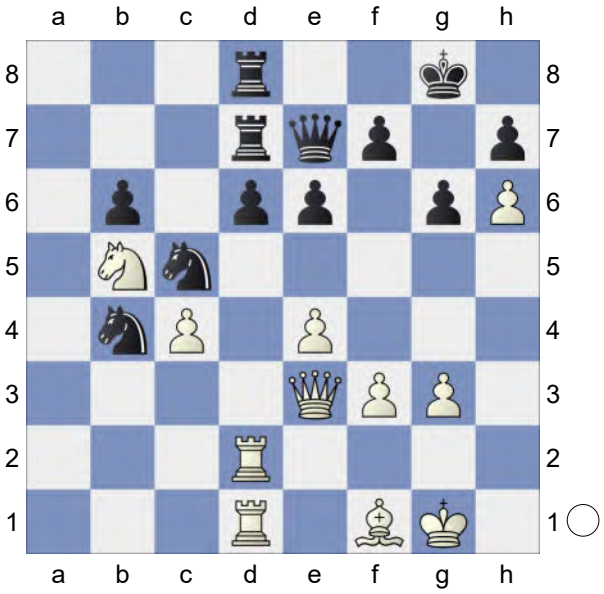


31.Ndb5 0.21/19
[31.Nd5!± 1.09/20 exd5 32.Nxc6 Bxc6 33.exd5]
31...Nb4 0.74/16
[31...Bh4!= 0.21/19 remains equal.]
32.Qf2 Bxb5 33.Nxb5 Bh4 34.g3 Bg5 35.Rd2 Bxe3 1.24/20
[Black should play 35...Rd7 0.71/19]



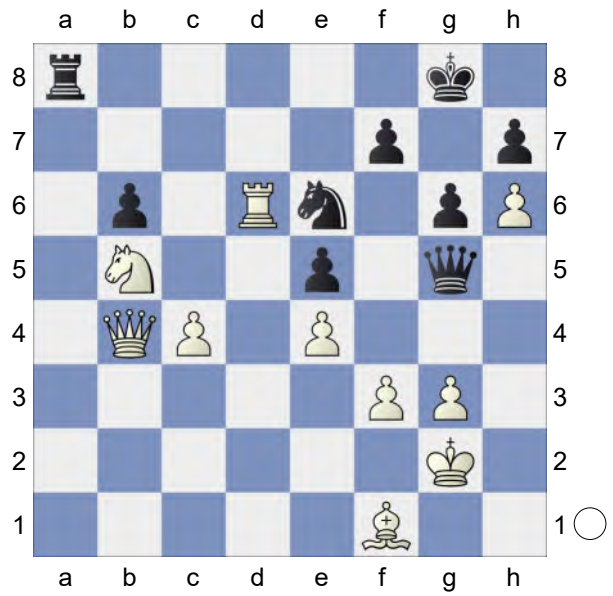
36.Qxe3 Rd7 37.Red1 Rcd8 38.a3 Nc6 39.b4 axb4 40.axb4→
Remove Defender. Black is in trouble.

[40.Nd4 Nxd4 41.Qxd4 e5-+]
40...Nxb4 2.32/21
[40...Na6± 0.71/20]

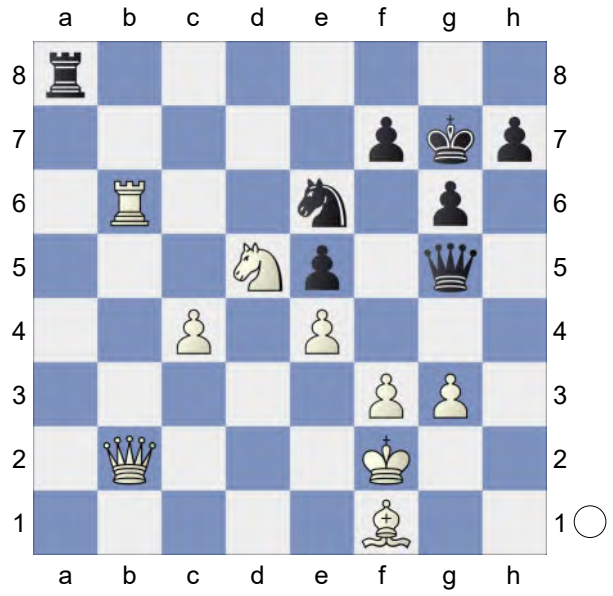


41.Qc3+- e5 42.Qxb4 Threatens to win with Bh3. **42...Qg5 43.Kg2**
[43.Rxd6 Rxd6 44.Nxd6 *(44.Rxd6 Rxd6 45.Nxd6 Qxg3+ 46.Bg2 Qg5±)* 44...Ra8+-]
[43.Nxd6 Nb7 44.Kf2 Qe7 45.Nxb7 *(45.c5 bxc5 46.Qxb7 Rxb7±)* 45...Qxb4+-]
43...Ne6 44.Rxd6 1.65/23
[⌓44.Nxd6 2.83/21 Nd4 45.Rxd4 *(45.Nb5 Nc2=)* 45...exd4 46.Rxd4]
44...Rxd6? 3.58/23
[44...Nf4+ 1.65/23 was called for. 45.Kf2 Nh5]
45.Rxd6
[45.Nxd6 Nf4+ 46.Kf2 Nh5+-]
45...Ra8 5.63/22
[45...Rf8 3.06/22 keeps fighting. 46.Qd2 Qh5]

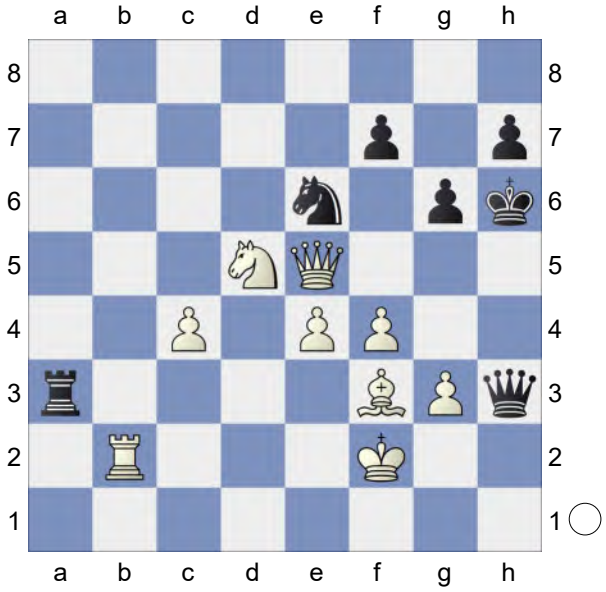
(Diagram)



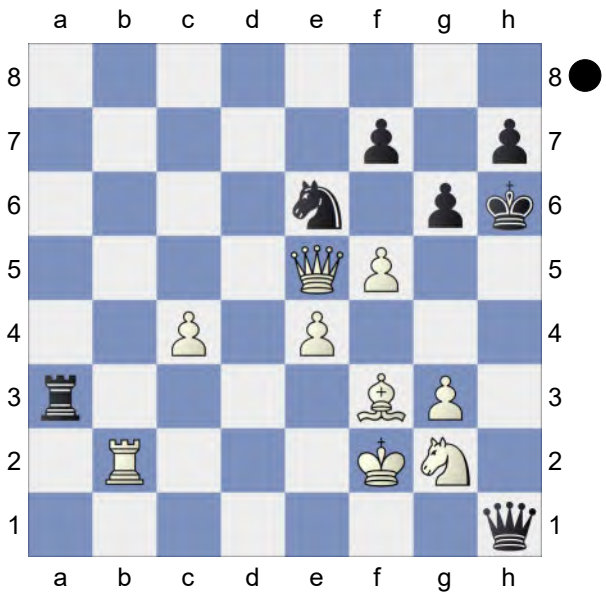
46.Qb2 2.61/24
[⌓46.Qd2 5.63/22]
46...Qxh6 47.Nc3
[47.Rxb6 Ng5±]
47...Qg5 48.Nd5 Nf4+ 49.Kf2 Ne6 4.10/23
[49...Nh5 2.39/22]
50.Rxb6 Kg7? 9.64/21
[50...h5 3.75/23 51.Rb7 Rd8]



51.f4 Qg4 52.Qxe5+ Kh6 53.Be2 Qh3 54.Bf3 3.81/27
[⌓54.Ne3 9.16/24 White wants to mate with Nf5+! Qh2+ 55.Ng2 *(55.Ke1 Qxg3+ 56.Kd2 Ra2+ 57.Rb2 Rxb2+ 58.Qxb2 Qxf4+-)*]
54...Ra2+ 55.Rb2 Ra3 9.21/23
[⌓55...Qh2+ 5.04/24 56.Bg2 Nc5 57.Qg5+ Kg7 58.Qf6+ Kh6]

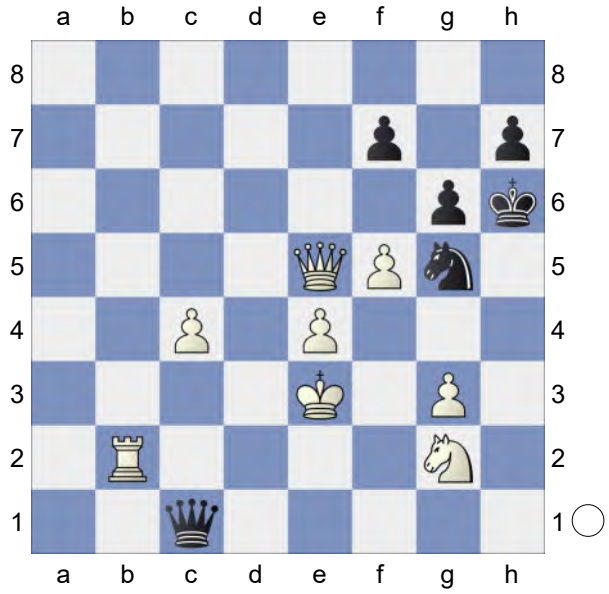


56.Ne3 Nf5+! would kill now. **56...Qh2+ 57.Ng2 Qh1 58.f5??** -1.87/21
[58.g4+- 9.15/21 Rxf3+ 59.Kxf3 Qd1+ 60.Kg3]



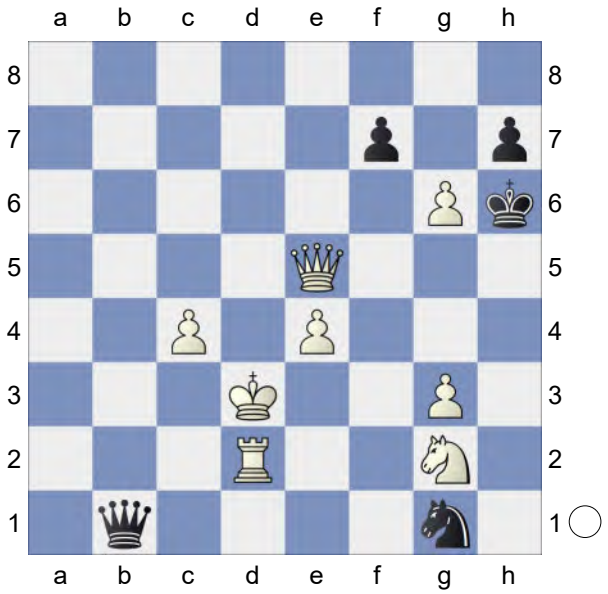
58...Rxf3+?? 5.88/5 **59.Kxf3 Ng5+**

60.Ke3 And now fxg6 would win.
60...Qc1+

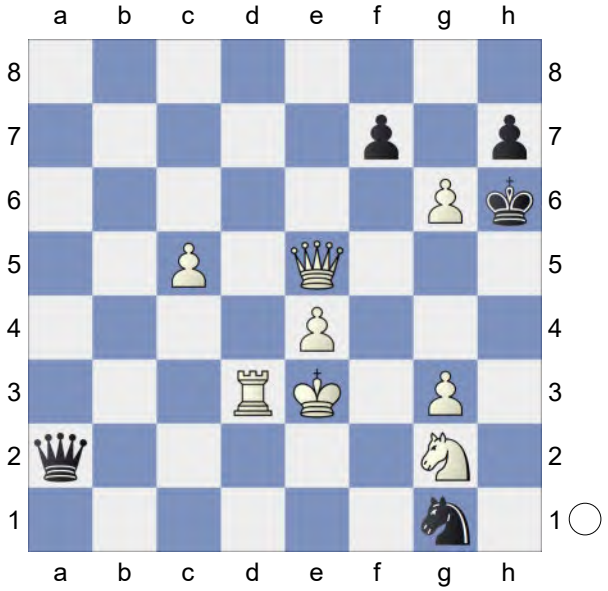


61.Rd2 Qa3+ 6.56/23
[⌓61...Qxd2+ 4.10/21 62.Kxd2 Nf3+ 63.Kd3 Nxe5+ 64.Kd4 Nc6+ 65.Kc5 Ne5]
62.Kf2 Nh3+ 63.Ke2 Black must now prevent Ne3. **63...Qc1 64.fxg6 Ng1+ 65.Kd3** 3.69/21
[⌓65.Kf2 8.44/24 Threatening mate with Qf4+. Nh3+ 66.Ke3 Qa3+ 67.Rd3 Qc1+ 68.Kd4 Qa1+ 69.Rc3 Qa7+ 70.c5 Qa4+ 71.Ke3]
65...Qb1+? 19.00/20
[65...Qxd2+ 3.69/21 66.Kxd2 Nf3+ 67.Kc3 Nxe5 68.gxf7 Nxf7]

(Diagram)



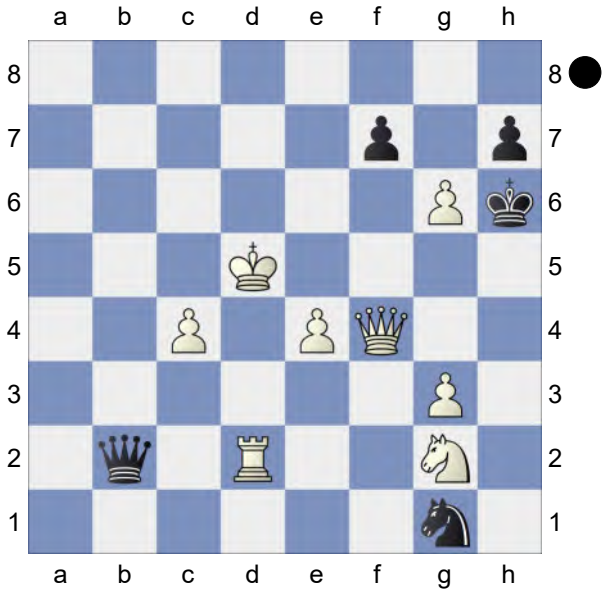
66.Kd4?? -5.42/20
[66.Ke3+- 19.00/20 is the narrow road to win. White threatens Qf4+ and mate. Qb6+ 67.c5 Qb3+ 68.Rd3 Qa2



69.gxf7! Qe2+ 70.Kf4 Nh3+ 71.Kf5]
66...Qb3?? #11/20
[66...Nf3+-+ -5.42/20 67.Kc5 *(67.Kd5? Qb7+ 68.Kd6 Qb8+ 69.Kc5 Qc8+ 70.Kb4 Nxe5-+)* 67...Nxe5 68.gxf7 Kg7]
67.Kd5 12.04/24
[⌓67.Qf4+ #11/20 Kg7 68.Qxf7+

Kh6 69.Qxh7+ Kg5 70.Qe7+ Kh6 71.Qf8+ Kg5 72.g7]

67...Qb2 68.Qf4+



Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/ Black=0.37

1-0

41 **B54**

☐ **Ukrchess Org Ua** **2941**

■ **Dont Blunder** **2822**

Blitz 03.08.2021

[Kitty Kat]

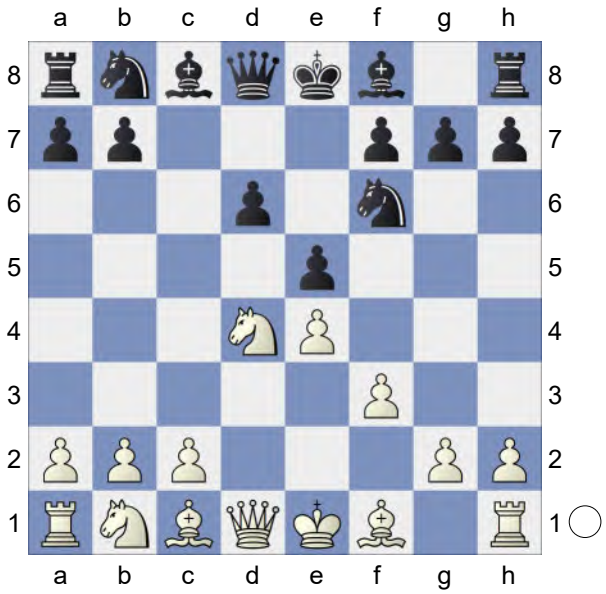
Blitz 3min

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

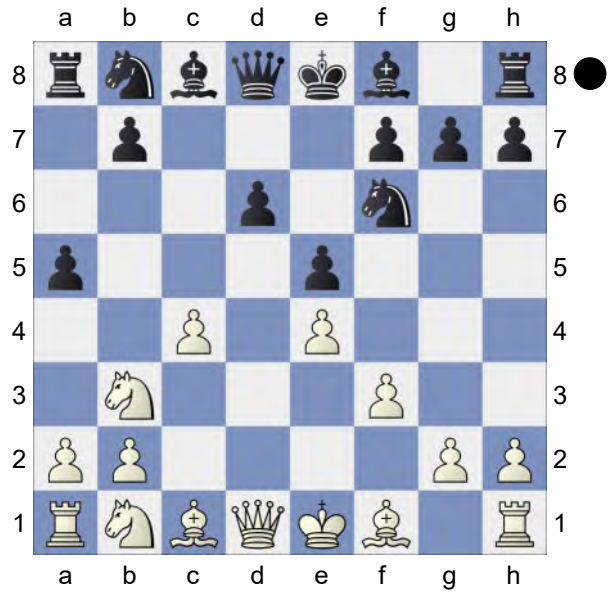
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

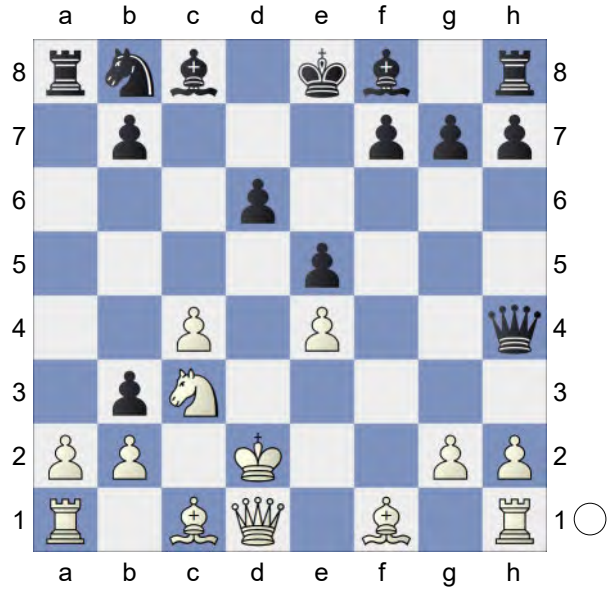


6.Nb3 a5 7.c4 -0.30/18

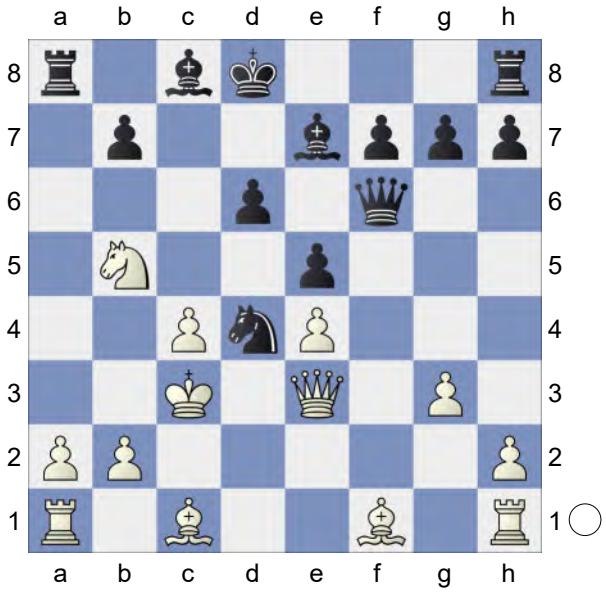
[White should try 7.Bb5+± 0.32/16 Bd7 8.Bxd7+ Nbxd7 9.a4]



7...Nxe4!= 8.fxe4
[8.Be3 Nf6]
8...Qh4+ Black is slightly better. **9.Kd2 a4! 10.Nc3! axb3**

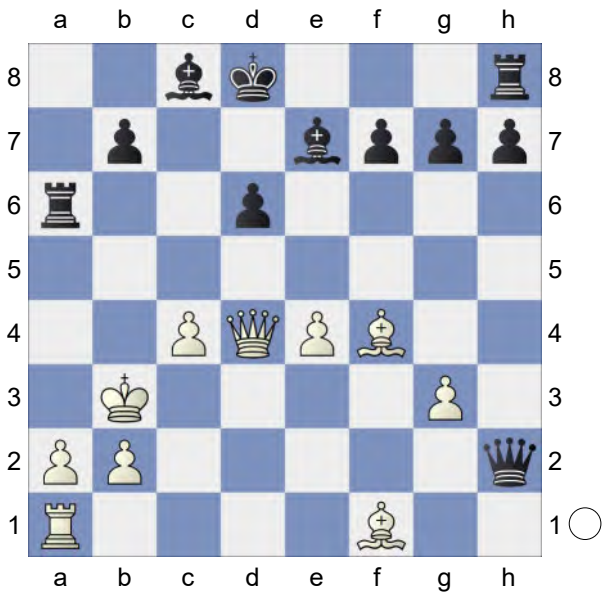


11.Qxb3 Nc6 -0.10/17
[11...Qf2+∓ -0.48/18 12.Kd3 d5 13.Nxd5 *(13.Be3? dxe4+ 14.Nxe4 Qf5-+)* 13...Na6]
12.Nb5 Threatens to win with Nc7+.
[12.g3!? Nd4 13.Qb5+ Nxb5 14.gxh4 Nxc3 15.Kxc3=]
12...Kd8 0.16/17 Inhibits Nc7.
[12...Qf2+∓ -0.37/17 13.Be2 Qxg2]
13.Qe3 Be7 Really sharp! **14.Kc3 Nd4 15.g3** -0.71/19
[15.Nxd4= -0.23/17 exd4+ 16.Kxd4 *(16.Qxd4? Bf6-+)*]
15...Qf6 -0.40/18
[15...Qg4∓ -0.71/19 aiming for ...Qd1. 16.Bd3 *(16.Nxd4? exd4+ 17.Kxd4 Bf6+ 18.Kd3 Qd1+ 19.Qd2 Qf3+ 20.Kc2 Qxe4+ 21.Kb3 Qf3+ 22.Qd3 Qxh1-+)* 16...Nxb5+ 17.cxb5 Be6]

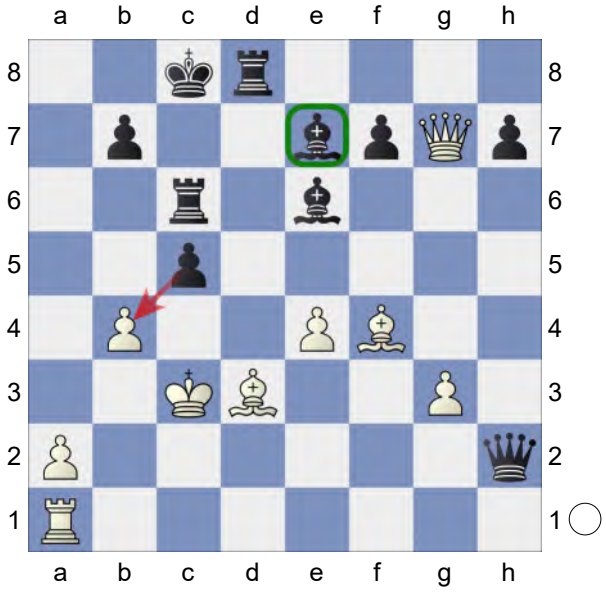


&Nero is more active. **16.Nxd4** -1.86/19 This costs White the game.
[16.Be2∓ -0.40/18]
16...exd4+-+ 17.Qxd4 Qf3+ 18.Kc2 -3.27/18
[⌓18.Bd3 -2.17/17 Qxh1 19.Qxg7]
18...Qxh1 19.Bf4 Qxh2+ 20.Kb3 Ra6

(Diagram)

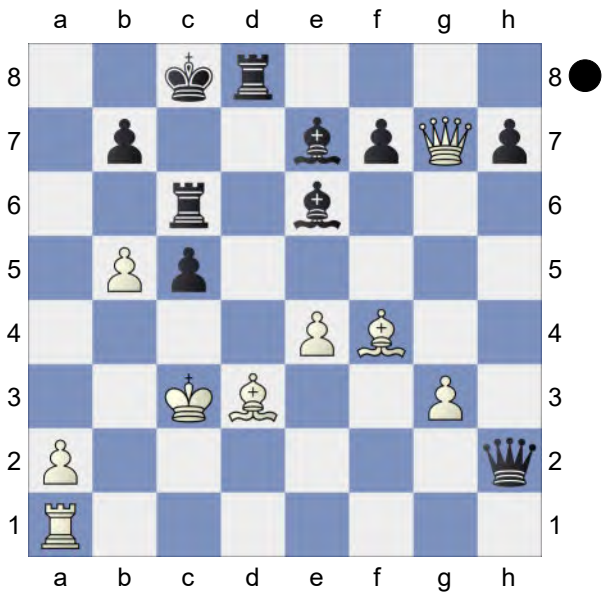


21.c5 -6.94/19
[⌓21.Rd1 -4.27/17]
21...Be6+ 22.Kc3 Rc6 23.b4 Kc8 24.Qxg7 Rd8 ...Qf2 is the strong threat.
25.Bd3 dxc5

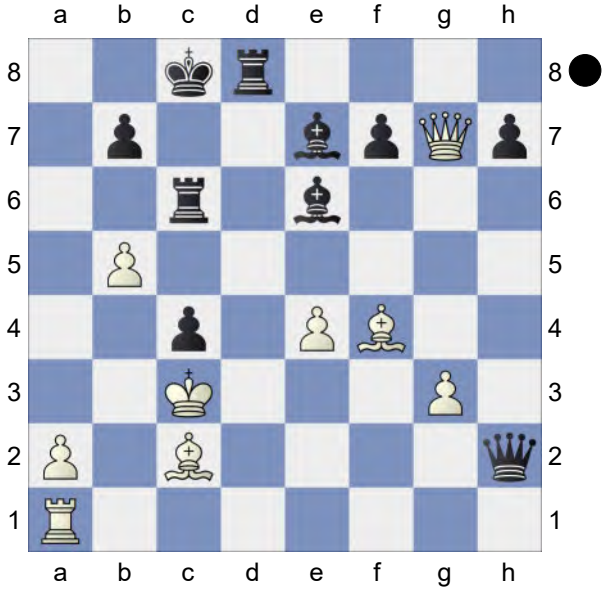


26.b5

(Diagram)

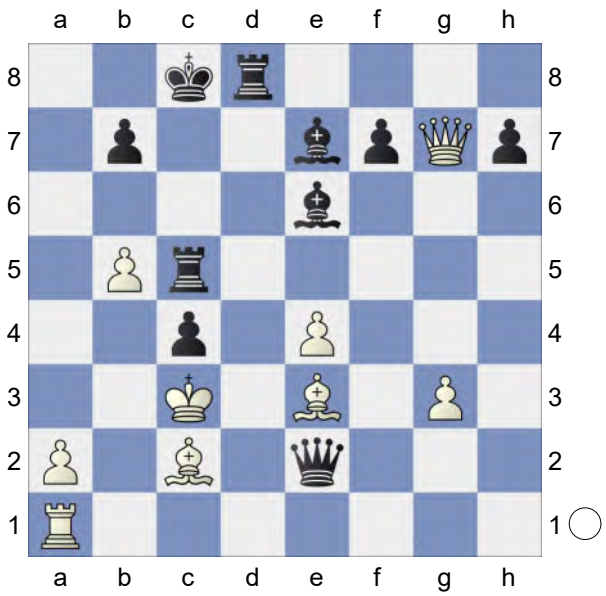


c4! 27.Bc2



Rc5 -20.81/18
[⌓27...Rd3+! -#6/14 28.Bxd3 cxd3+ 29.Kd4 Rc4+ 30.Kxd3 Qc2+ 31.Ke3 Rxe4+ 32.Kf3 Qe2#]
28.Be3 Qe2

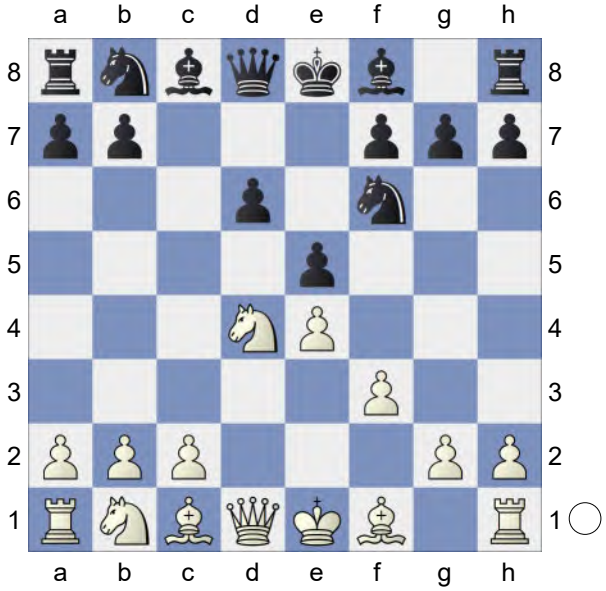
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.94/ Black=0.11 (very precise)
0-1

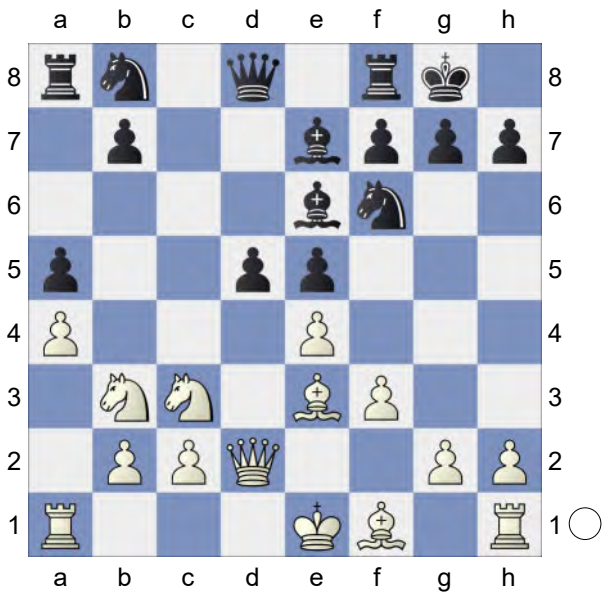
42 **B54**
□ **Toomanymanoevres** **2939**
■ **Bulletcoach** **2720**
Blitz 15.12.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
Vallejo Pons,F: 'Inf 95/(51)' **1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.f3 c5 4.Ne2**
[4.c3 e6 5.Be3 Qb6 6.Qd2 Nc6 7.dxc5 dxc5 8.Na3 Be7 9.0-0-0 0-0 10.Qf2 e5 11.Kb1 Na5 12.Nh3 Qc6 13.Nc4 Nxc4 14.Bxc4 b5 15.Bd5 Nxd5 16.exd5 Qc7 17.Ng5 Bf5+ 18.Ka1 c4 Vallejo Pons,F (2677)-Peralta,F (2556) Albox (rapid) 95/(51) 2005 CI1-130 [Vallejo Pons,Francisco] (36)]
[4.dxc5 Qa5+ 5.Nc3 Qxc5 6.Qd3 a6 7.Be3 Qa5 8.Nge2 Nbd7 9.Nd4 e6 10.g4 h6 11.h4 b5 12.Rg1 d5 13.g5 hxg5 14.hxg5 dxe4 15.Qd2 Nd5 16.Nb3 Qb4 17.a3 Qd6 18.Nxe4 Qc7 Chapter 15 9.Qe2 Be7 , 1-C42 16.Nbd2 Qa7 17.Nd4_343875 2013 The Open Spanish [Victor Mikhalevski]]
4...cxd4N
[4...e6 5.Be3 d5 6.dxc5 Nbd7 7.Nbc3 dxe4 8.b4 a5 *(8...b6 9.c6 Bxb4 10.cxd7+ Bxd7 3.f3)* 9.a3 exf3 10.gxf3 Be7 11.Bg2 0-0 12.0-0 Ne5 De Sa,E-Salnikov,V Vladimir 200 Traps In The Opening [John Watson]]
5.Nxd4 e5

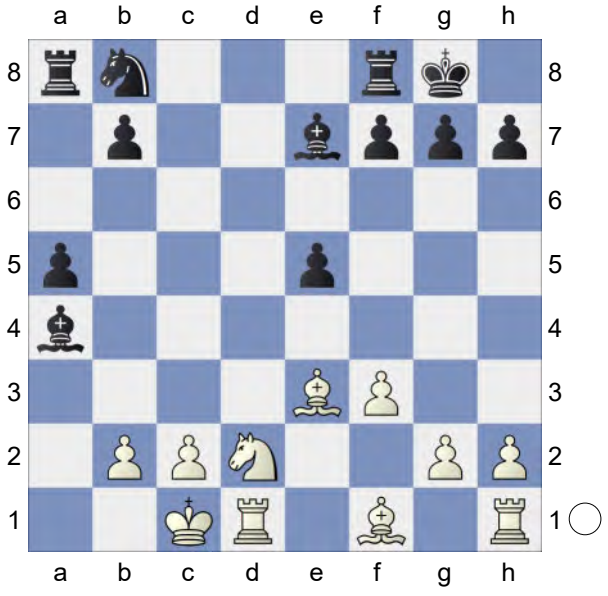


6.Nb3 a5 7.a4 Be7 8.Nc3 Be6 The position is equal. **9.Be3 0-0 10.Qd2 d5** 0.64/22
[10...Na6= 0.22/21 should be considered.]

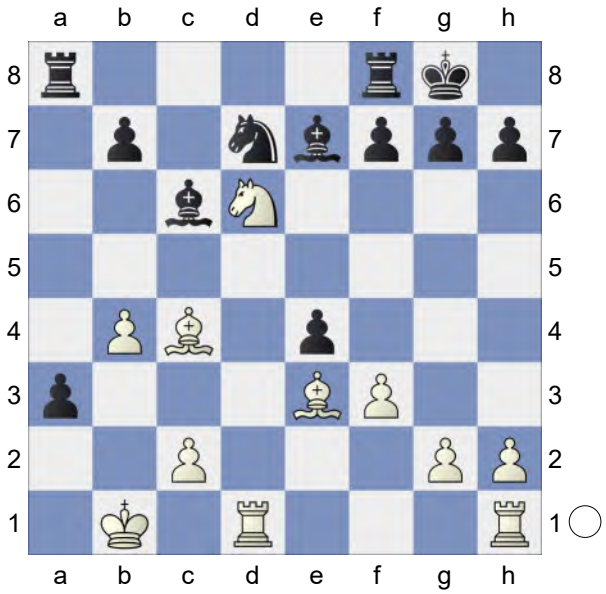
(Diagram)



11.exd5± Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 13.Qxd5 Bxd5 14.0-0-0 Bc6 0.92/20
[14...Be6!± 0.61/21 might be stronger.]
15.Nd2 -0.45/20
[15.Bb5± 0.92/20]
15...Bxa4∓

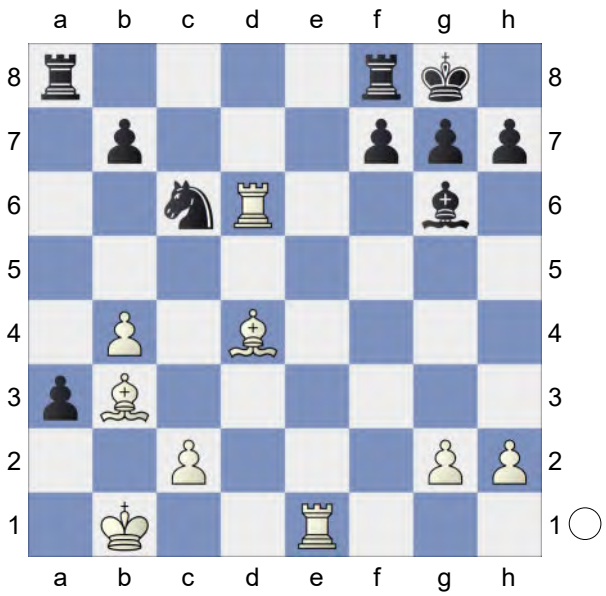


16.Nc4 Nb6 is the strong threat.
16...Nd7 17.Nd6 Prevents Rfc8.
17...Bc6 18.Bc4 a4 19.Kb1 a3 20.b4 Threatens to win with b5. **20...e4?** 1.11/22
[20...Ba4∓ -0.52/20]

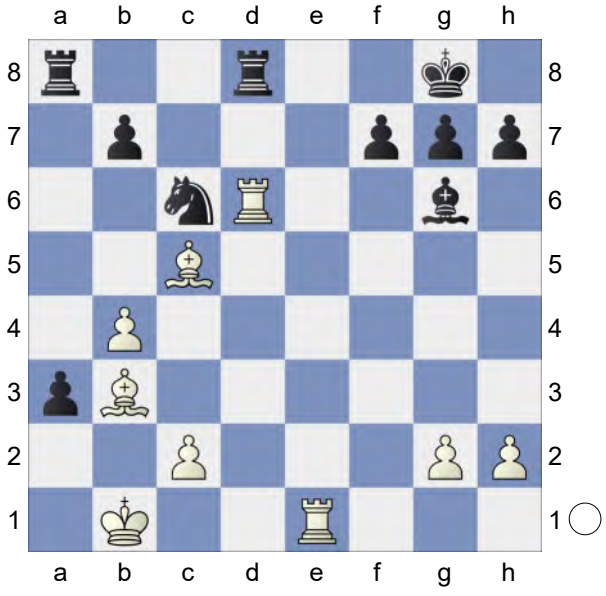


21.fxe4? -1.02/23 &Bianco is much more active.
[21.b5± 1.11/22 keeps the pressure on.]
21...Ne5 -0.71/22
[⌓21...Ra4 -1.02/23 22.c3 Ne5]
22.Bb3∓ Bxd6 0.01/21
[Black should play 22...Rfd8∓ -0.54/21 23.b5 Bxd6 24.bxc6 a2+ 25.Bxa2 bxc6]
23.Rxd6= Bxe4 24.Re1 -0.32/20
[24.Ka2= -0.01/20]
24...Bg6 0.95/22
[24...Bxg2∓ -0.32/20 keeps the upper hand. 25.Bf2 Nf3]
25.Bd4 0.57/21
[25.Bc5± 0.95/22 Nc6 26.Rd7]
25...Nc6±

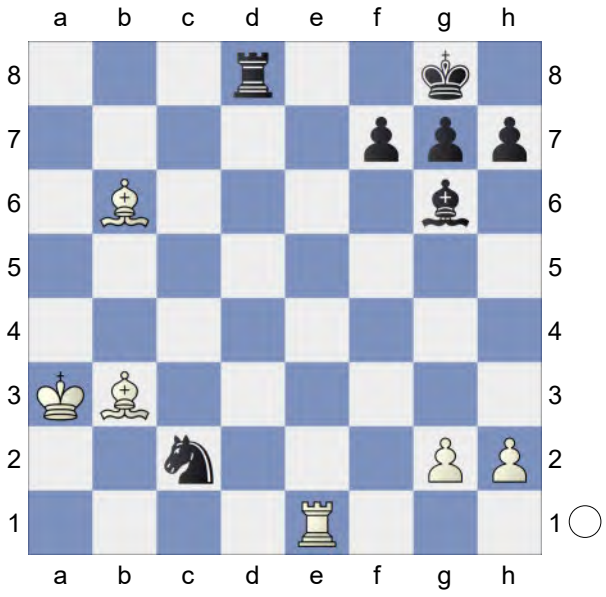
(Diagram)



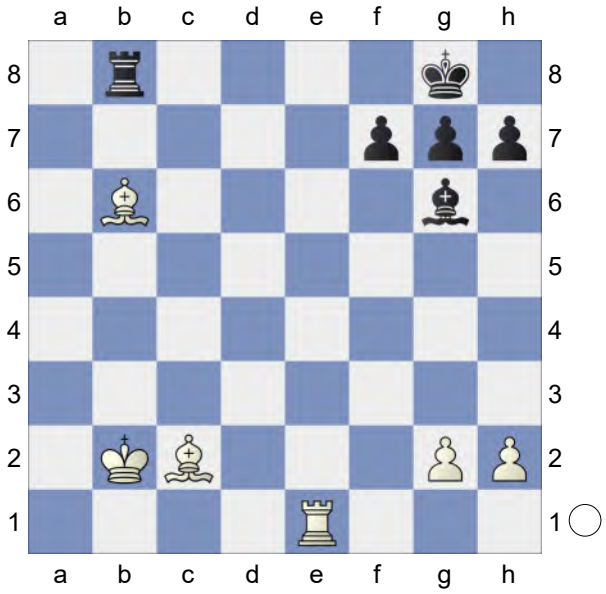
26.Bc5 -0.01/22 A strong pair of Bishops.
[26.Bc3± 0.48/21]
26...Rfd8? 2.61/22
[26...Rfc8!= -0.01/22 and Black is okay.]



27.Rxd8+!+- Rxd8 28.Ka2? 0.71/21
[28.b5+- 2.63/22 and the rest is easy.]
28...b6? 3.04/24
[28...h5± 0.71/21 was worth a try.]
29.Bxb6 White has a decisive advantage. **29...Nxb4+ 30.Kxa3 Nxc2+**

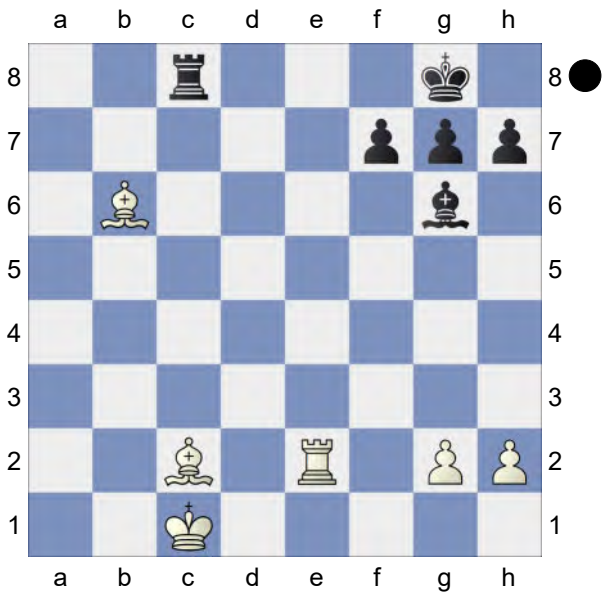


31.Bxc2 Ra8+ 32.Kb2 Rb8



33.Kc1! Rc8
[33...f6 34.Bxg6]
34.Re2

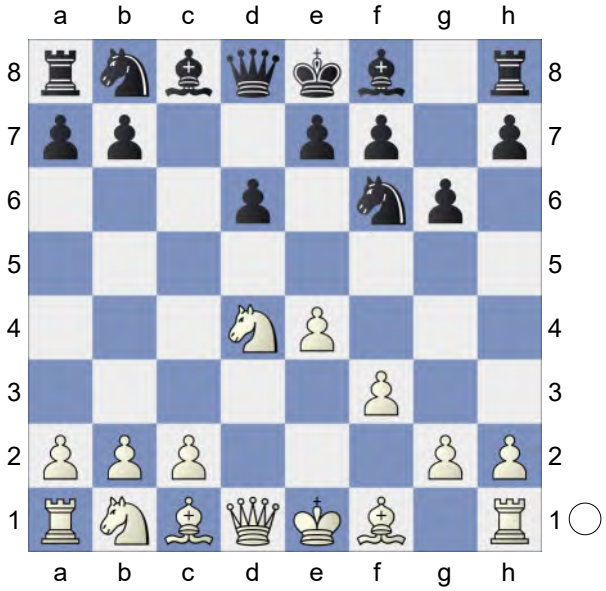
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.43/ Black=0.61
1-0

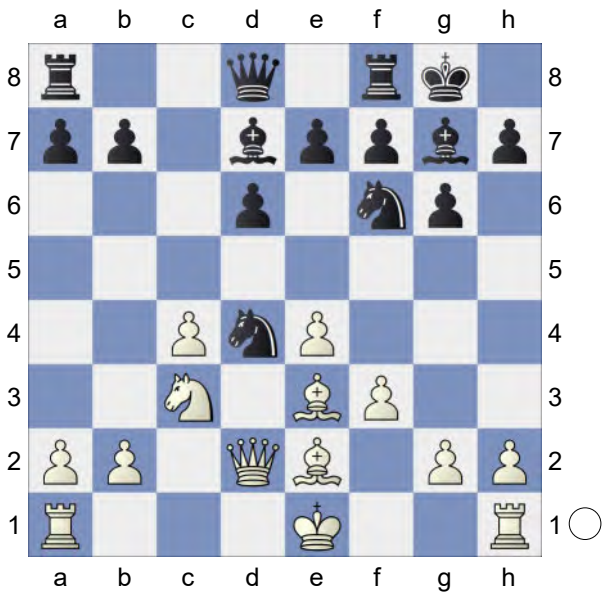
43 **B38**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2938**
■ **Doreality** **2731**
Blitz 17.05.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B38: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind with 5...Bg7 and 7...0-0
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 g6N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/ Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/ Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

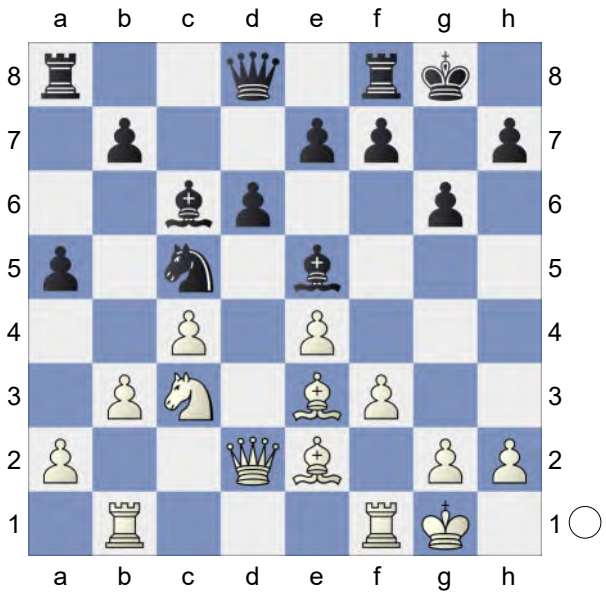


6.c4 Bg7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Nc3 Bd7 10.Be2 Nxd4

(Diagram)



11.Bxd4 Bc6 12.0-0 Nd7 13.Be3 a5 14.b3 Nc5 15.Rab1 Be5



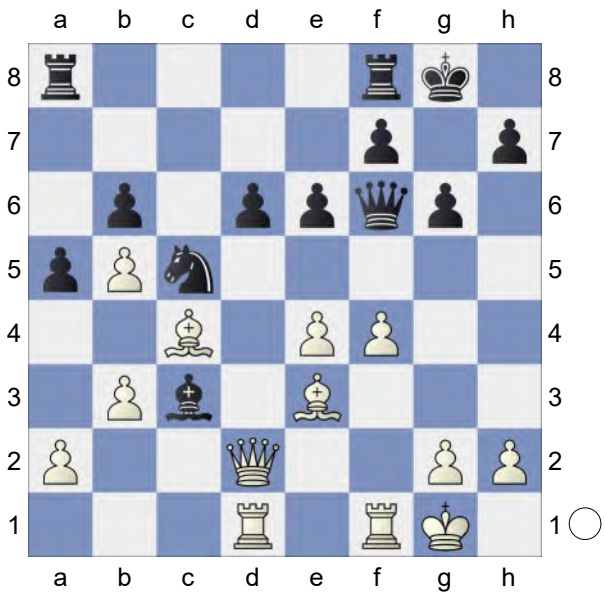
16.Nb5 Bxb5 17.cxb5 b6 White is better. **18.Bc4 e6 19.Rbd1** Hoping for f4. **19...Qf6** 1.81/21

[19...Qh4 20.f4 Nxe4 21.Qc2±]

[19...Ra7!± 0.63/16]

20.f4+- Bc3

(Diagram)

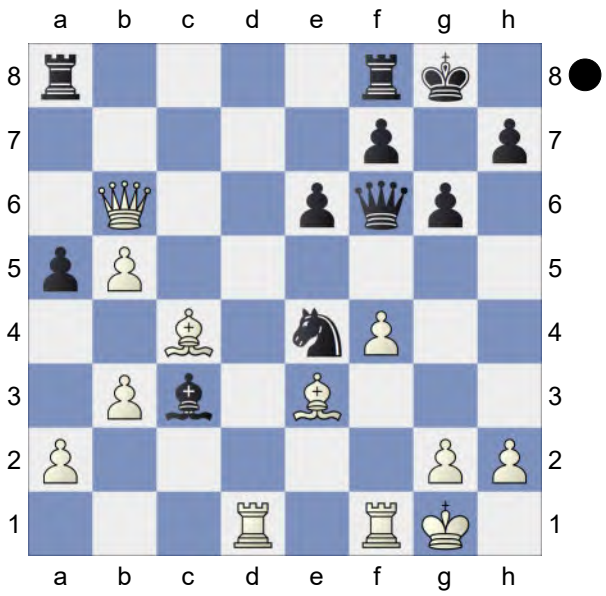


21.Qxd6 Nxe4 3.25/22

[⌓21...Rab8 1.91/19 22.e5 *(22.Bxc5 bxc5 23.e5 Qf5+-)* 22...Qf5 23.Bxc5 bxc5 24.Qxc5 Rbd8 25.Bxe6 Qxe6]

22.Qxb6? 0.83/20

[22.Qc6+- 3.25/22 and the rest is easy.]



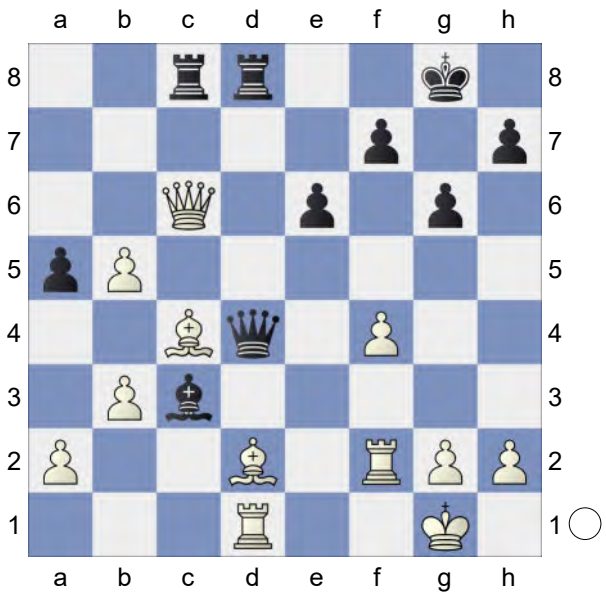
22...Rfd8? 5.01/23

[22...Rad8± 0.83/20 is tougher.]

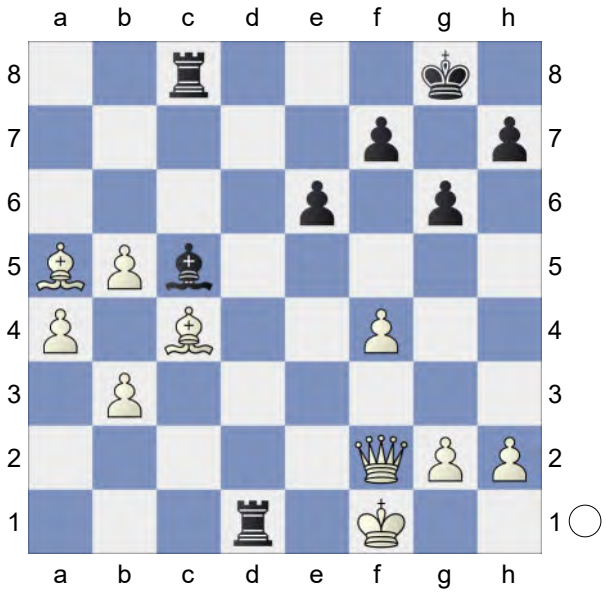
23.Qc6 Nd2 24.Bxd2

[24.Rxd2 Bxd2 25.Bxd2 Rac8=]

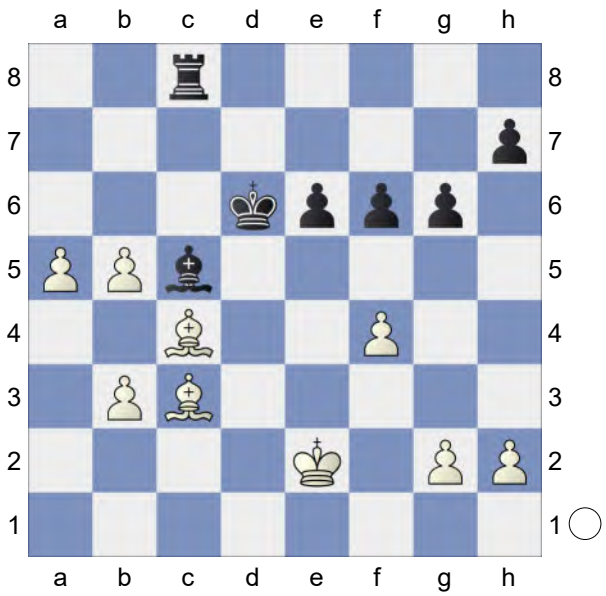
24...Qd4+ 25.Rf2 Rac8



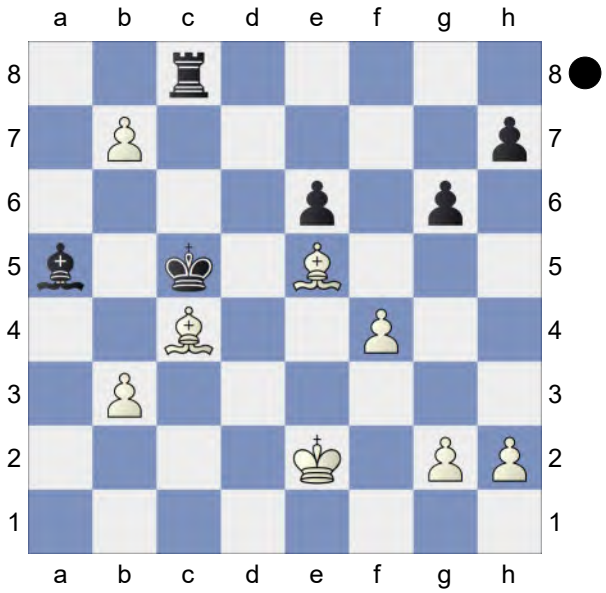
26.Qf3 Bb4 27.Kf1 Bc5 28.a4 Rd6
29.Bxa5? 1.60/22 **Qxf2+** 2.38/5
[29...Qxd1+± 1.60/22 was called for. 30.Qxd1 Rxd1+ 31.Be1 *(31.Ke2 Rg1±)* 31...Bxf2 32.Kxf2 Kf8]
30.Qxf2 Rxd1+



31.Qe1!! **Rxe1+** **32.Kxe1** Endgame Bc3 is the strong threat. KRB-KB
32...Kf8 **33.Ke2** **Ke7** **34.Bc3** This bishop pair is nice. **34...f6** 3.98/18
[34...Rg8 2.81/19 might work better. 35.a5 g5]
35.a5 Kd6



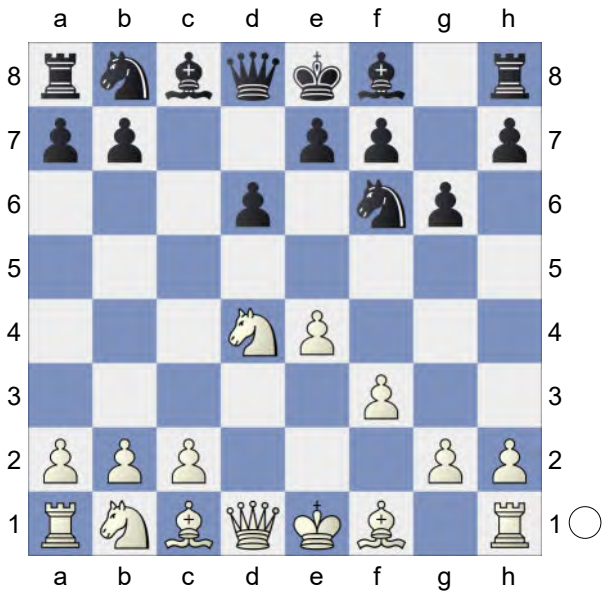
36.Bxf6 White is clearly winning.
36...Bb4 37.Be5+ Kc5 38.b6
[Not 38.Bxe6 Re8 39.Bc4 Bxa5±]
38...Bxa5 9.69/24
[⌓38...Kc6 4.28/23 39.Ba6 *(39.Bxe6 Re8±)* 39...Rf8]
39.b7



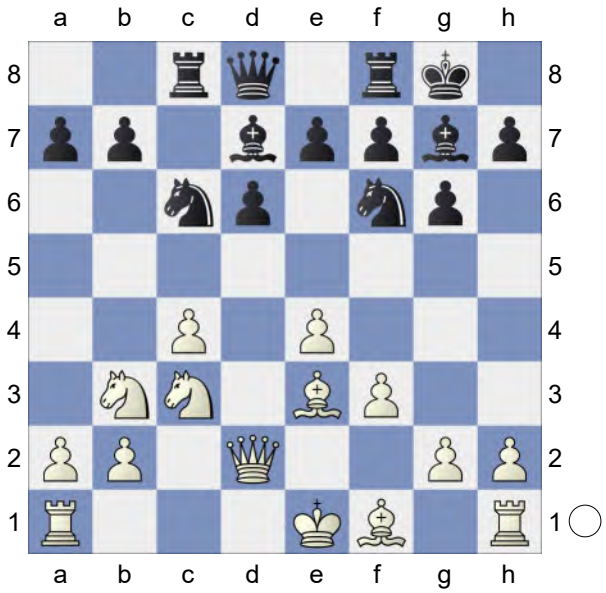
Black got outplayed after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.65/ Black=0.75
1-0

44 **B54**
□ **Zubov,Alexander** **2938**
■ **Piotr35** **2742**
Blitz 13.01.2020
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B38: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind with 5...Bg7 and 7...0-0
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 g6N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

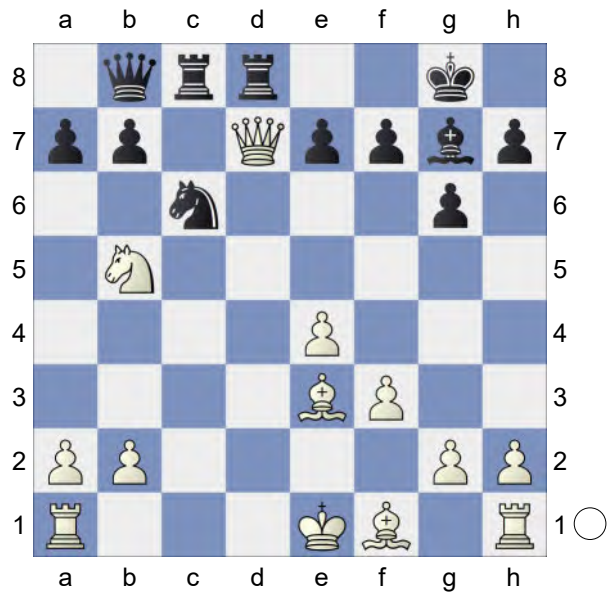


6.c4 Bg7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 Nc6 9.Qd2 Bd7 10.Nb3 0.01/18
[10.Be2± 0.39/16 feels stronger.]
10...Rc8

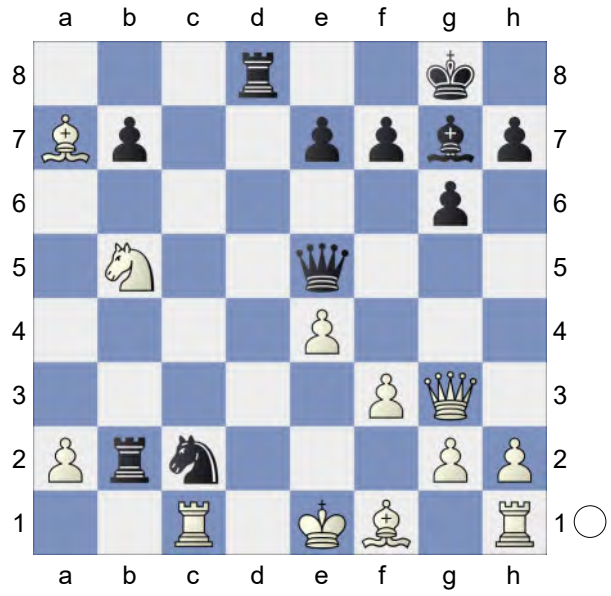


11.c5 dxc5 12.Nxc5 The position is equal. **12...Qc7 13.Nb5 Qb8 14.Nxd7 Nxd7 15.Qxd7 Rfd8**

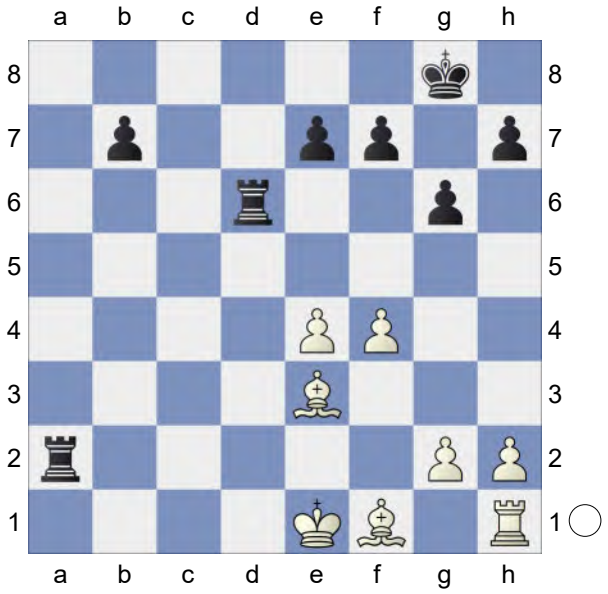
(Diagram)



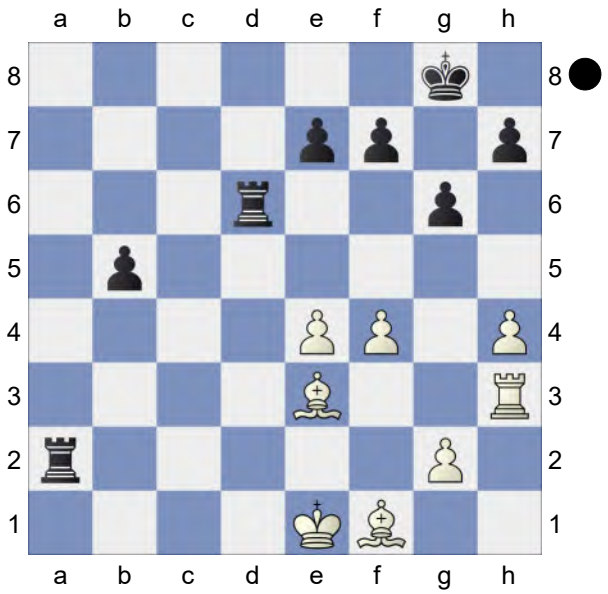
16.Qh3 -1.39/21
[White should play 16.Qg4∓ -0.33/21 a6 17.Nc3]
16...Nb4∓ 17.Bxa7? -2.76/22
[17.Kf2∓ -1.24/18 was necessary. a6 18.Nc3]
17...Qe5-+ 18.Rb1 Rc2 (-> ...Qf4)
19.Qg3 Inhibits Qf4. **19...Rxb2?** -0.80/20
[19...Qe6-+ -2.53/20 has better winning chances. 20.Na3 Qxa2]
20.Rc1∓ Nc2+



21.Rxc2 Rxc2→ Black attacks with force. **22.Qxe5 Bxe5 23.Be3 Rxa2**
Strongly threatening ...Rda8. **24.f4 Bd6**
25.Nxd6 Rxd6

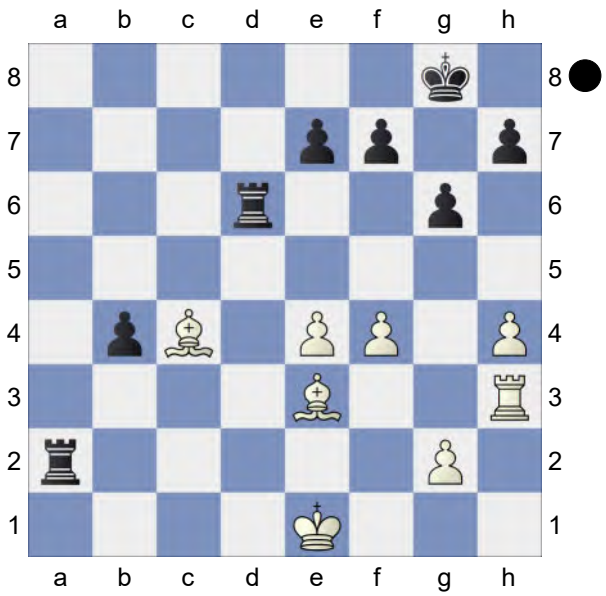


26.h4 b5 Black has strong compensation. **27.Rh3**

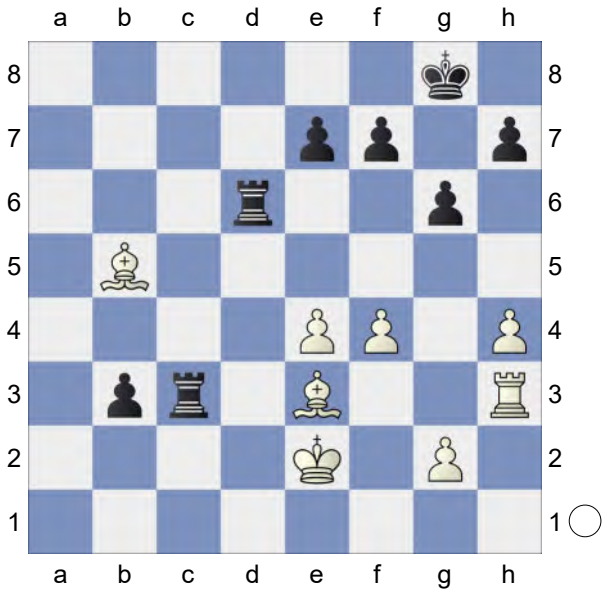


b4 28.Bc4

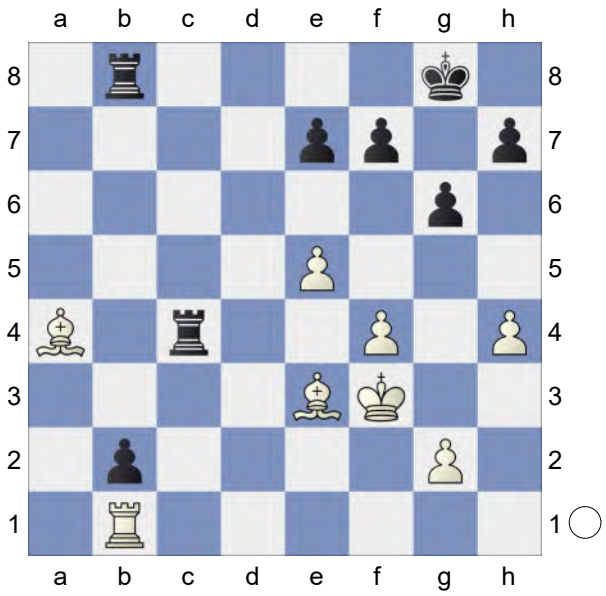
(Diagram)



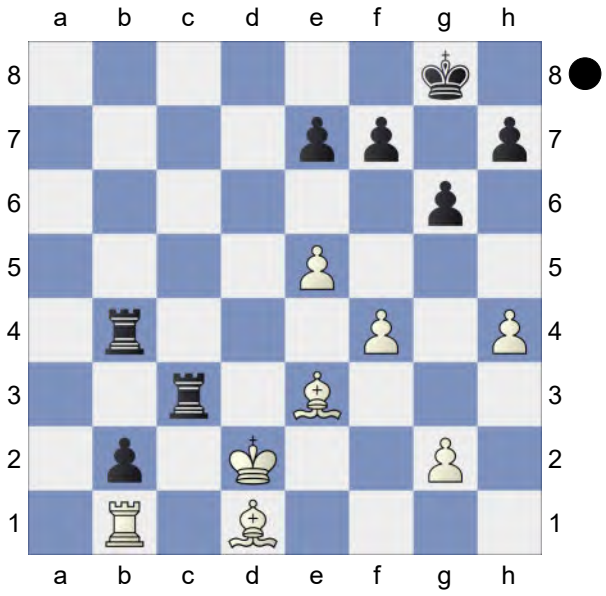
Ra3 29.Ke2 -1.98/21
[29.Bd2∓ -0.92/22]
29...Rc3-+ 30.Bb5 -2.14/23
[30.e5∓ -1.53/22 Rc2+ 31.Ke1]
30...b3 -1.14/21
[30...Rc2+-+ -2.14/23 31.Kf3 Rd1]



31.Rh1∓ Rc2+ 32.Kf3 b2 White must now prevent ...Rc3. **33.Rb1 Rd8 34.e5** -1.45/25
[Better is 34.Ba4 -0.99/21 Rc4 35.Bd1 *(35.Bb3? Rc3-+)*]
34...Rb8 -0.41/24
[34...Ra8∓ -1.45/25 Threatens to win with ...Ra1. 35.Bd3 Rc3]
35.Ba4!∓ Rc4



36.Bd1 Rc3 ...Ra3 is the strong threat.
37.Ke2 Rb4? 2.05/25
[37...Ra3∓ -0.32/21 keeps the upper hand.]
38.Kd2? -0.01/21
[38.Bd2+- 2.05/25 Re4+ 39.Kf2]

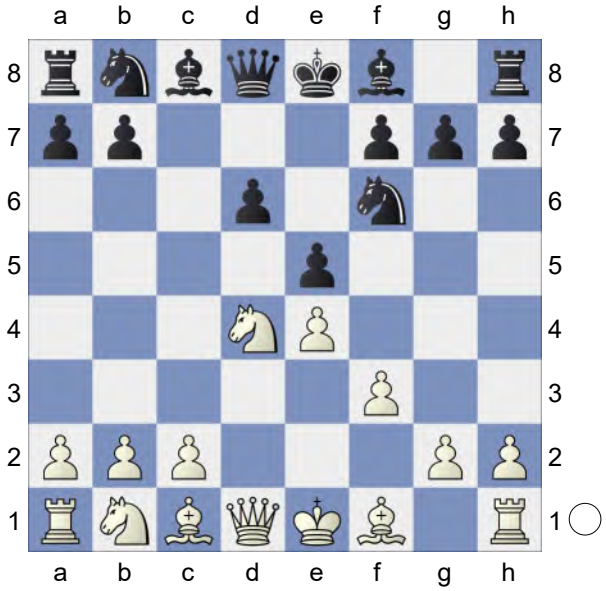


Weighted Error Value: White=0.26 (precise) /Black=0.34. Sensor Board

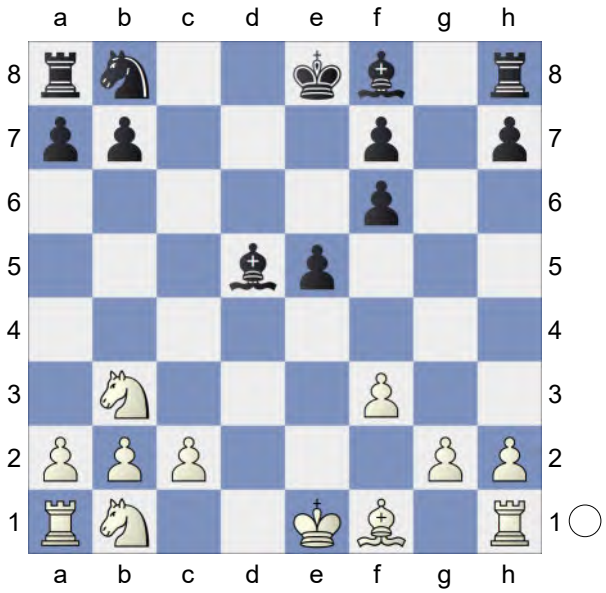
Error (Ke4/e5)?
1-0

45 **B54**
□ **Kacparov** **2938**
■ **Drawdenied Twitch** **2903**
Blitz 12.03.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

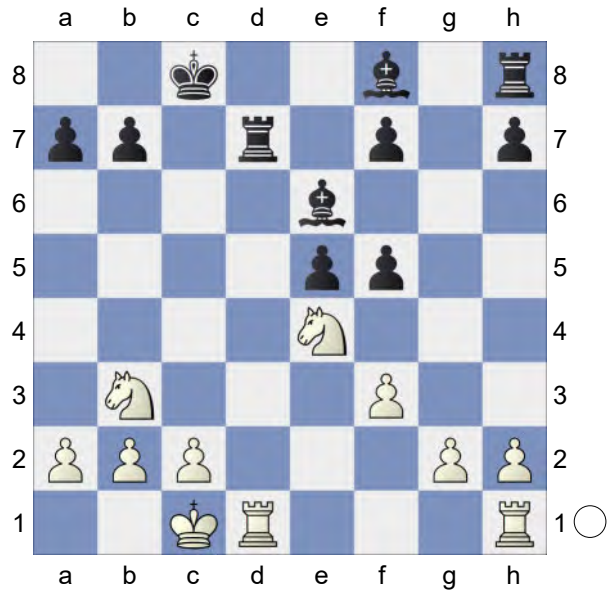


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Bxd5

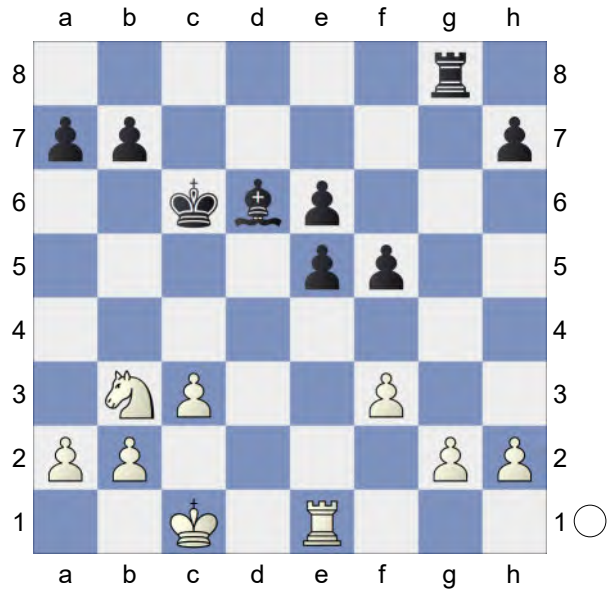


11.Nc3 Be6 12.0-0-0 Nd7 13.Bb5 -0.01/18
[13.Nb5!± 0.37/18]
13...0-0-0 14.Ne4 -0.41/19
[14.a3= -0.01/18]

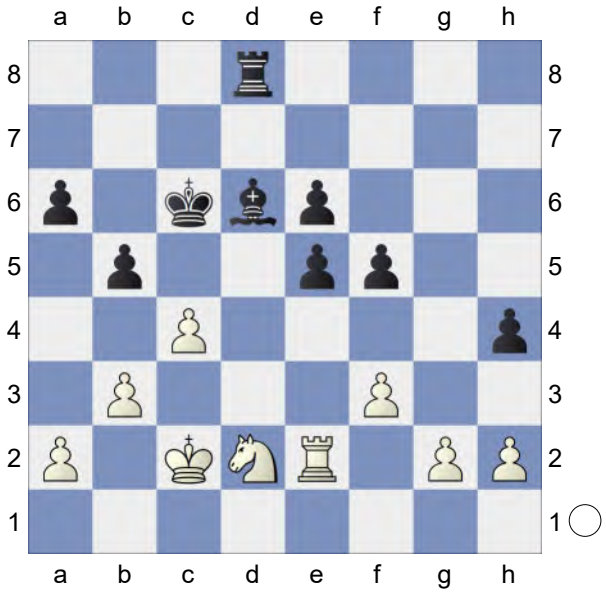
14...f5∓ 15.Bxd7+ Rxd7



16.Rxd7 Kxd7 -0.53/20
[16...Bxd7∓ -0.98/20 17.Nf6 Be6]
17.Nec5+ Kc6 18.Nxe6 fxe6
Endgame KRB-KRN **19.Re1 Bd6 20.c3 Rg8**

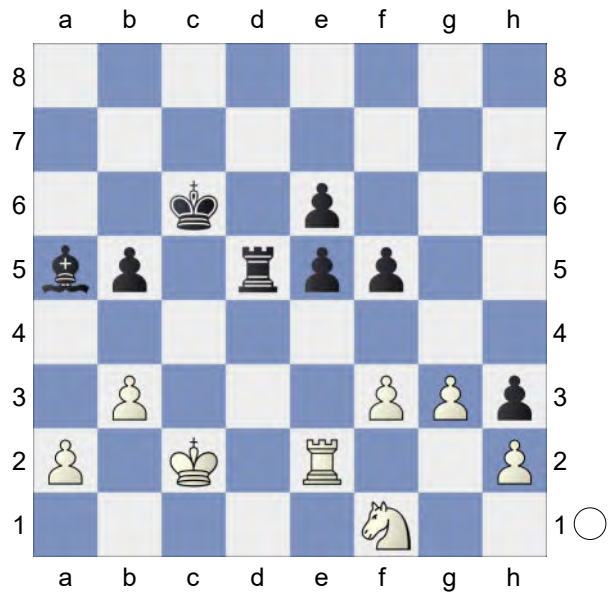


21.Re2 h5 22.Nd2 -0.45/21
[22.Na5+= -0.09/22 should be considered. Kc7 23.Nc4]
22...b5 23.Kc2 h4 24.c4 a6 25.b3 -1.18/20
[25.cxb5+∓ -0.53/19 axb5 26.Nb3]
25...Rd8 -0.42/18
[25...b4∓ -1.18/20]



26.Nf1 -1.35/20
[26.a3∓ -0.42/18]
26...Bc7 -0.79/21
[⌓26...bxc4 -1.35/20 27.bxc4 Kc5]
27.cxb5+∓ axb5
[Of course not 27...Kxb5 28.Nd2=]
28.g3 h3 29.Nd2 -1.43/20
[⌓29.g4 -0.87/19]
29...Ba5 -1.05/21
[Black should try 29...Ra8 -1.43/20 30.Kb1 Kd5]
30.Nf1 -1.41/20
[⌓30.a4 -1.05/21]
30...Rd5 -0.92/22
[⌓30...Kd6 -1.41/20 31.Kb2 Rc8]

(Diagram)



&Nero is more active. **31.Ne3 Rc5+ 32.Kd1 Bb6 33.Kd2** -1.27/20 Against Rc3

[Better is 33.g4 -0.80/21]

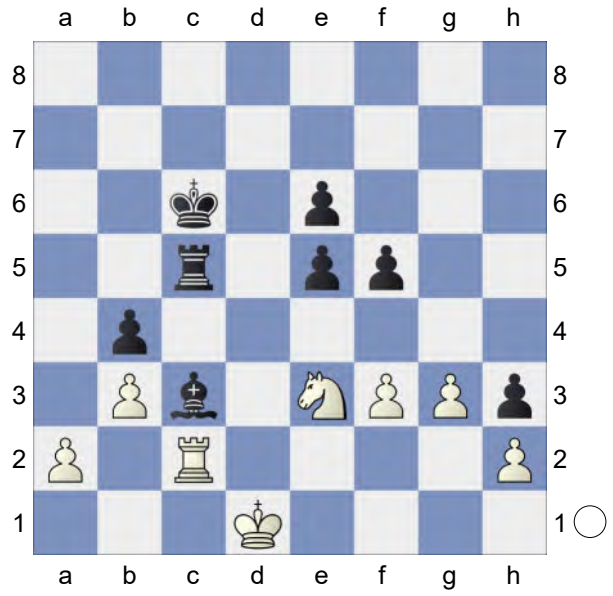
33...Ba5+ 0.01/20

[33...Kd6∓ -1.27/20 ...Ba5+ is the strong threat. 34.Nc2 Rc7]

34.Kd1= Bc3 -0.54/22

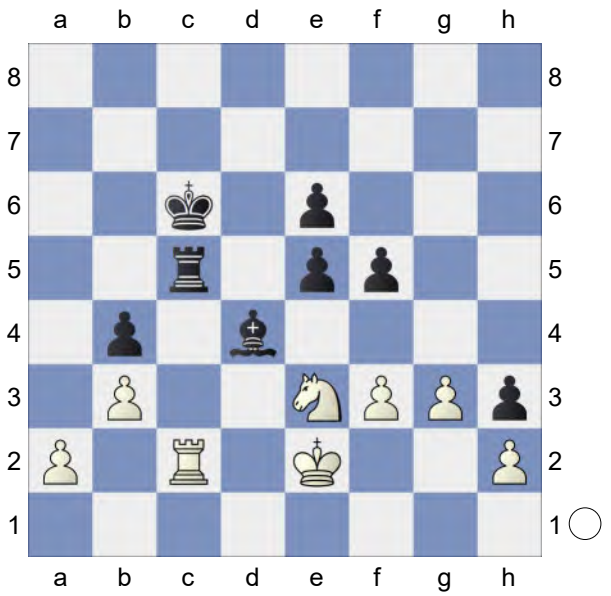
[34...Kd6∓ -0.92/22]

35.Rc2∓ Inhibits Rc3. **35...b4**



36.Ke2 Bd4

(Diagram)

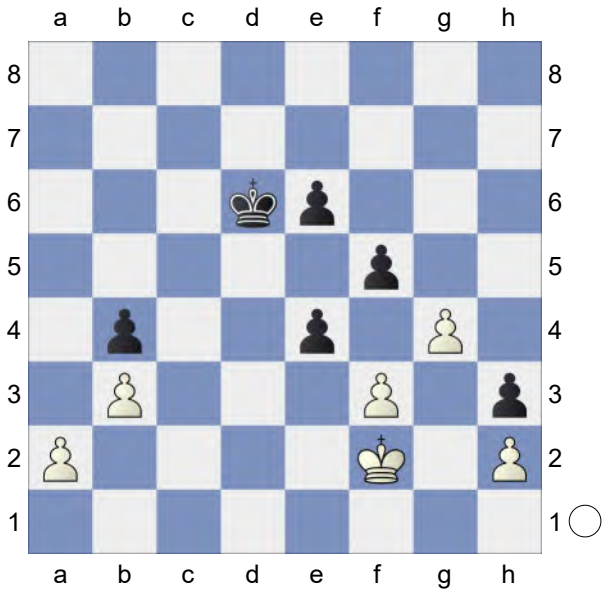


Hoping for ...Bxe3. **37.Rxc5+ Bxc5 38.g4 Bxe3** 0.03/21

[38...Kd7∓ -0.53/25]

39.Kxe3 Strongly threatening g5. KP-KP

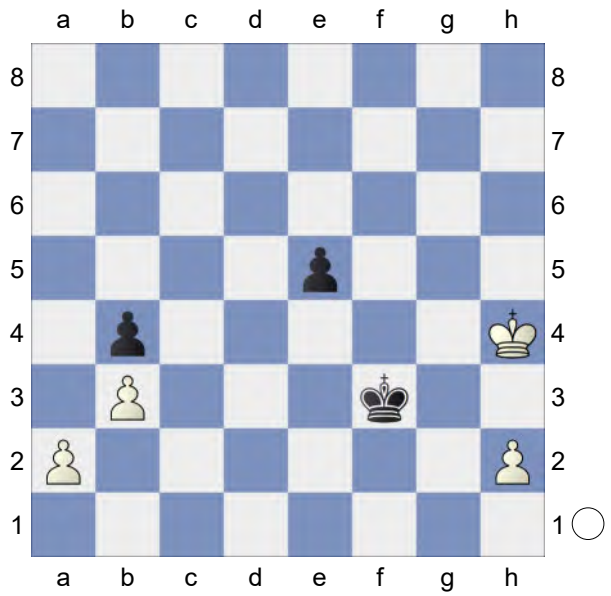
39...Kd6! 40.Kf2 e4



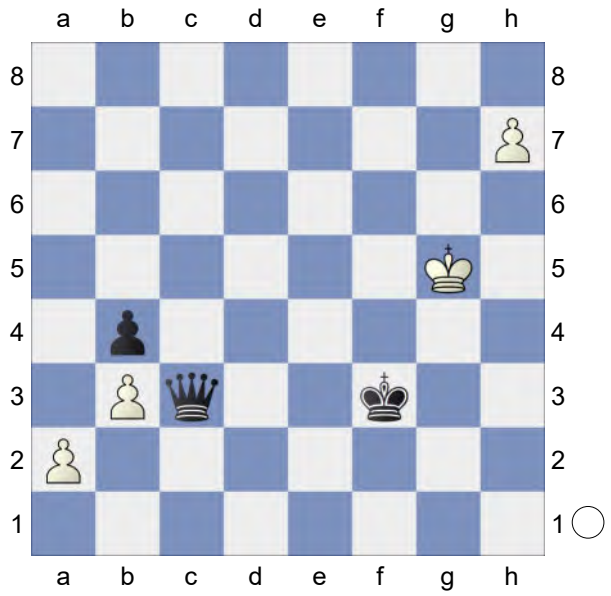
This costs White the game. **41.fxe4 fxg4 42.Kg3 Ke5 43.Kxg4 Kxe4** Black mates. **44.Kxh3-+** K3P-KPP

44...Kf3 45.Kh4 e5

(Diagram)

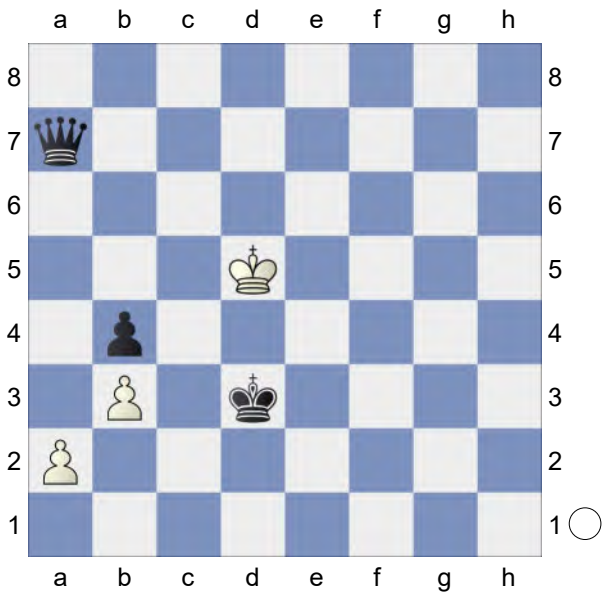


46.Kg5 e4 47.h4 e3 48.h5 e2 49.h6 e1Q 50.h7 Qc3

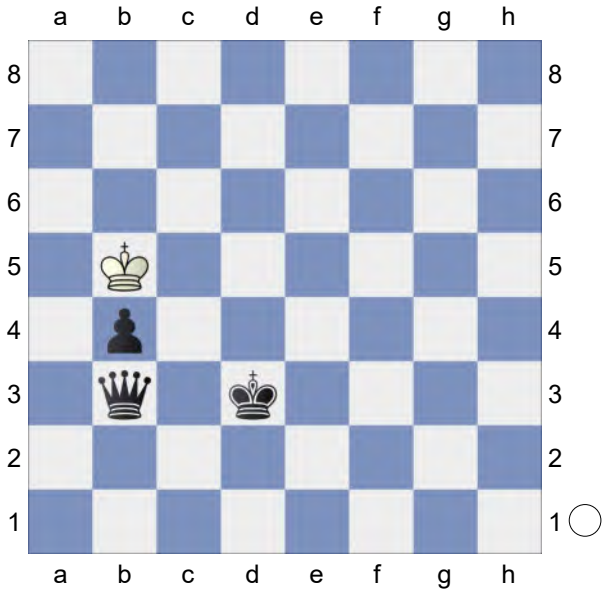


51.Kf5 Qh8 52.Kg6 Ke3 53.Kf5 Kd3 54.Ke6 Qxh7 55.Kd5 Qa7

(Diagram)



56.Kc6 Qxa2 57.Kb5 Qxb3

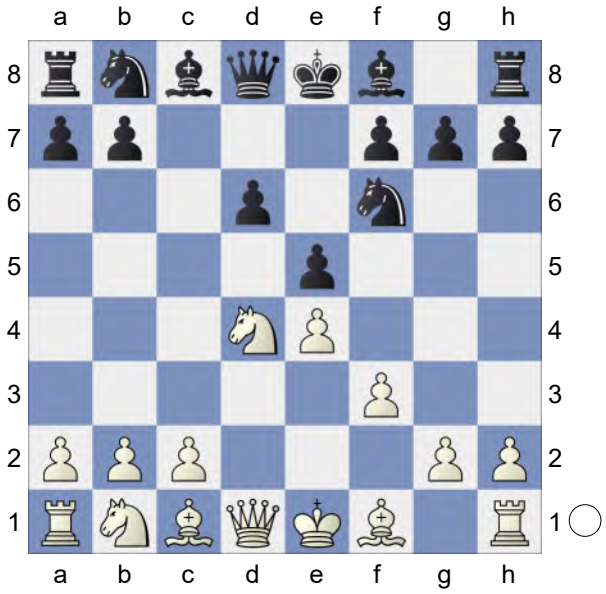


Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise)

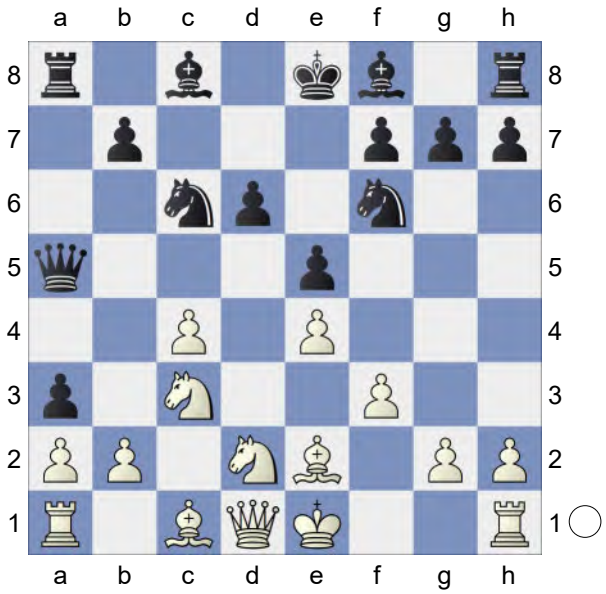
0-1

46 **B54**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2938**
■ **Charmgame** **2838**
Blitz 30.03.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

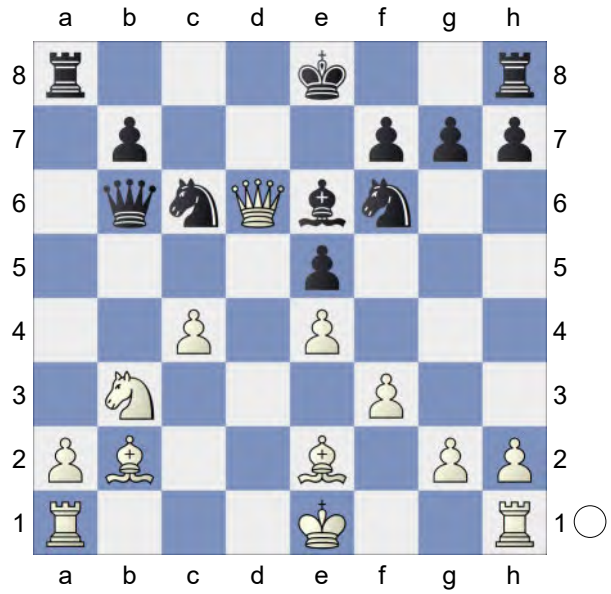


6.Nb3 a5 0.32/17
[6...d5= -0.03/19 is superior.]
7.c4 -0.27/19
[7.Bb5+± 0.32/17 Bd7 8.Bxd7+ Nbxd7 9.a4]
7...a4
[7...Nxe4 is interesting. 8.Be3 a4 9.fxe4 Qh4+]
8.N3d2 Qa5 The position is equal.
9.Nc3 Nc6 10.Be2 a3



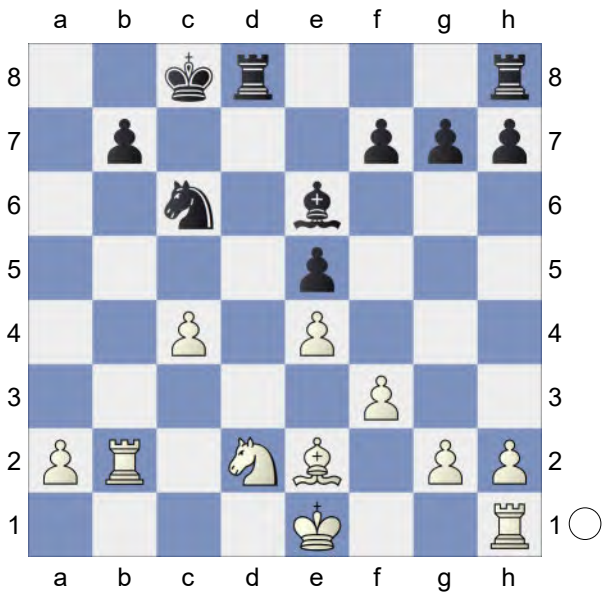
11.Nb3 axb2 12.Bxb2 Qa7 13.Nb5

Qb6 14.Nxd6+ Bxd6 15.Qxd6 Be6

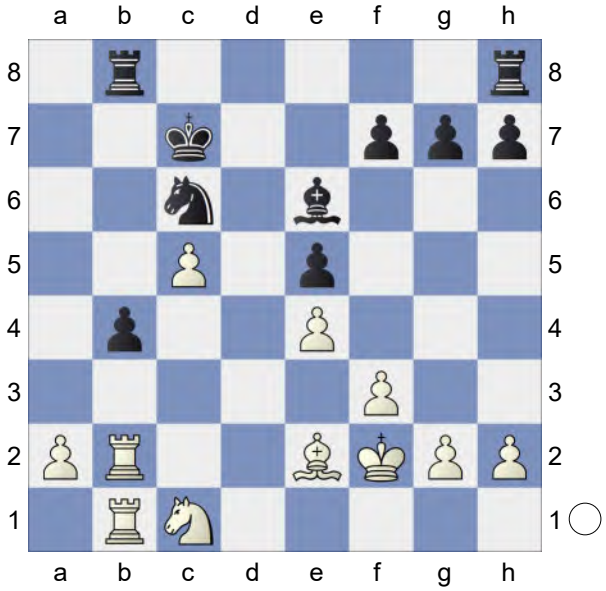


16.Qc5 0.29/20
[Of course not 16.Bxe5 Rd8 17.Qc7 *(17.Bd4? Qxd4 18.Qxd4 Nxd4∓)* 17...Qb4+ 18.Kf1 *(18.Kf2 Rd7=)* 18...Rd7 19.Qc8+ Rd8=]
[16.Bc3± 0.73/17]
16...Nd7= 17.Qxb6 Nxb6 18.Nd2 -0.10/19
[⌓18.Nc5 0.26/19]
18...Na4 19.Rb1 Nxb2 0.40/21
[19...0-0= 0.04/18]
20.Rxb2± 0-0-0 0.97/20
[20...0-0± 0.41/20]

(Diagram)

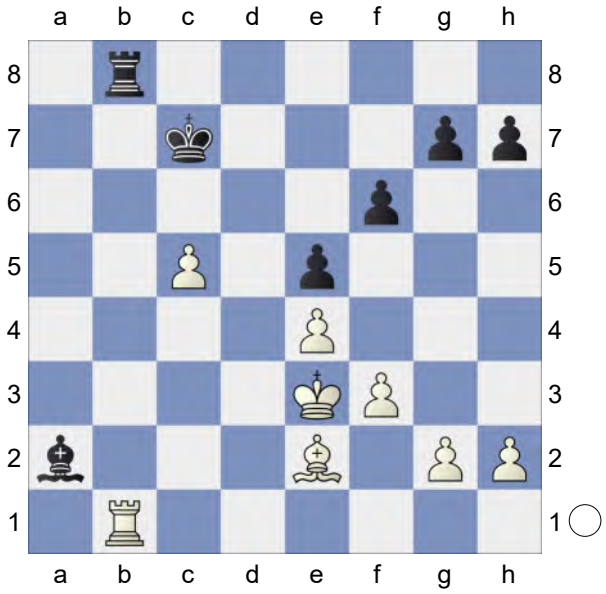


21.Kf2± Kc7 1.37/20
[⌓21...Rhe8 0.97/19]
22.Rhb1 Rb8 23.Nb3 b6 24.c5 0.64/20
[24.h4± 0.95/17]
24...b5!± 25.Nc1 b4



26.Nd3 Rhd8 0.67/18
[26...Ra8= 0.24/21 is more appropriate.]
27.Ke3 0.11/22
[27.f4± 0.67/18]
27...f6 1.57/23
[27...Ra8= 0.11/22]

28.Nxb4± Nxb4 29.Rxb4 Bxa2 30.Rxb8 Rxb8



31.Rxb8 Kxb8 Endgame KB-KB **32.f4** 0.87/25

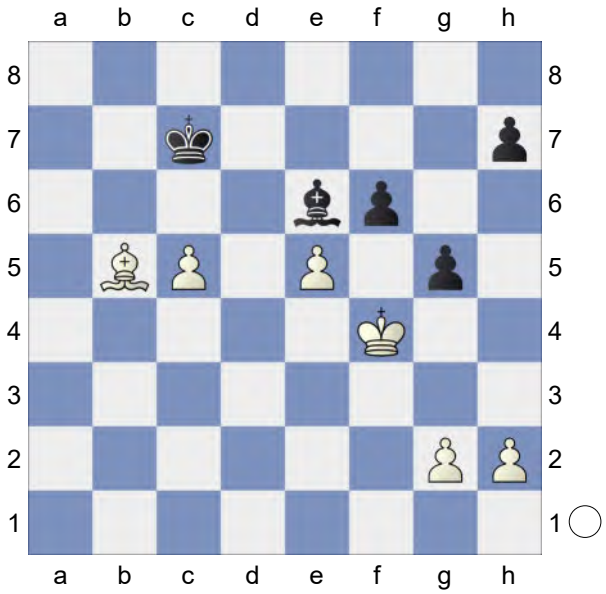
[32.Kd3+- 1.71/23]

32...exf4+ 2.03/26

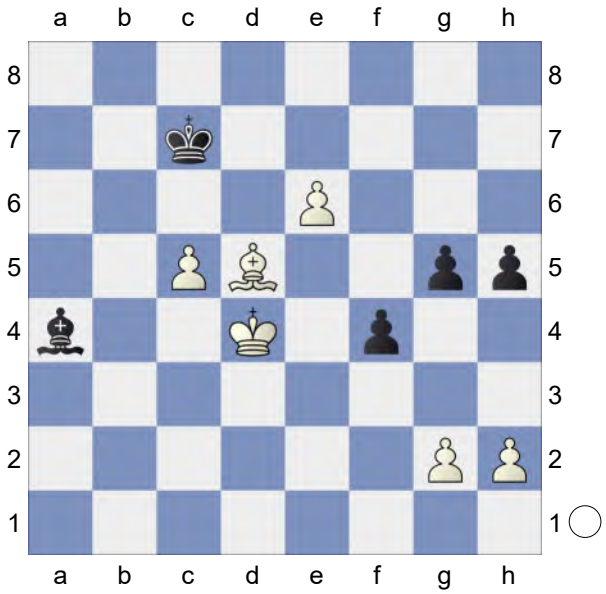
[32...g5± 0.87/25 was worth a try.]

33.Kxf4+- Kc7 34.Bb5 Be6 35.e5 g5+? 6.75/27

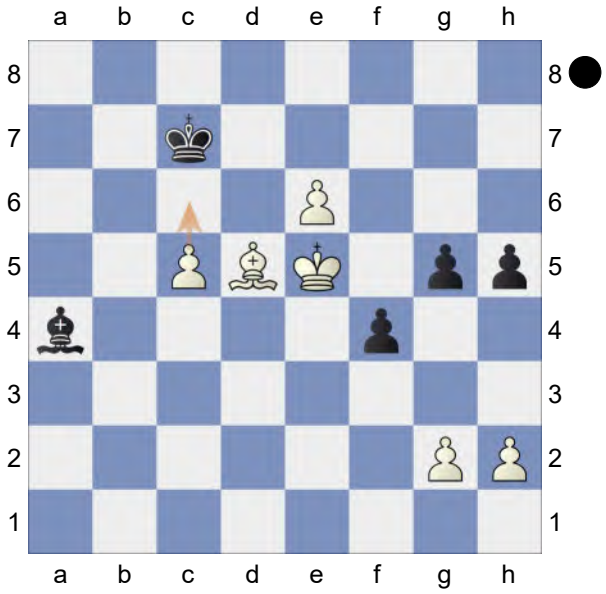
[35...fxe5+ 1.95/22 36.Kxe5 Bc8]



36.Ke4 White is clearly winning. **36...f5+ 37.Kd4 f4 38.Bc4 Bd7 39.Bd5 h5 40.e6 Ba4**

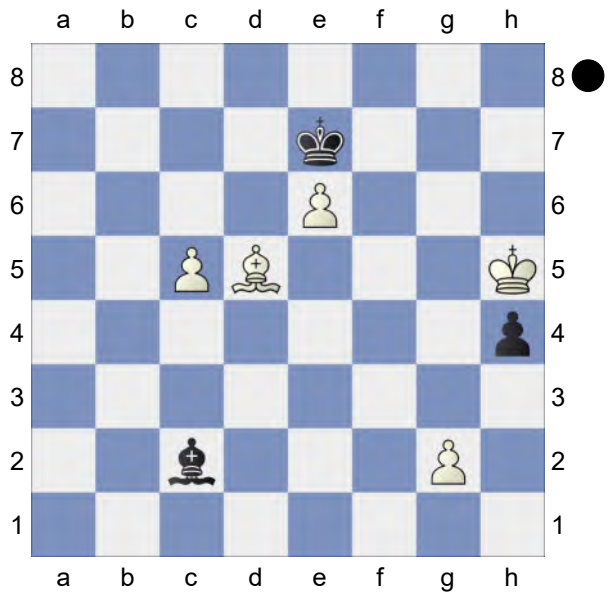


41.Ke5



Threatens to win with c6! **41...Bc2 42.h4 gxh4 43.Kxf4 Kd8 44.Kg5** Strongly threatening Kf6. **44...Ke7 45.Kxh5**

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.31/ Black=0.52

1-0

47 **B54**

□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2937**

■ **Symbiote** **2691**

Blitz 29.03.2022

[Kitty Kat]

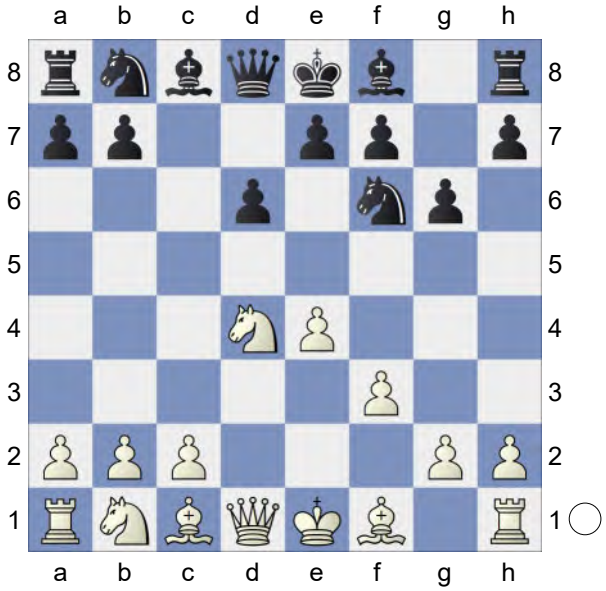
Blitz 3min

B38: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind with 5...Bg7 and 7...0-0

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 g6N

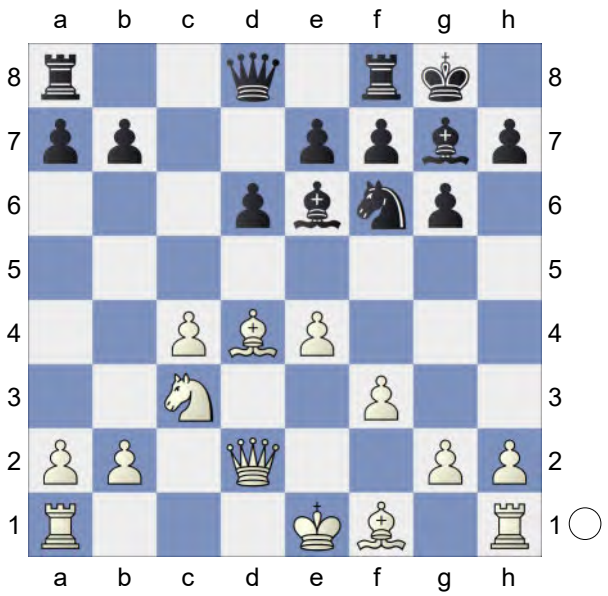
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/ Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/ Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

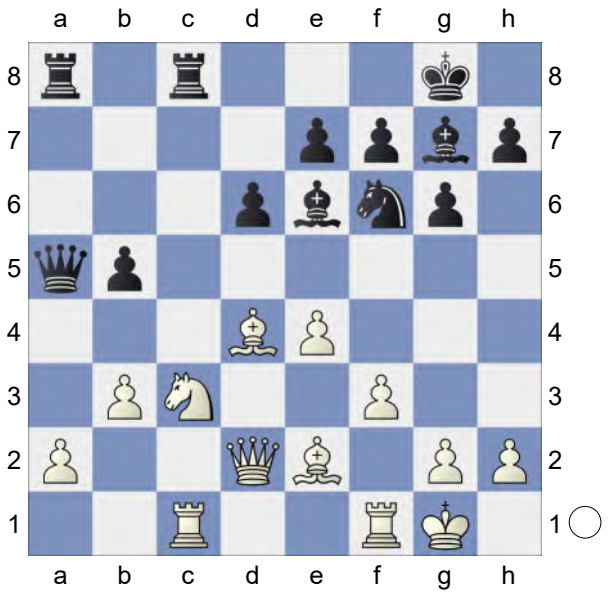


6.c4 Bg7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Nc3 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Be6

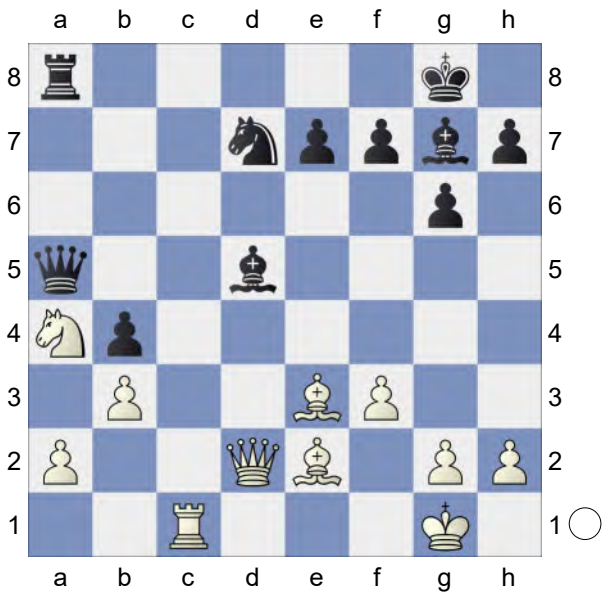
(Diagram)



11.Be2 Qa5 12.Rc1 Rfc8 13.b3 a6 14.0-0 White has an edge. **14...b5! 15.cxb5 axb5**

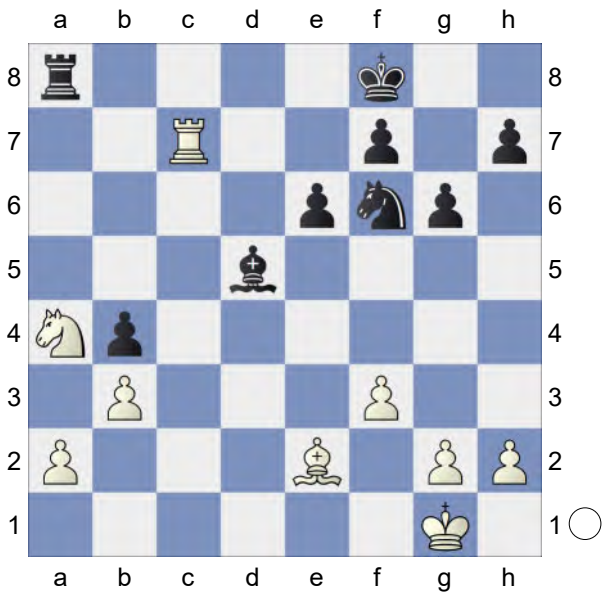


16.Rfd1 b4 17.Na4 Nd7 Prevents Bb6. **18.Be3** -1.19/21
[18.Bxg7∓ -0.56/19 Kxg7 19.Qd4+ *(19.Rxc8 Rxc8 20.Kh1 Nf6∓)* 19...f6 20.Qe3]
18...Rxc1 -0.28/22
[18...Nc5!∓ -1.19/21 19.Nxc5 Bc3]
19.Rxc1= d5 0.57/20
[19...Nc5!∓ -0.32/22 20.Bxc5 dxc5]
20.exd5± Bxd5

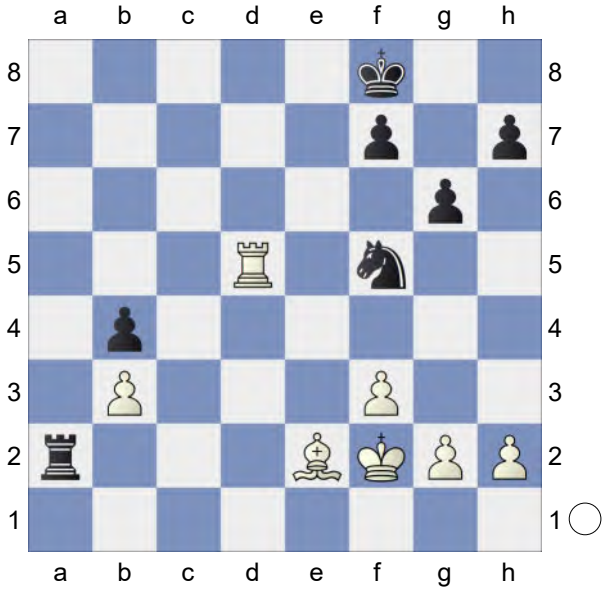


21.Qc2 -0.13/17
[White should play 21.Bc5± 0.60/21 e6 22.Bxb4 *(22.Qxb4 Nxc5 23.Qxc5 Qxc5+ 24.Nxc5 Rxa2∓)* 22...Qa7+ 23.Kh1]
21...Nf6? 4.18/22
[21...Be5= -0.13/17]
22.Qc7? 0.18/22
[Only move: 22.Bb6+- 4.18/22 Bxb3 23.axb3]
22...Qxc7 23.Rxc7 e6 24.Bc5 0.08/22
[24.Nb6± 0.40/19 Rd8 25.Kf2]
24...Bf8= 25.Bxf8
[25.Bd4!? Ne8 26.Rc2=]
25...Kxf8

(Diagram)

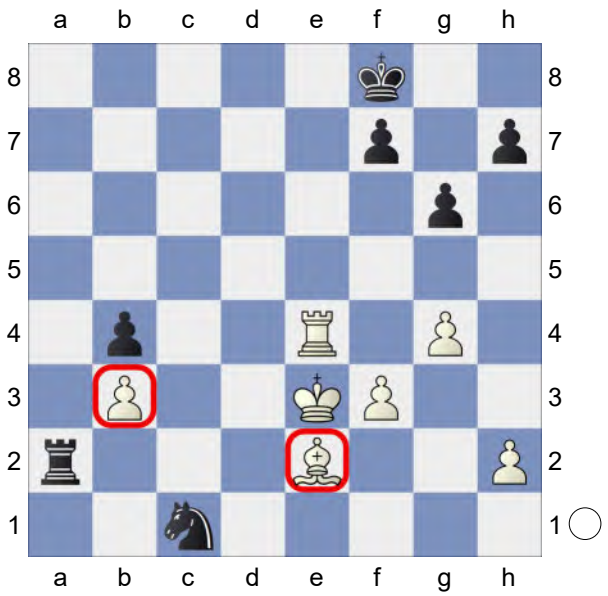


26.Kf2 Ne8 27.Rc5 Nd6 Prevents Rb5.
28.Nb6 -0.58/24
[28.Bd3= 0.17/19]
28...Rxa2∓ 29.Nxd5 exd5 30.Rxd5 Endgame KRB-KRN **30...Nf5** -0.01/22
[30...Ke7∓ -0.63/23]



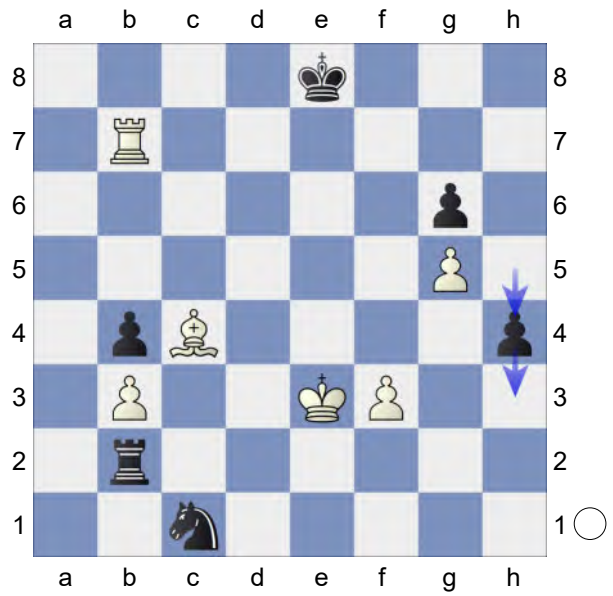
31.g4!= Ne7 32.Rd4 Nc6 33.Rc4 Ne5 34.Re4 Nd3+ 0.40/22
[34...Nc6= 0.01/22 is more appropriate.]
35.Ke3± Nc1

(Diagram)

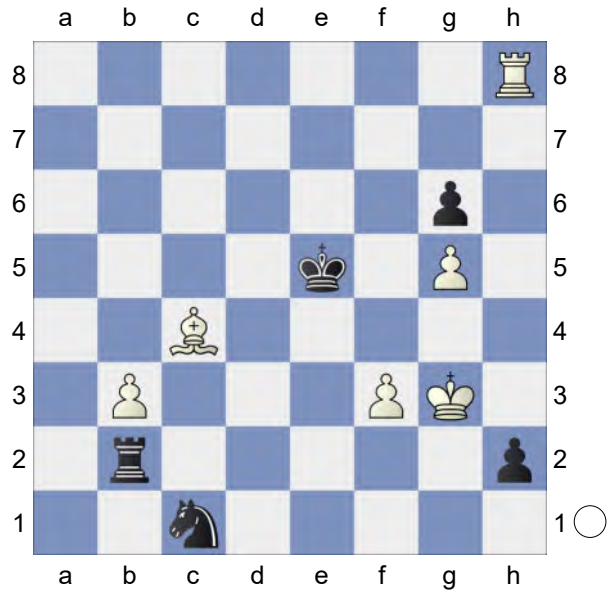


36.Bc4 Rxh2 0.87/21
[36...g5± 0.50/20]
37.Rf4± Rb2 2.17/22
[37...h5± 0.84/20 might work better.]
38.Rxf7++- Ke8 39.Rb7 h5 2.87/20
[⌓39...Kd8 2.00/18 40.Rxb4 *(40.Rxh7 Nxb3 41.Rg7 Rc2±)* 40...Kc7]
40.g5 1.50/21
[Don't play 40.Rxb4 hxg4 41.fxg4 Kd8+-]
[White should try 40.gxh5+- 2.87/20 gxh5 41.f4 *(41.Rxb4 h4±)*]
40...h4±

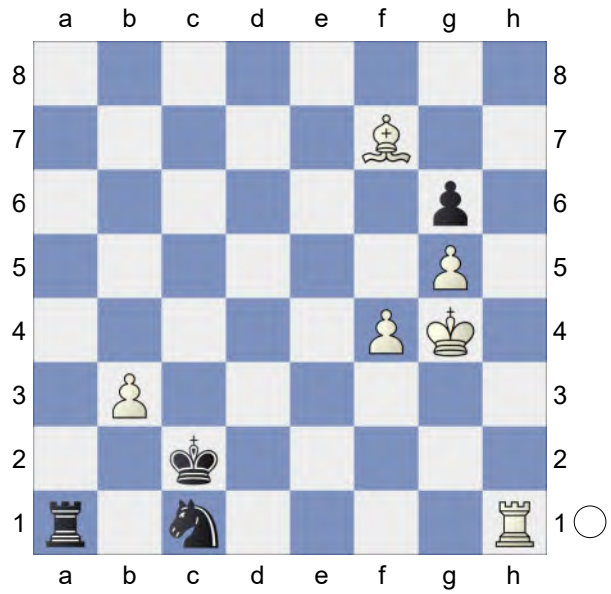
(Diagram)



41.Rxb4 0.86/20
[⌓41.f4 1.25/19 Threatens to win with f5! Rg2 42.Rxb4 *(42.Bf7+ Kf8±)*]
41...h3 42.Rb8+ Ke7 43.Rh8 h2
44.Kf4! Kd6 1.27/23
[⌓44...Nxb3 0.79/20 45.Bxb3 Rxb3]
45.Kg3 Ke5? 4.28/24
[45...Nxb3± 1.25/22 46.Bxb3 *(46.Rxh2 Rxh2 47.Kxh2 Nd2=)* 46...Rxb3]

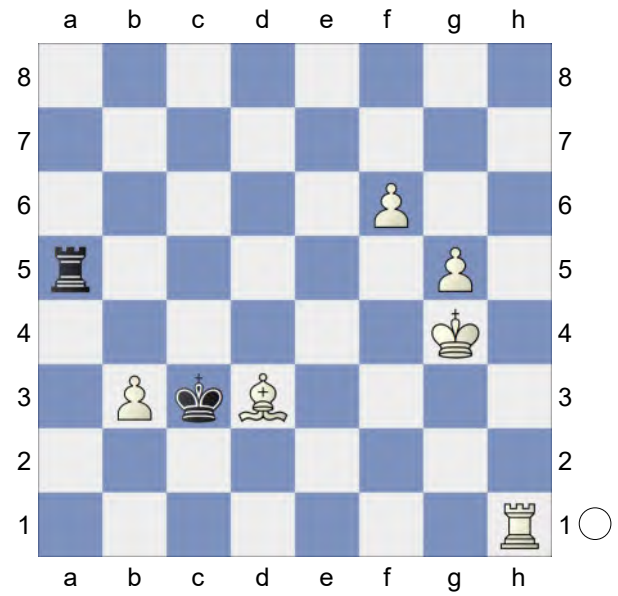


46.Rxh2+- Rb1? 7.71/22
[46...Rxh2 3.95/23 47.Kxh2 Na2]
47.Rh1? 0.76/22
[47.Rd2+- 7.71/22 Kf5 48.f4]
47...Kd4? 7.73/23
[47...Ne2+± 0.76/22 48.Kh2 Rxh1+ 49.Kxh1 Nd4]
48.f4? 1.58/22
[48.Rd1++- 7.73/23 is more deadly. Kc3 49.f4]
48...Kc3? 6.81/21
[48...Ne2+± 1.58/22 49.Kh2 Rb2]
49.Kg4 Kc2 50.Bf7 Ra1

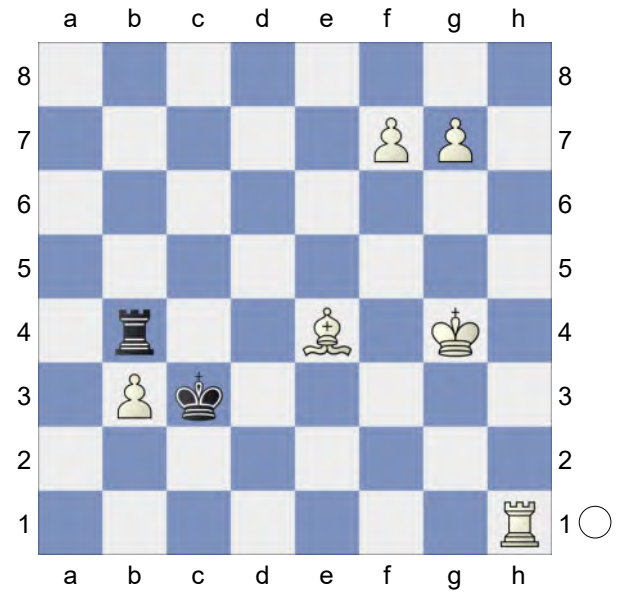


51.Bxg6+ Kb2 52.f5 Ra5 53.f6 Nd3 54.Bxd3 White threatens Bc4 and mate.
KRB-KR **54...Kc3**

(Diagram)

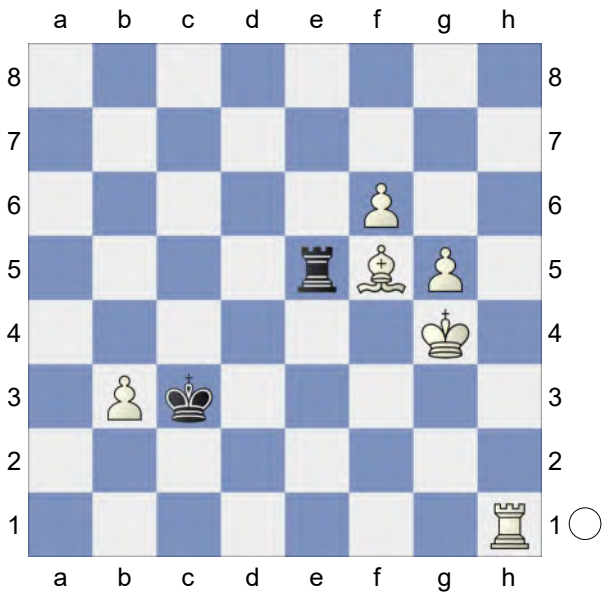


55.Bf5 15.76/14
[⌓55.f7! #14/15 Ra8 *(55...Rd5 56.f8Q)* 56.Be4 Rd8 57.g6 Rb8 58.g7 Rb4

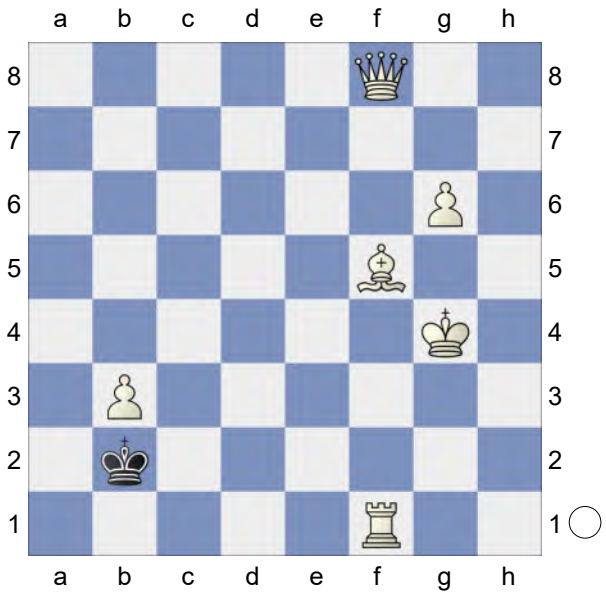


59.f8Q! Rxe4+ 60.Kf3]
55...Re5

(Diagram)

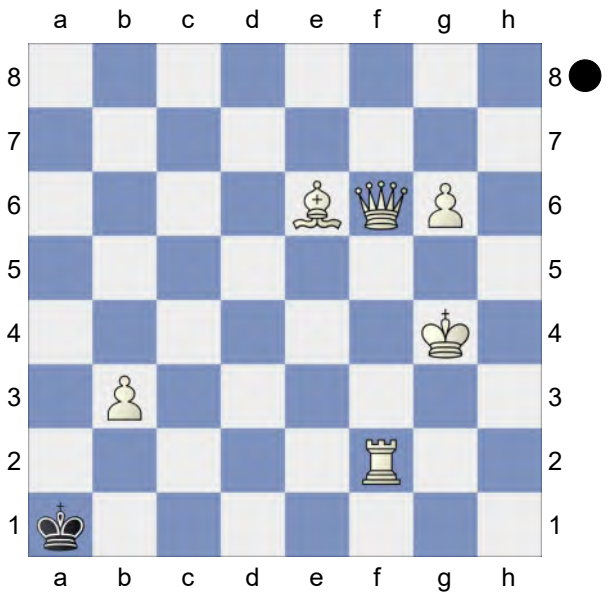


56.g6 Re2 57.f7 Re1 58.Rxe1 Kb4 59.Rf1 Ka3 60.f8Q+ Kb2



61.Be6 26.29/5
[⌓61.Qc5 #3/8 Ka2 62.Qc3 Ka3 63.Ra1#]
61...Ka2 62.Rf2+ Ka1 63.Qf6+

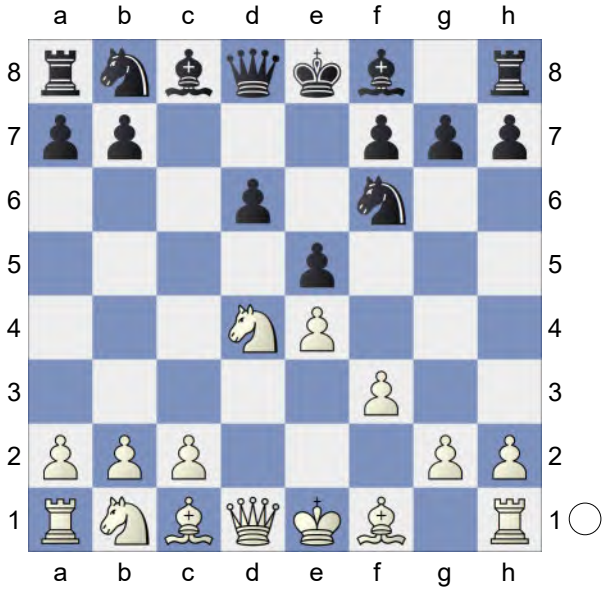
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.74/ Black=0.78
1-0

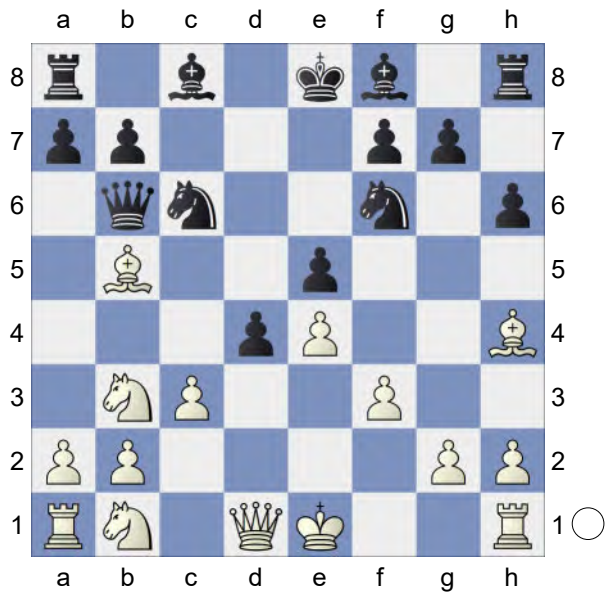
48 **B54**
□ **Ukrchess Org Ua** **2937**
■ **Preliator Victrix** **2807**
Blitz 03.08.2021
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/ Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/ Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

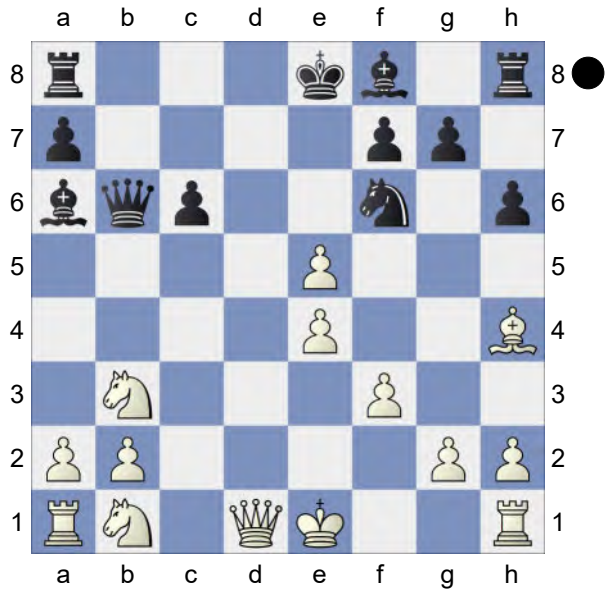


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.Bb5 The position is equal. **9...h6 10.Bh4 Qb6**

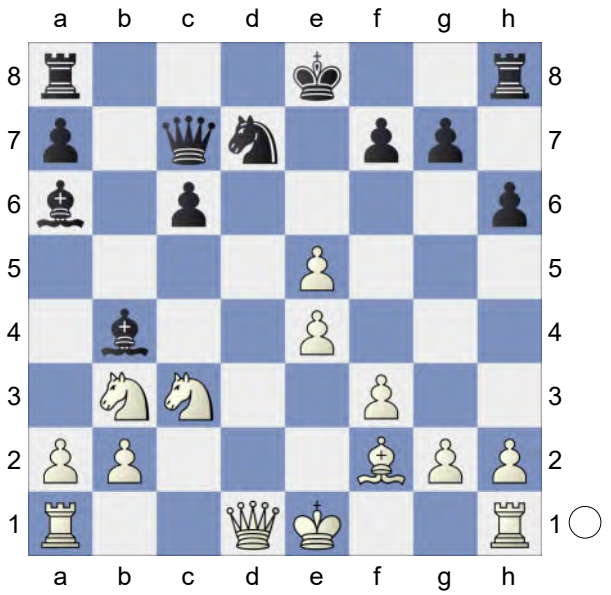
(Diagram)



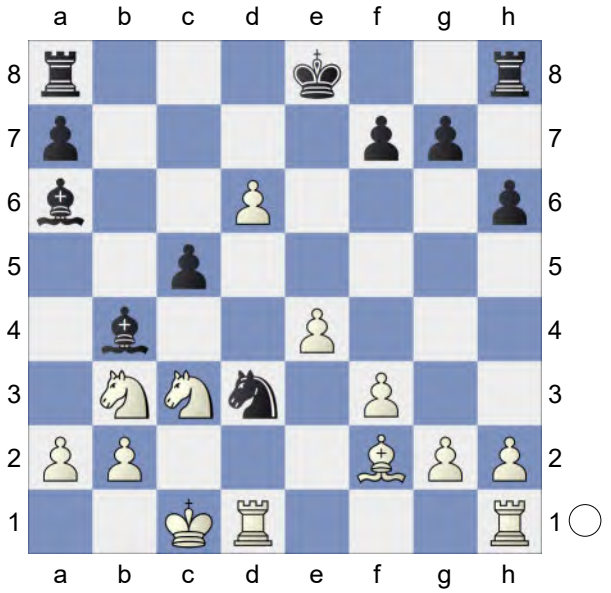
11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.cxd4
[Much weaker is 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.cxd4 Ba6∓]
12...Ba6 13.dxe5? -#2/6
[13.Bg3= -0.17/18]



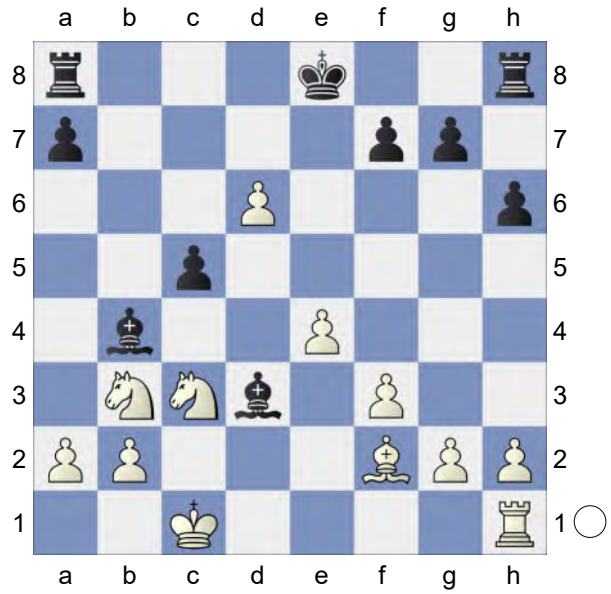
13...Bb4+ -4.83/5
[⌓13...Qe3+ -#2/6 14.Qe2 Qxe2#]
14.Nc3 -#2/6
[14.Qd2-+ -4.83/5 Qe3+ 15.Kd1 Bxd2 16.N1xd2 Be2+ 17.Kc1]
14...Nd7? 0.96/21
[14...Qe3+ -#2/6 mates 15.Qe2 Qxe2#]
15.Bf2± Qc7 1.54/18
[Black should play 15...Bxc3+ 0.96/19 16.bxc3 Qb5]



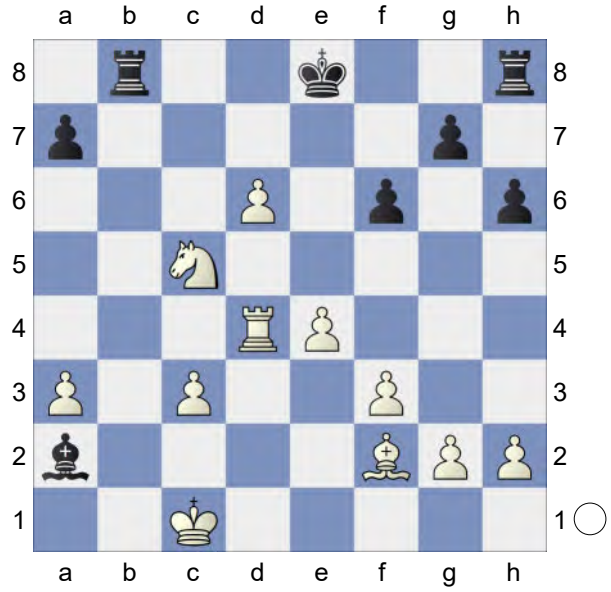
16.Qd4 c5 1.88/20
[16...Nxe5± 1.54/19 17.0-0-0 Be7]
17.Qd6+- Qxd6 18.exd6 Ne5 2.41/20
[⌓18...c4 1.80/18]
19.0-0-0 Threatens to win with Nd5.
[Worse is 19.Nxc5 Bxc5 20.Bxc5 Nd3+ 21.Ke2 Nxc5+ 22.Ke3 Rb8∓]
19...Nd3+



20.Rxd3! Bxd3

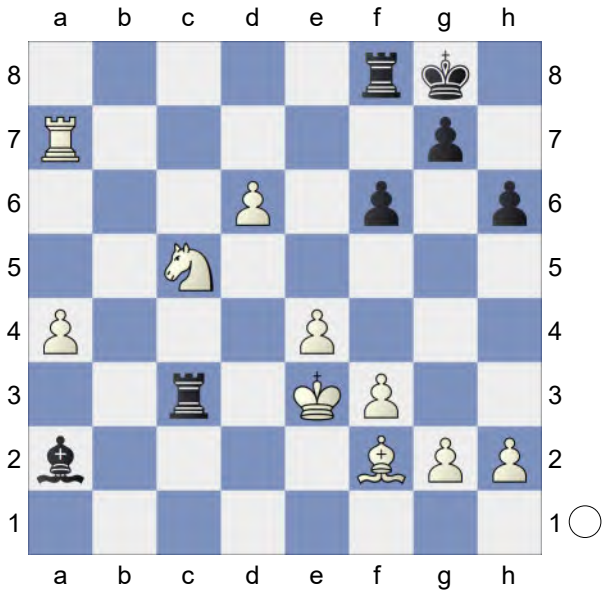


21.Nxc5 Bc4 22.a3 Bxc3 3.44/20
[⌓22...Bxc5 2.42/19 23.Bxc5 Kd7]
23.bxc3 Rb8 24.Rd1 f6 25.Rd4 Ba2 5.47/19
[⌓25...Bf1 3.59/20 26.d7+ Ke7]

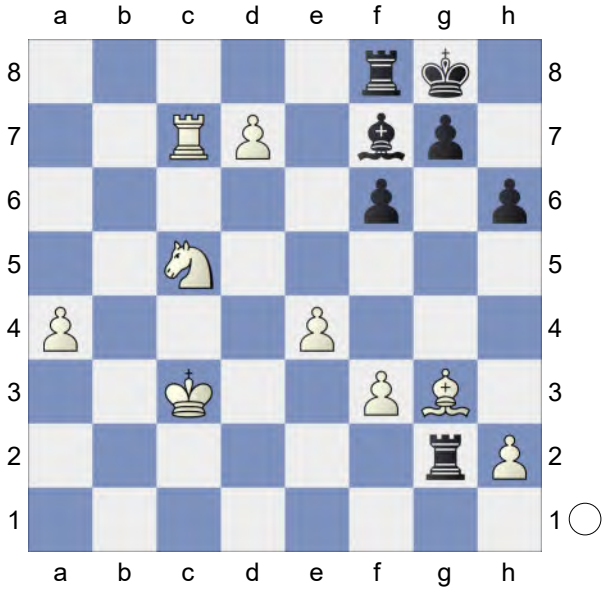


26.Ra4 Rb1+ 27.Kd2 Rb2+ 28.Ke3 0-0 29.Rxa7 Rc2 30.a4 Rxc3+

(Diagram)

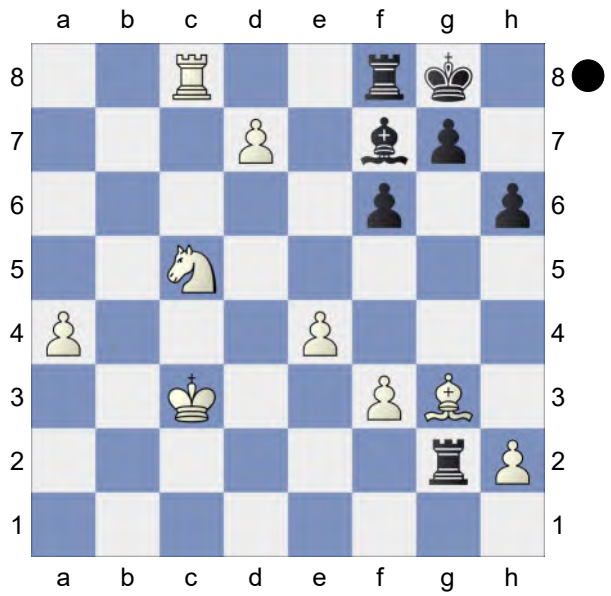


31.Kd2 White is clearly winning.
31...Ra3 32.d7 aiming for Rc7. **32...Bc4 33.Bg3** 5.60/19
[⌓33.Rc7 11.61/21]
33...Ra2+ 34.Kc3 Bf7 35.Rc7 Rxg2



36.Rc8

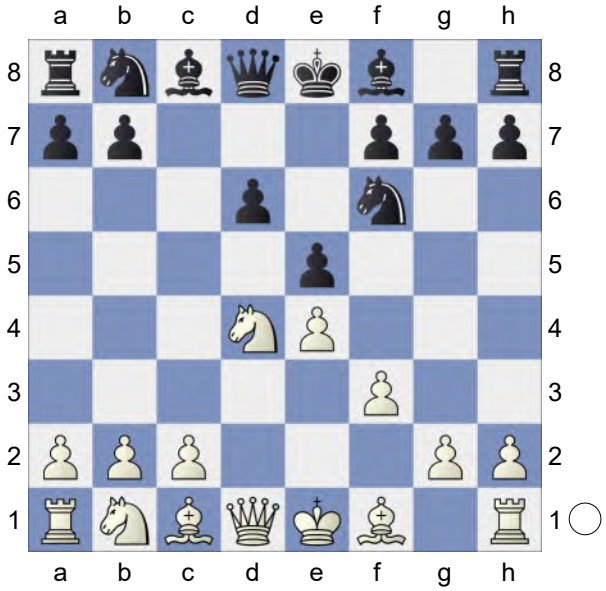
(Diagram)



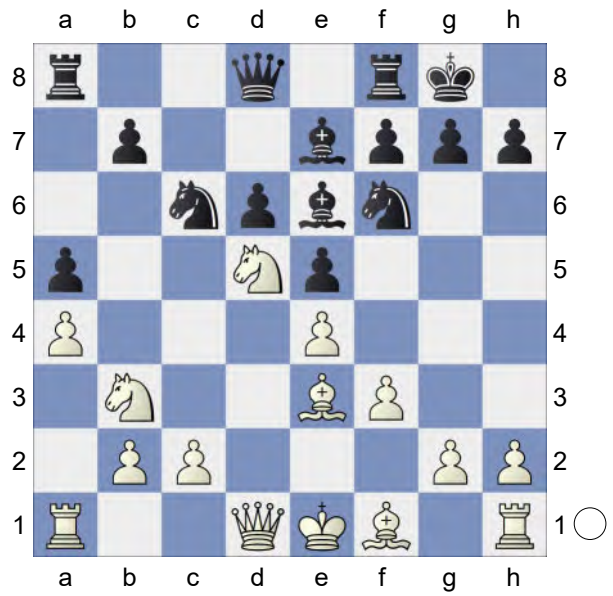
Weighted Error Value: White=0.74/ Black=0.88
1-0

49 **B54**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2937**
■ **Infighter** **2852**
Blitz 16.05.2022
[Kitty Kat]

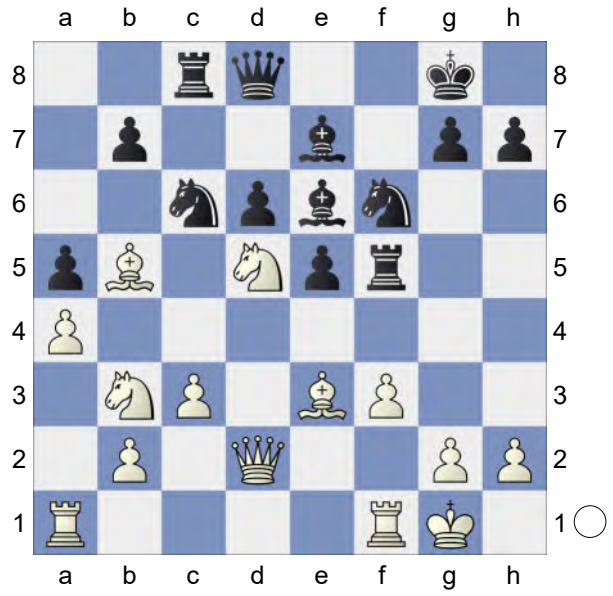
Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/ Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/ Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



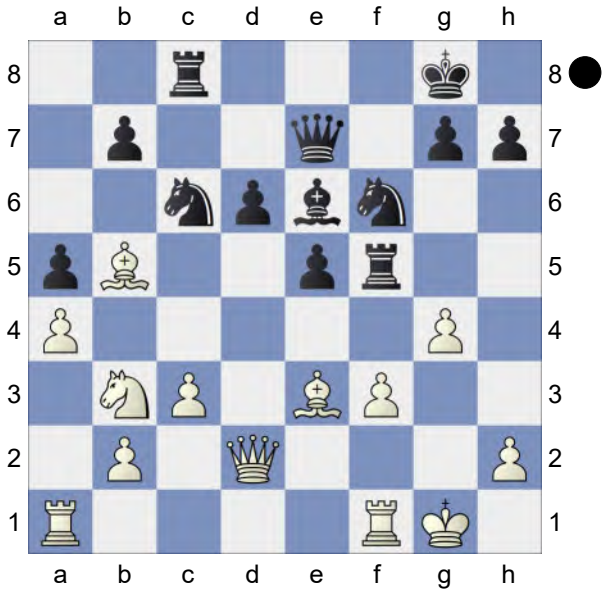
6.Nb3 a5 7.a4 Be7 8.Nc3 Inhibits d5. **8...Nc6** The position is equal. **9.Be3 Be6** 0.46/20 Against Bc4
[9...0-0= 0.13/21]
10.Nd5± 0-0
(Diagram)



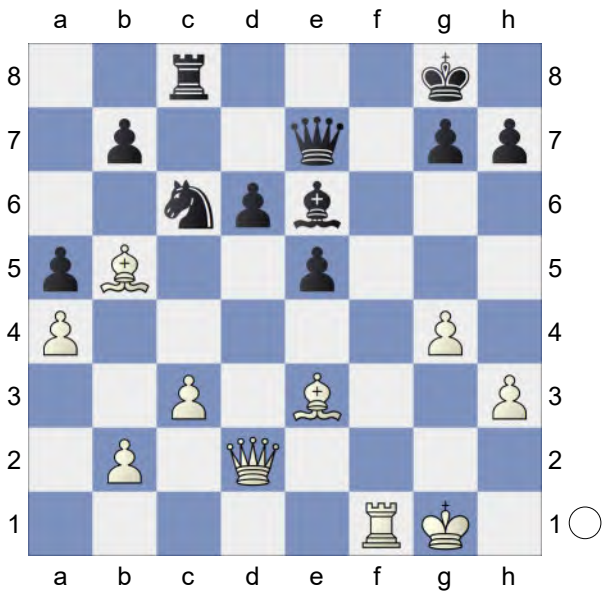
11.c3 Nd7 12.Bb5 f5 0.62/20
[12...Bh4+= 0.23/19 should be considered. 13.g3 Bg5]
13.exf5 Rxf5 14.0-0 Rc8 1.06/20
[14...Bg5± 0.51/18]
15.Qd2 0.67/19
[15.Bxc6± 1.06/20 bxc6 16.Nxe7+ Qxe7 17.Nxa5]
15...Nf6 1.13/20
[15...Bg5± 0.67/19]



16.Nxe7+ 0.44/22
[Better is 16.Bb6!± 1.13/20 Qf8 17.Nxe7+ Qxe7 18.Nxa5]
16...Qxe7 17.g4 -0.62/20

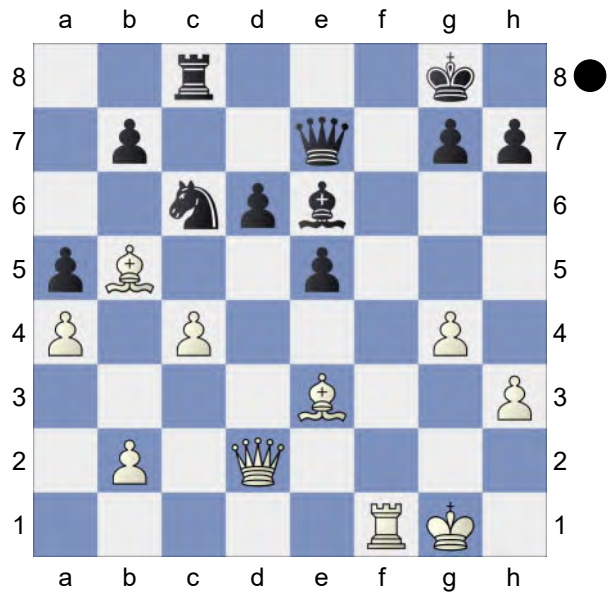


Nxg4!∓ 18.fxg4 Rxf1+ Discovered Attack **19.Rxf1** Black must now prevent Qd1. **19...Bxb3 20.h3 Be6**
[20...e4 keeps more tension. 21.Qf2 Ne5 22.Qf5 Rf8]

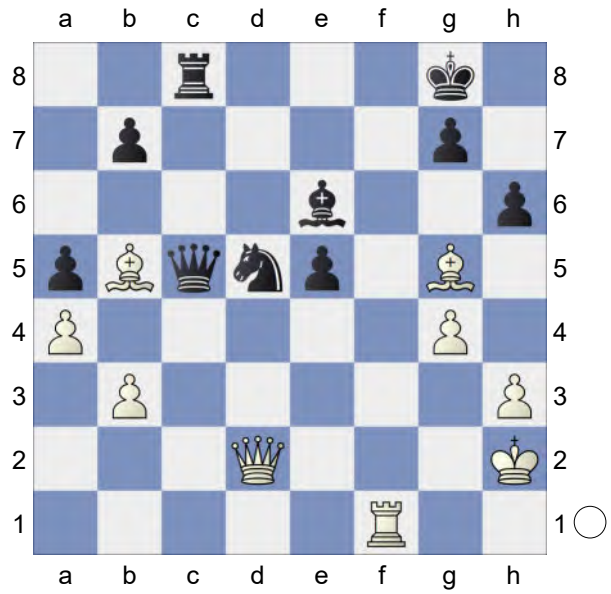


21.c4 -1.19/22
[21.Qf2∓ -0.55/18]

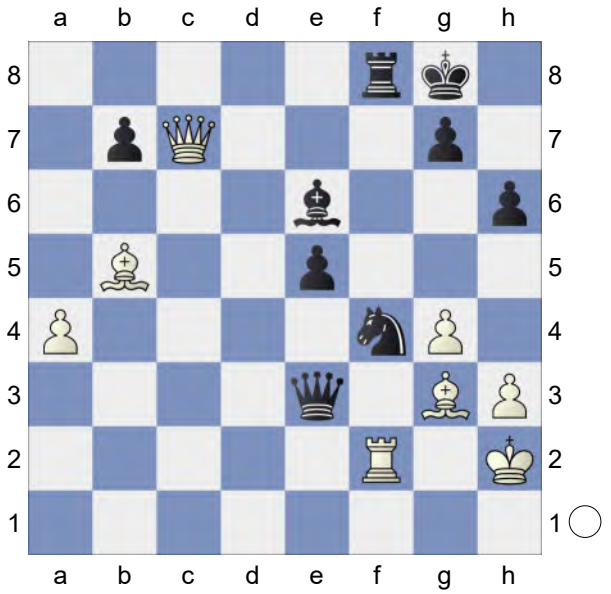
(Diagram)



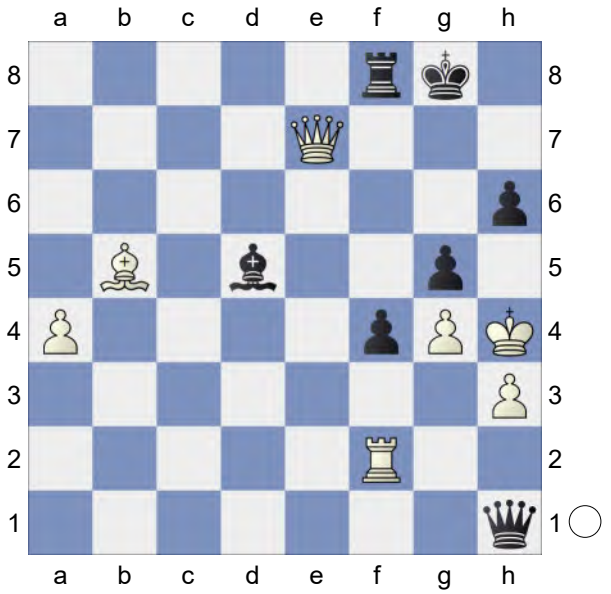
21...Nb4 -0.80/21
[⌓21...h5! -1.19/22 22.Bg5 Qd7]
22.b3 d5 23.cxd5 Nxd5 24.Bg5 Qc5+ 25.Kh2 h6



26.Bh4 Nf4 27.Bg3 Rf8 -0.77/22
[⌓27...Bxb3 -1.48/21 ...Qd5 is the strong threat. 28.Bxf4 exf4 29.Qxf4 Rf8]
28.Qxa5 Qc2+ 29.Rf2 Qxb3 &Nero is much more active. **30.Qc7 Qe3** 0.01/19
[Black should play 30...Qd5∓ -0.71/21 Hoping for ...Rc8. 31.Qc3 Qe4]

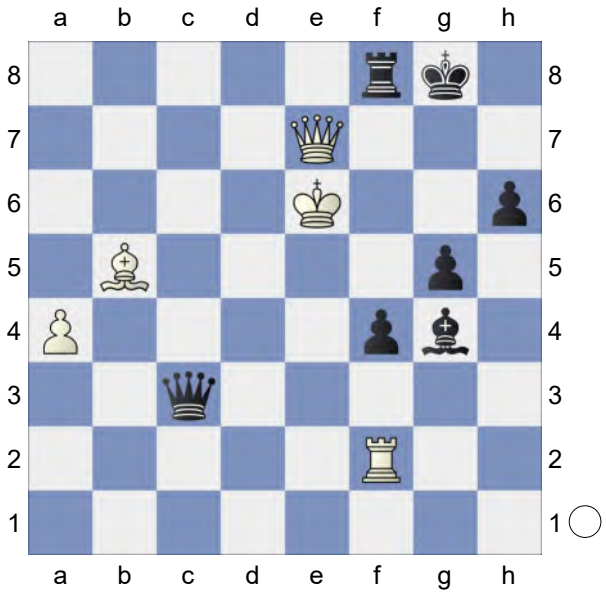


31.Qxb7= Bd5→ Black mounts an attack. **32.Qe7** -#11/20 White does not recover from this.
[32.Bc6= -0.01/24 Bxc6 33.Qxc6]
32...Qe4 33.Bxf4 Qh1+ Zwischenzug **34.Kg3 exf4+** -14.65/21
[⌓34...Qg1+ -#9/20 35.Kh4 Qxf2+ 36.Bg3 g5+ 37.Kh5 Bf7+ 38.Kxh6 Qb6+ 39.Bc6 Qxc6+ 40.Qe6 Qxe6+ 41.Kxg5 Qg6+ 42.Kh4 Qh6#]
35.Kh4-+ g5+

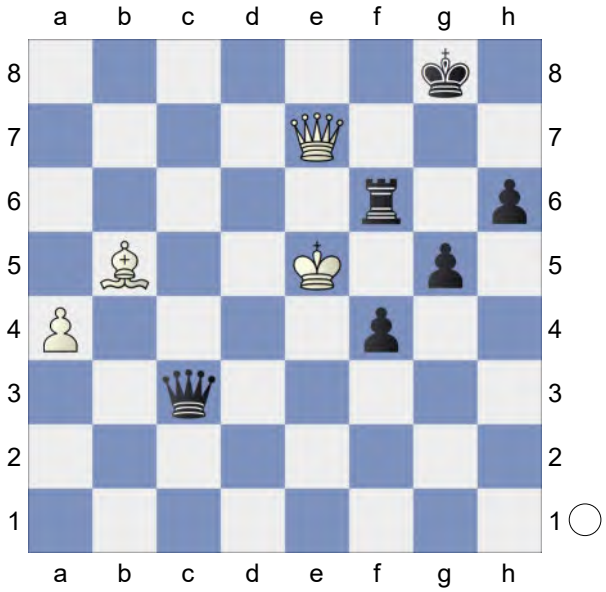


36.Kh5 Qxh3+ 37.Kg6 Bf7+ 38.Kf6

Qc3+ 39.Kf5 Bh5+ 40.Ke6 Bxg4+

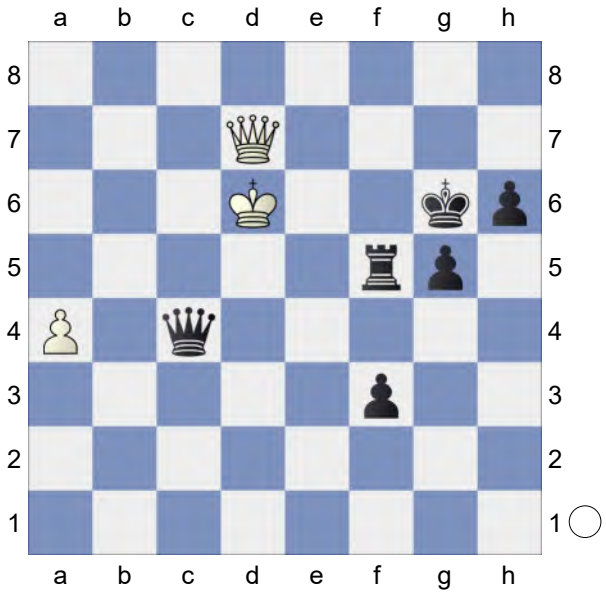


41.Kd5 Rf5+ 42.Kd6 Rf6+ -16.88/22
[⌓42...Qc5+ -#3/8 43.Kd7 Rf7+ 44.Ke8 Qxe7#]
43.Kd5 Bf3+ 44.Rxf3 Qxf3+
Endgame KQR-KQB **45.Ke5** -14.63/18
[⌓45.Kd4 -5.17/20 Qd1+ 46.Kc3 Qa1+ 47.Kb3]
45...Qc3+

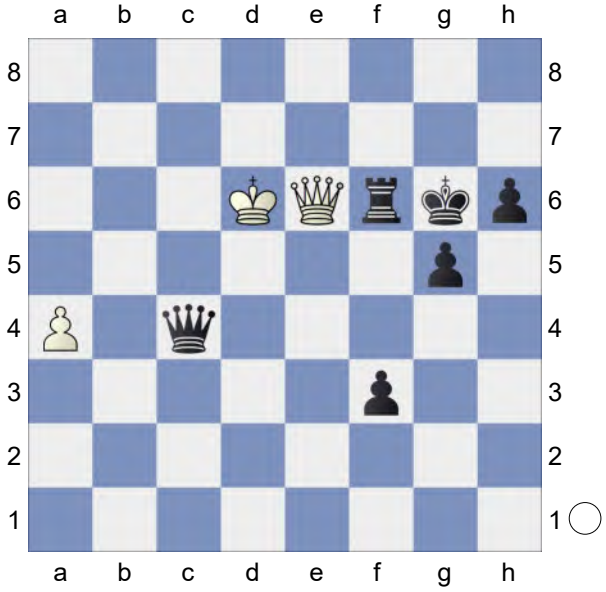


46.Kd5 f3 47.Bc4 Rf5+ 48.Kd6+ Qxc4 49.Qe8+ Black mates. **49...Kg7 50.Qd7+ Kg6**

(Diagram)



51.Qe8+ Rf7 52.Qe6+ Rf6



Weighted Error Value: White=0.81/ Black=0.75
0-1

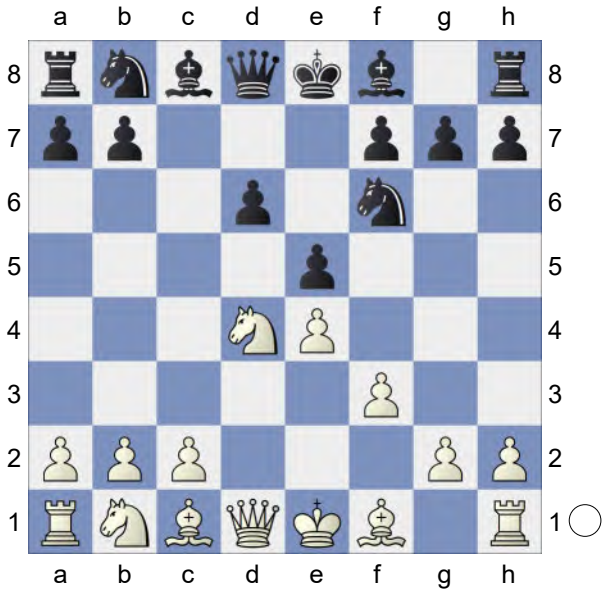
50 **B54**
□ **Caissa,X** **2937**
■ **Fantacticeman** **2940**
Rapid 26.12.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

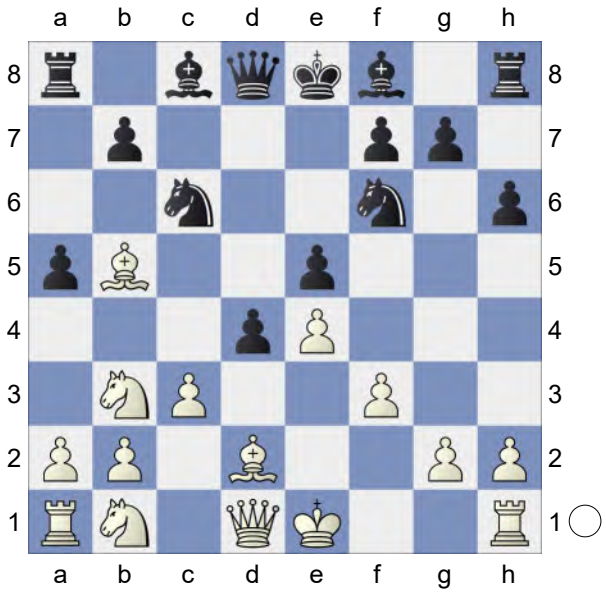
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.Bb5 h6 10.Bd2

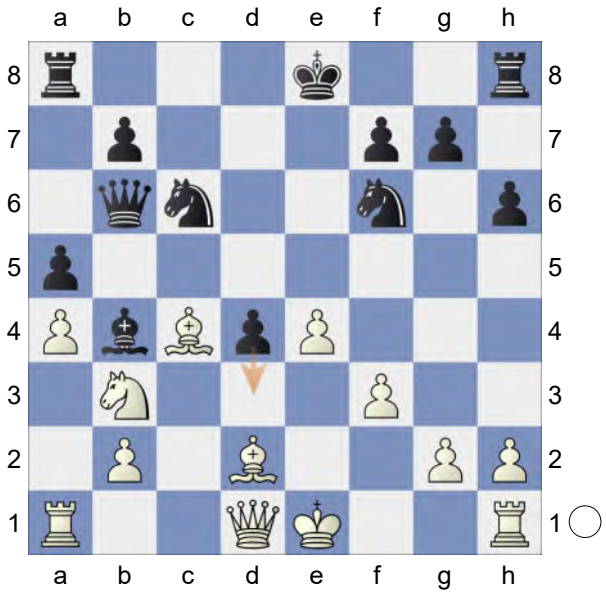
[10.Bxf6!? Qxf6 11.cxd4±]

10...a5

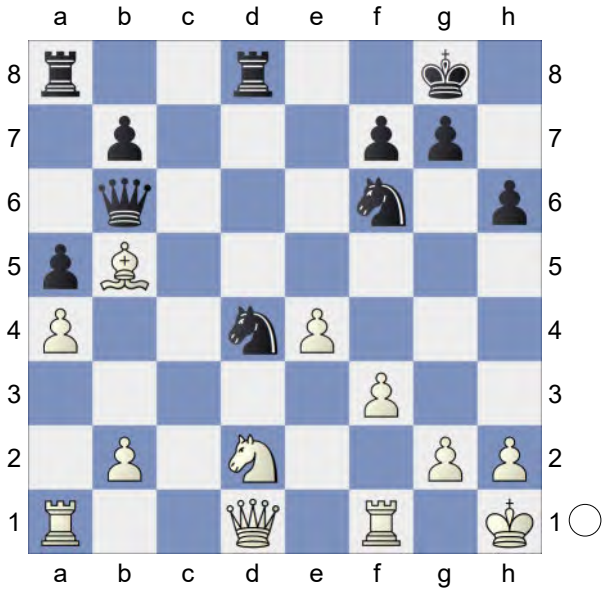


11.cxd4 exd4 12.a4 Be6 13.Na3 Bb4 Black wants to play ...Nxe4! **14.Nc4 Bxc4 15.Bxc4 Qb6**

(Diagram)

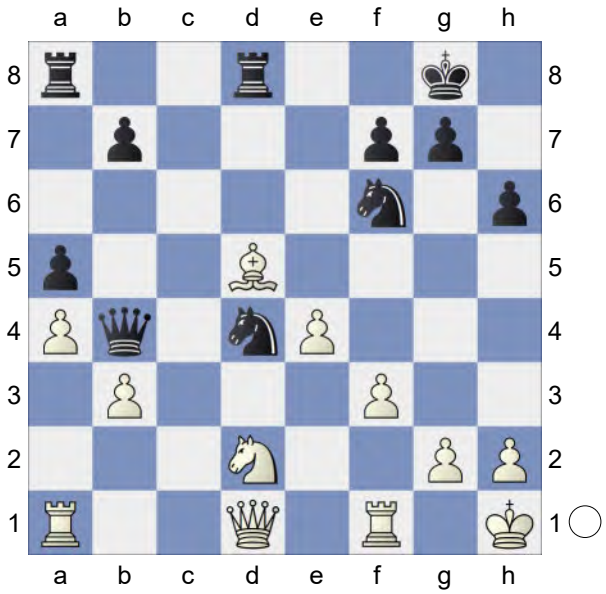


16.0-0 d3+ 17.Kh1 0-0! 18.Bxd3 Rfd8 19.Bb5 Bxd2 The position is equal. **20.Nxd2 Nd4!**

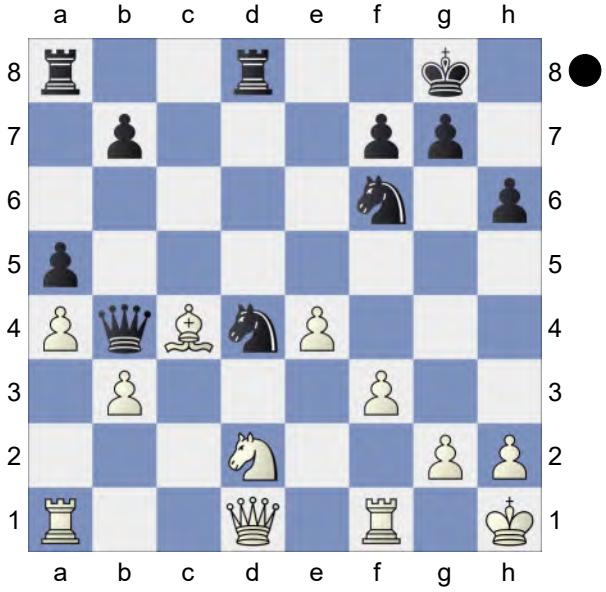


21.Bc4 Qb4 22.b3 Nd7 23.Bd5 Nf6 Pair of Knights! **24.Bc4! Nd7! 25.Bd5 Nf6**

(Diagram)



26.Bc4!



A balanced but interesting game.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.01 (flawless)
½-½

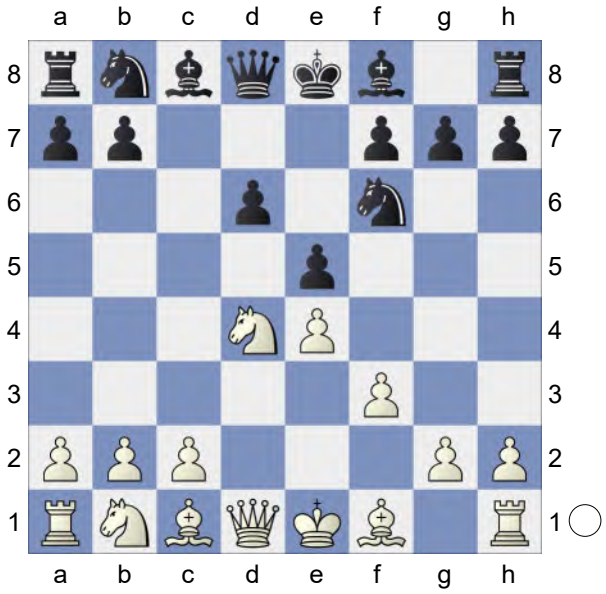
51 **B54**
□ **Nikitosikbot** **2937**
■ **Blundar** **2869**
Rapid 08.11.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

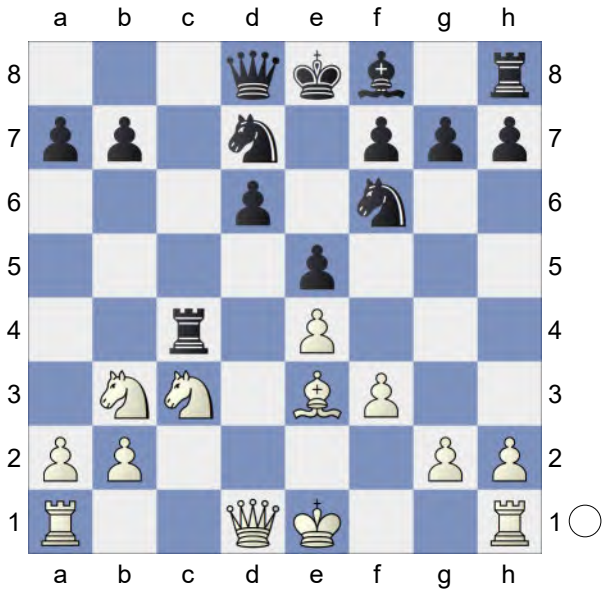
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 Nbd7

[7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]

8.Nc3 Rc8 9.Be3 Bxc4 10.Bxc4 Rxc4



11.Qe2 Rc8 12.Bxa7 d5 13.0-0

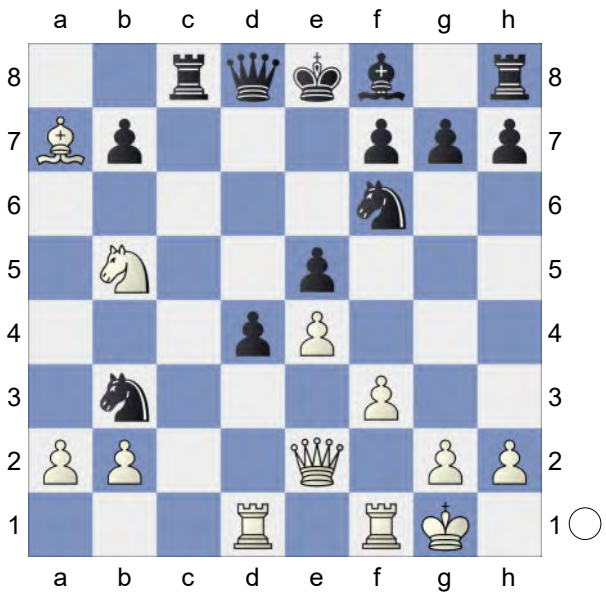
[13.Nxd5 b6 14.Nxf6+ gxf6∓]

13...d4 14.Nb5 Nc5 15.Rad1 0.01/20

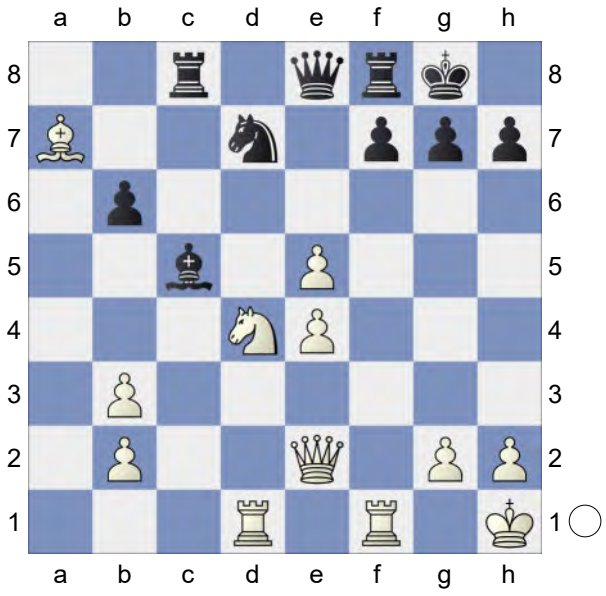
[15.f4!± 0.47/18 is superior. Nxb3 16.axb3]

15...Nxb3=

(Diagram)

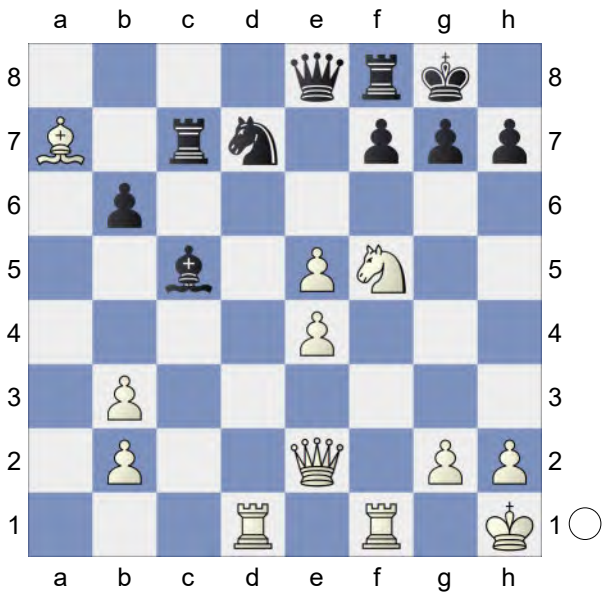


16.axb3 Threatens to win with f4. **16...b6 17.f4 Bc5 18.Kh1 Nd7 19.fxe5** Hoping for b4! **19...0-0! 20.Nxd4 Qe8**
[Less strong is 20...Nxe5 21.Ne6! fxe6 22.Rxd8 Rfxd8 23.Qa6±]

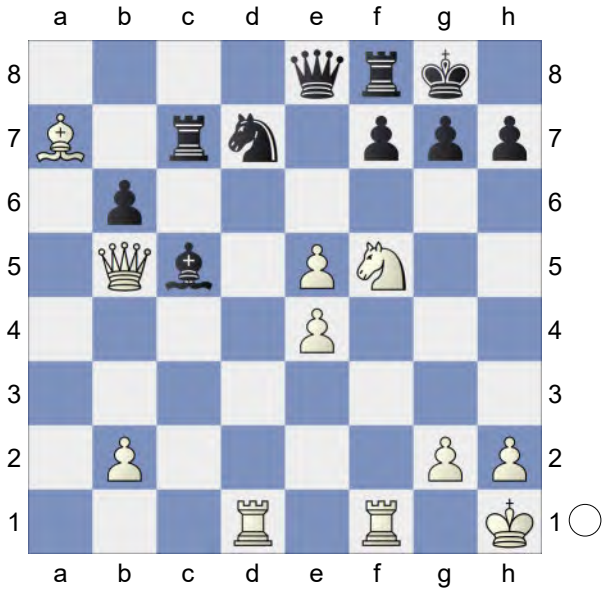


21.Nf5 Rc7

(Diagram)

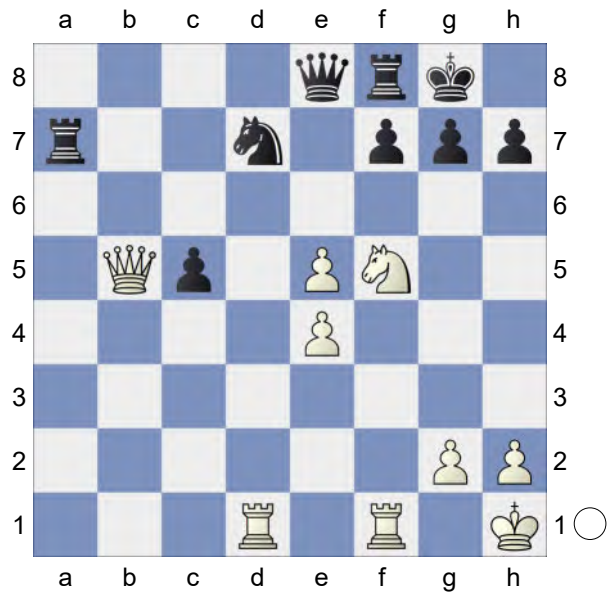


22.b4! Bxb4 23.Qb5! Bc5 0.60/21
[23...Ba5!= 0.02/21]

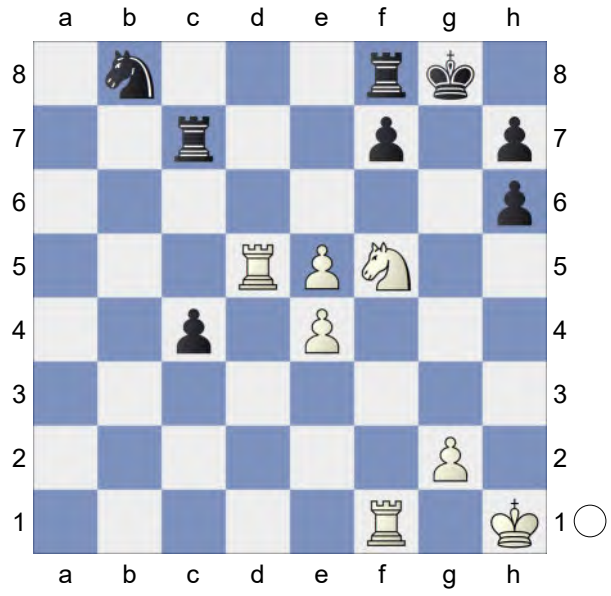


24.b4!± Rxa7 25.bxc5 bxc5

(Diagram)

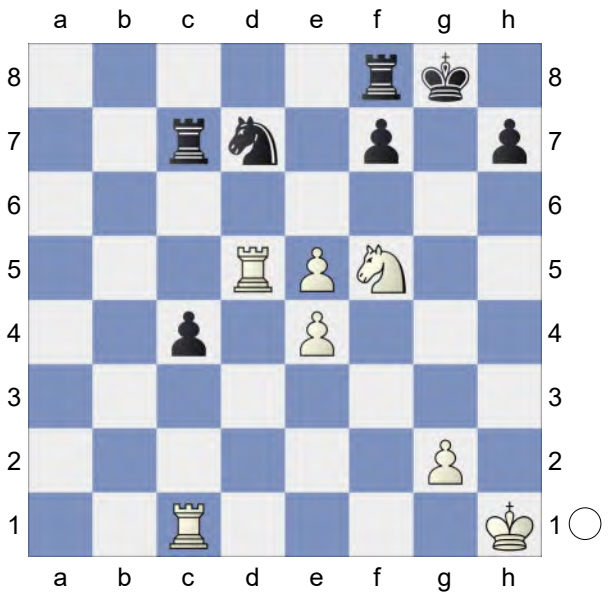


26.Rd5 Qb8 27.Qxb8 Nxb8
[27...Rxb8? 28.Ne7+ Kf8 29.Nc6+-]
28.h4 c4 29.h5 Rc7 30.h6 gxh6
[30...c3 looks sharper. 31.hxg7 Re8 32.Nd6 Rd8]

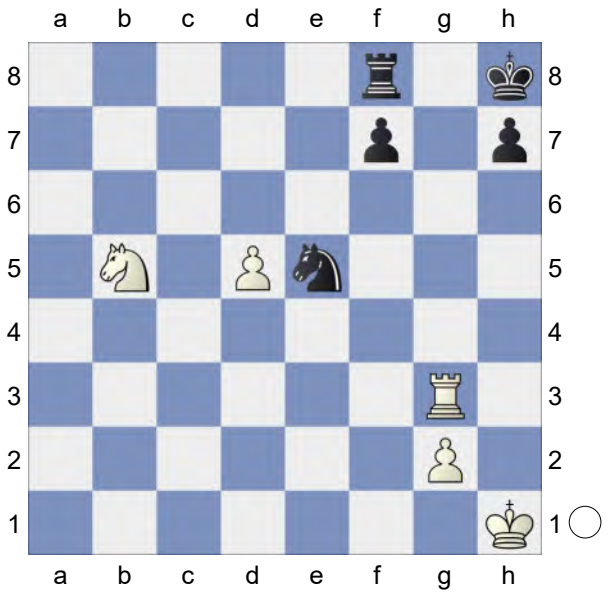


31.Nxh6+ Kg7 32.Nf5+ Kg8 33.Rc1 Nd7 34.Nh6+ Kg7! 35.Nf5+ Kg8

(Diagram)

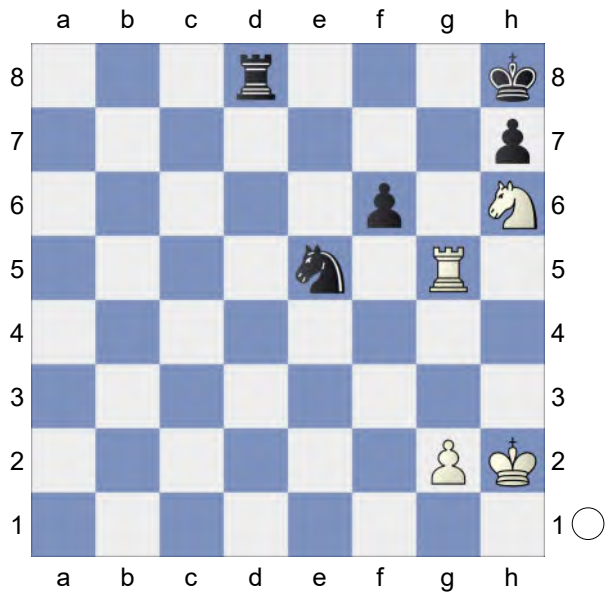


36.Nd6 Prevents Re8. **36...c3 37.Nb5 Rc5 38.Rxc3 Rxd5 39.exd5** And now Rg3+ would win. **39...Nxe5=** Endgame KRN-KRN **40.Rg3+ Kh8**

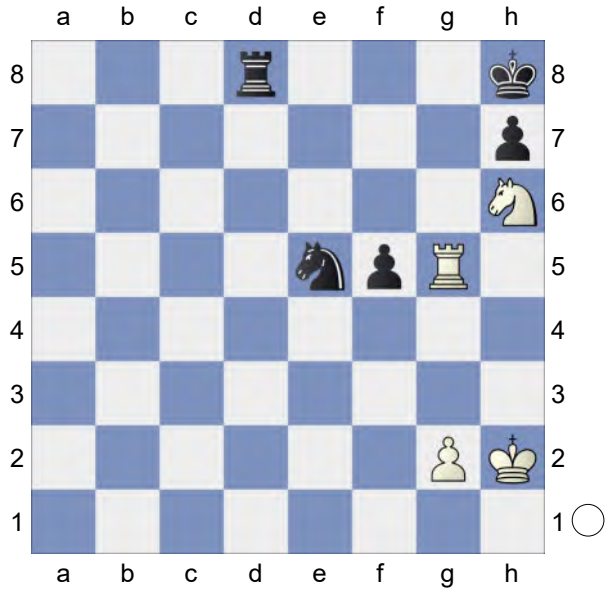


41.Kh2 Rb8 42.Nd6 Rd8 43.Nf5 Rxd5 44.Nh6 Against Ng4+ **44...Rd8** Prevents Rg8+. **45.Rg5! f5!**
[45...f6?

(Diagram)

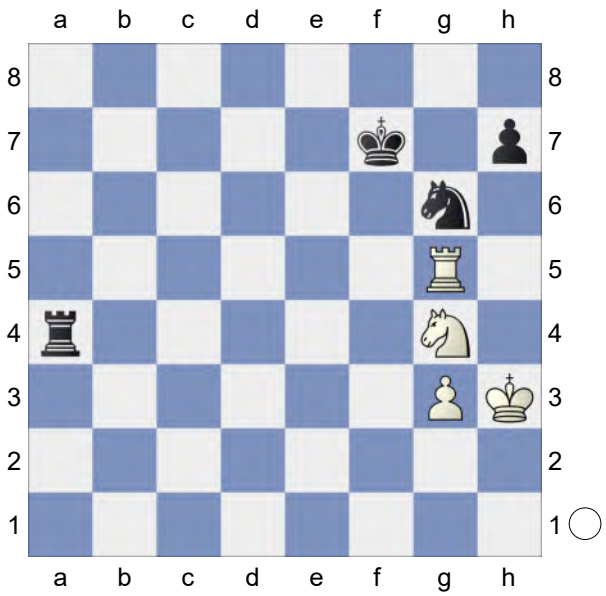


46.Rxe5! Kg7 47.Nf5+ Kg6 48.Nh4+ Kf7 49.Rh5+-]

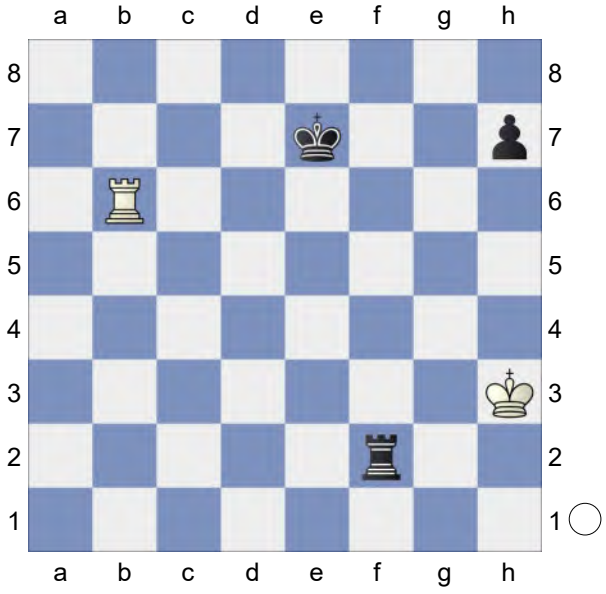


46.Nxf5 aiming for Nh6. **46...Ra8 47.Nh6 Ng6 48.g3 Kg7 49.Ng4 Ra4 50.Kh3 Kf7**

(Diagram)

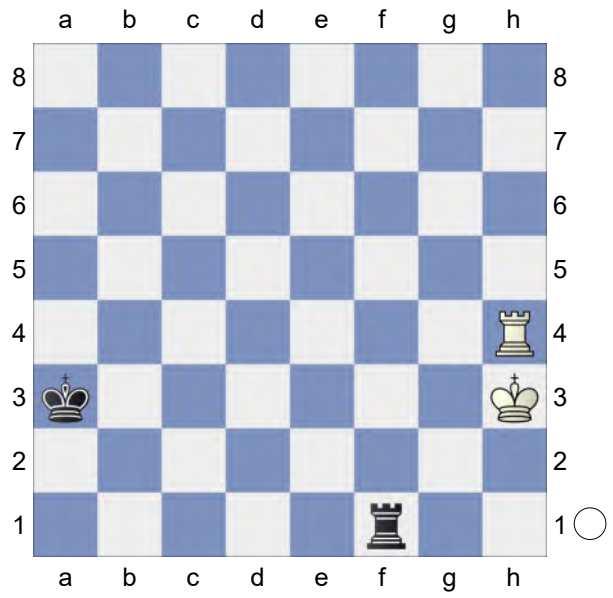


51.Rf5+ Ke6 52.Rf6+ Ke7 Strongly threatening ...Rxg4! **53.Rb6 Nf4+** 1.30/22 **54.gxf4± Rxf4 55.Nf2** 0.00/28 **Rxf2=**

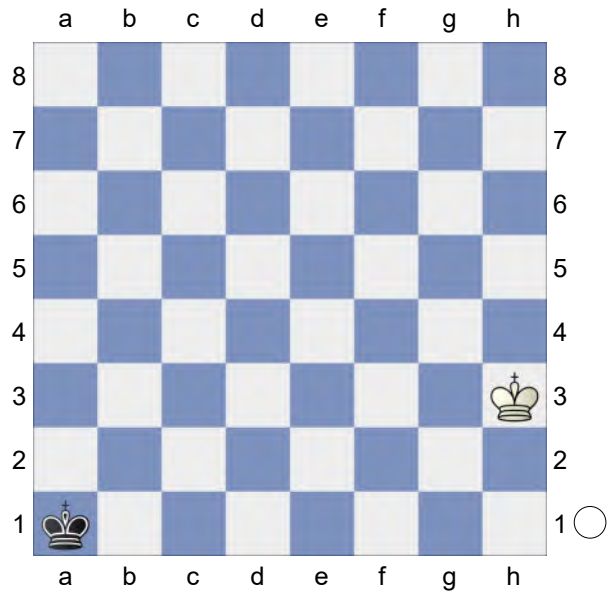


KR-KR. The position is equal. **56.Rb7+ Kd6 57.Rxh7 Rf1 58.Rh6+ Kc5** (-> ...Rh1+) **59.Rh5+ Kb4 60.Rh4+ Ka3**

(Diagram)



61.Rh5 Ra1 62.Ra5+ Kb2 63.Rxa1 Kxa1

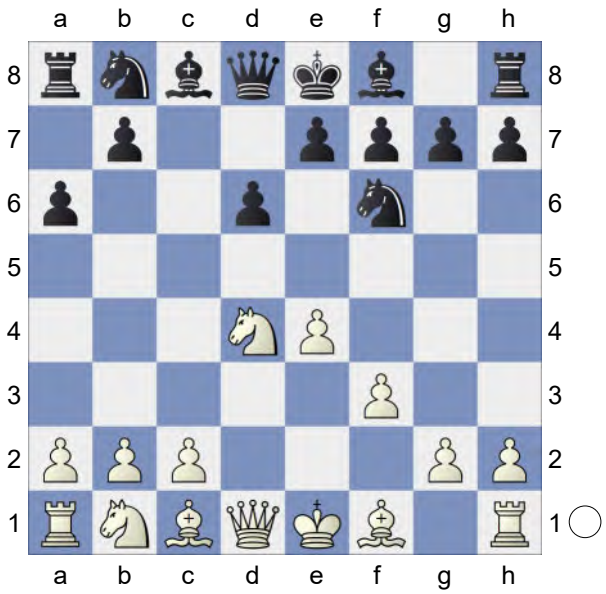


Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.09 (flawless)
½-½

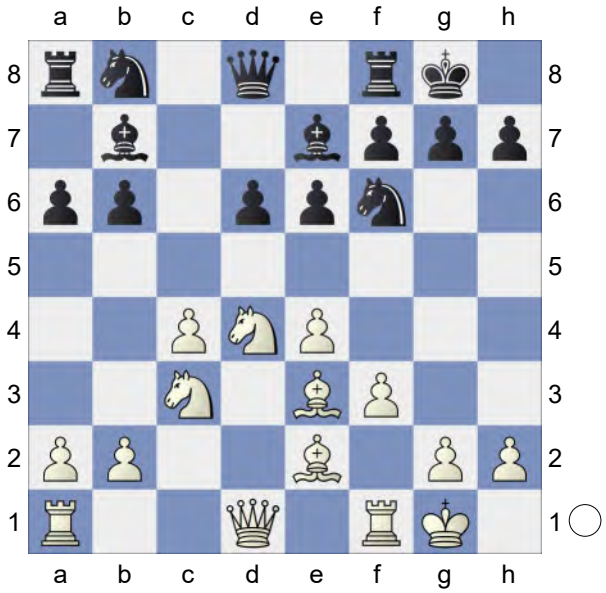
52 **B54**
Lu,Shanglei **2936**
Renierchess **2711**
Blitz 13.05.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
A31: Symmetrical English: 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 d4

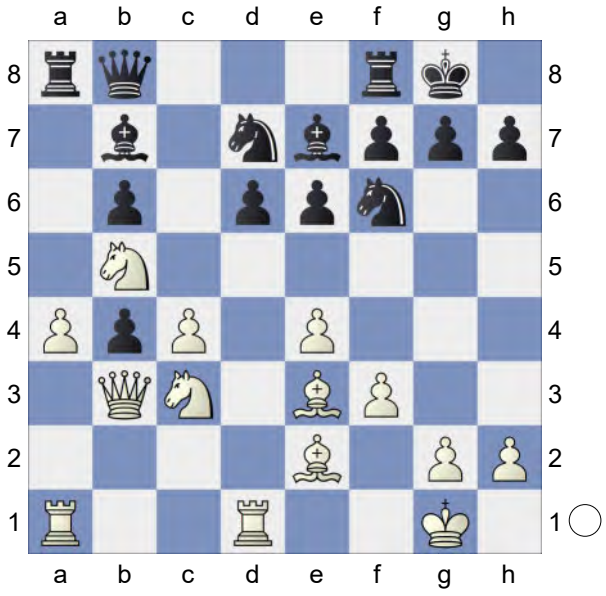
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6



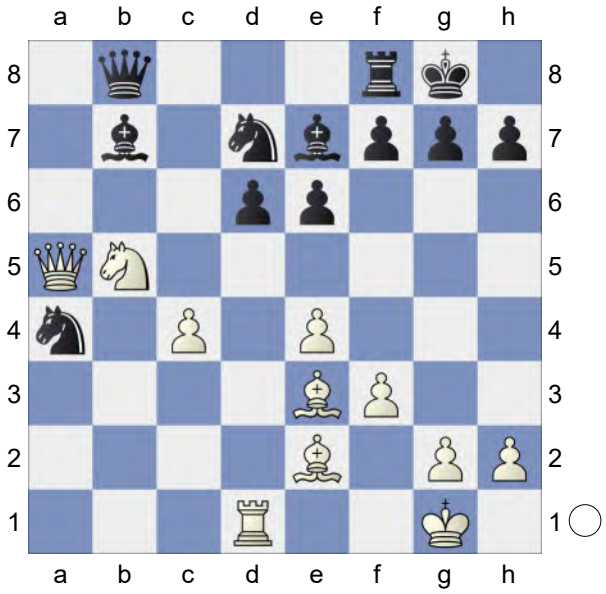
6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7



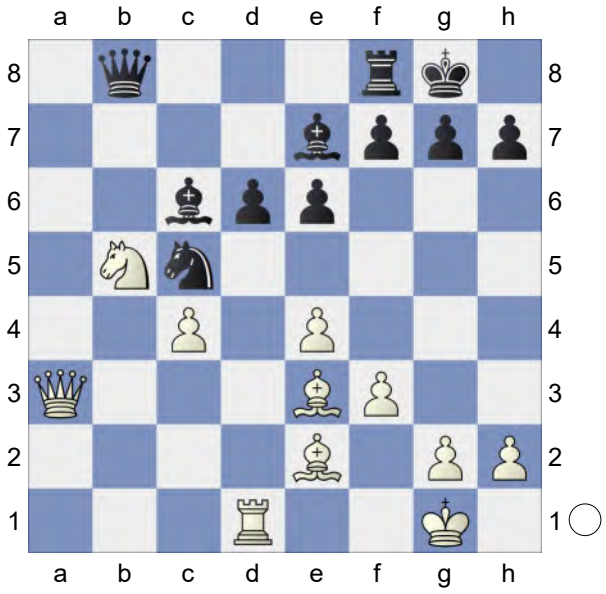
11.b4N
[11.Qd2 Nbd7 De Kok,W-Zhilin Soviet Union Corr 2002 [Verduga,D] *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 *(12.Rac1 Rc8 13.Rfd1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Kh8 17.b4 Rg8 18.Nb3 Bc7 19.Qg1 g5 20.Bd3 Qa8 21.Nd2 Rg7 22.Bd4 Rcg8 23.Na4 g4 24.f4 Qd8 25.Bb1 g3 26.h3 b5* Chapter-Games Game 5 (54)*)* 12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson]]
11...Nbd7 12.Qb3 Qc7 13.a4 White is slightly better. **13...a5 14.Ndb5 Qb8 15.Rfd1 axb4**



16.Qxb4 Nc5 17.a5 bxa5 18.Rxa5 Nfd7 19.Na4 Rxa5 20.Qxa5 Nxa4

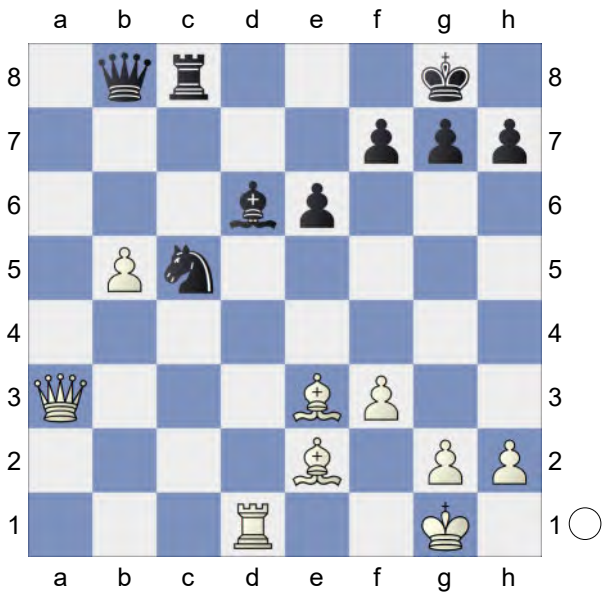


21.Qxa4 Bc6 0.76/20
[21...Nc5± 0.43/19 should be considered. 22.Qb4 Rc8]
22.Qa3± 0x0.00209a826646dp-1022s more active pieces. **22...Nc5** 1.24/20
[22...Qa8± 0.64/19]

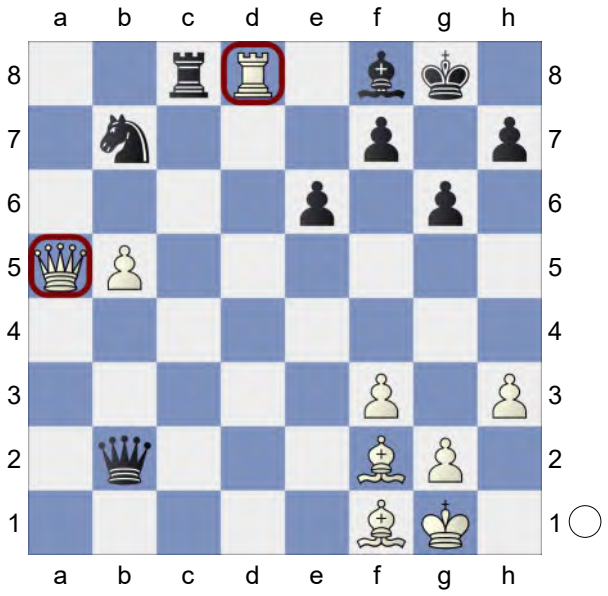


23.e5! Bxb5 24.cxb5 And now exd6 would win. **24...Rc8 25.exd6 Bxd6**

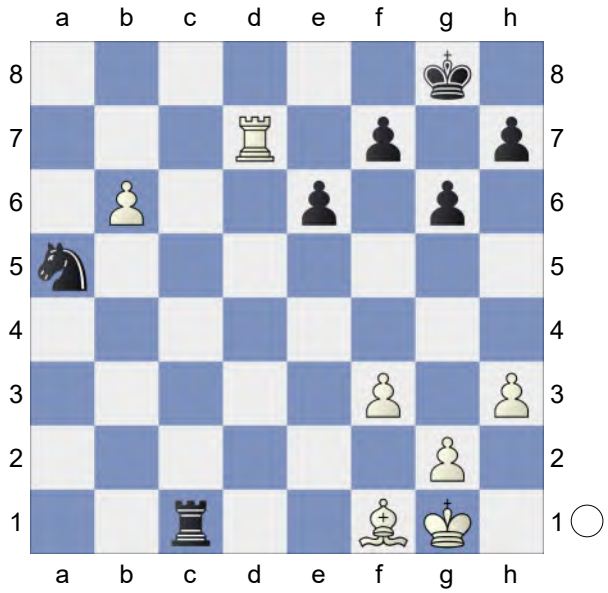
(Diagram)



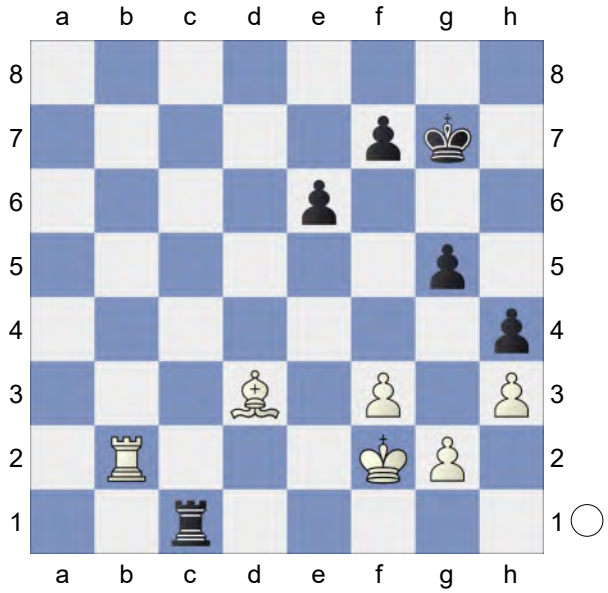
26.h3 0.41/21
[White should try 26.Kh1± 0.97/19]
26...Bf8 1.19/19
[26...Ne4± 0.41/21 27.Qa7 Nc3 28.Qxb8 Bxb8]
27.Qa5 g6 28.Bf1 0.74/20
[⌓28.b6 1.23/20]
28...Qe5 29.Bf2 Qb2 1.44/21
[29...Bd6± 0.68/22 30.g3 Nb7]
30.Rd8 0.31/23
[30.Qa1± 1.44/21 Qxa1 31.Rxa1]
30...Nb7±



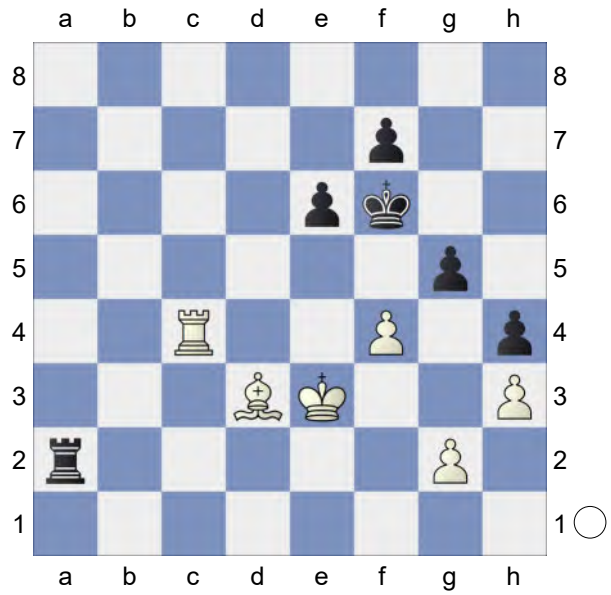
31.Qd2 -1.28/23
[31.Rxf8+!± 0.38/23 Kxf8 32.Qb6]
31...Qxd2?? 1.33/21
[31...Rc2∓ -1.28/23 and life is bright. 32.Rxf8+ Kxf8 33.Qh6+ Kg8]
32.Rxd2± Bc5 2.83/23 This move loses the game for Black.
[32...Bd6± 1.34/19 33.Rd1 Ra8]
33.Bxc5+- Rxc5 Endgame KRB-KRN
34.Rd7 Na5 35.b6 Rc1



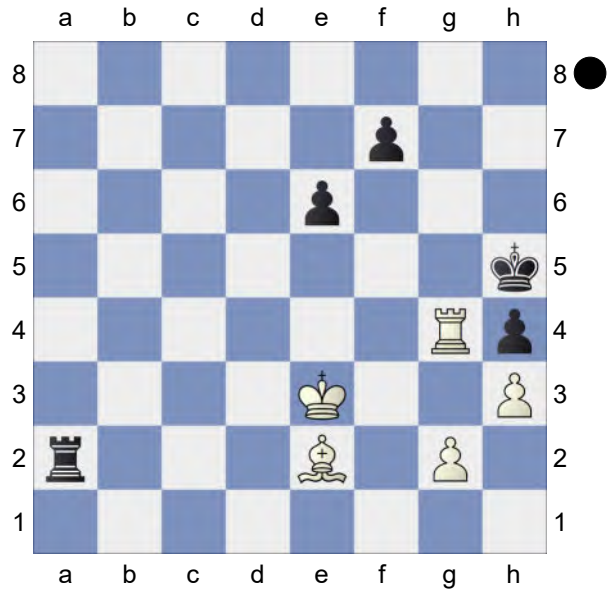
36.b7
[And not 36.Kf2 Rc2+ 37.Kg3 Rb2=]
36...Nxb7 37.Rxb7 KRB-KR **37...h5 38.Rb2 Kg7 39.Kf2 h4 40.Bd3 g5**



41.Rc2 Ra1 42.Rc4 Kf6 4.82/24
[42...Ra2+ 3.09/23 was worth a try. 43.Be2 f5]
43.f4 White is clearly winning. **43...Ra2+ 44.Kf3 Ra3 45.Ke3 Ra2**



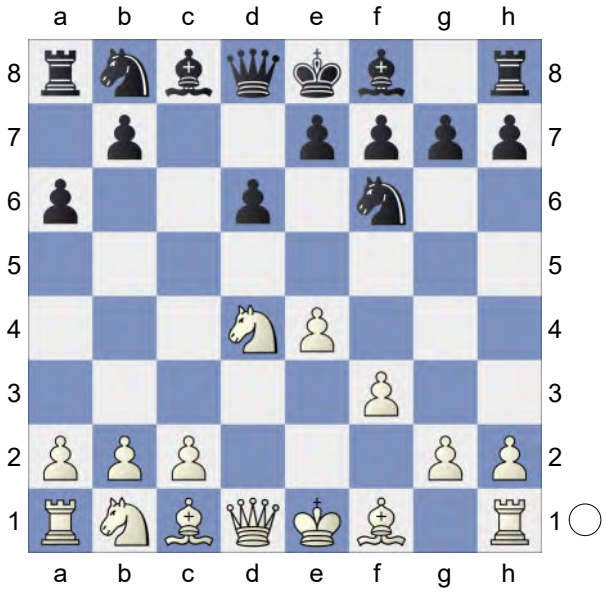
46.fxg5+ Kxg5 47.Rg4+ Kh5 48.Be2



Weighted Error Value: White=0.26 (precise) /Black=0.36
1-0

53 **B54**
□ **Zubov,Alexander** **2936**
■ **Telitmas** **2565**
Blitz 20.01.2020
[Kitty Kat]

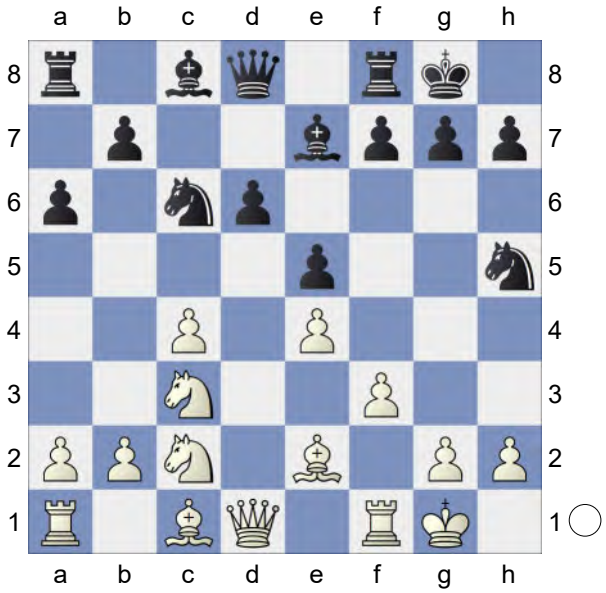
Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6



6.c4 e5N
[6...e6 7.Nc3 Be7 *(7...b6 8.Be3 Bb7 9.Be2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Be7 11.a4 Ne5 12.a5 bxa5 13.Qa4+ Qd7 14.Qxa5 Nc6 15.Qa2 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 0-0 17.Rfd1 Qc7 18.Rac1 Nd7 19.b4 Rfc8 20.Na4 Qb8 21.Qa1 Bf8 22.Rb1* Chapter-Games Game 2 (42) *)* 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Qc7 *(11...Nbd7 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson]*)* 12.Rac1 *(12.Rfd1*

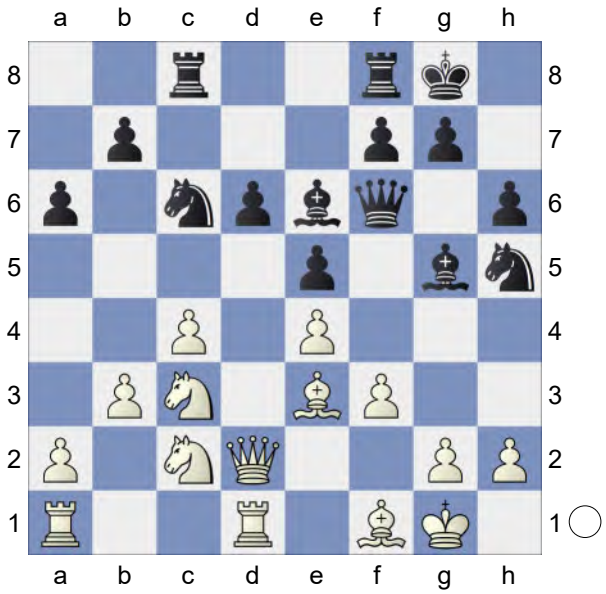
Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2 Bc6 Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53) *)* 12...Nbd7 13.Rfd1 Rac8 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Nc2 Rfe8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bf4 Ne5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Qd6 Bc7 20.Qa3 Rcd8 21.b4 Chumichev,G (2416)-12.0-0 b6 13.Rad1 Bb7 (2599) Moscow 2012 CBM 017 [Ham/Harding] 0-1 (46)]

7.Nc2 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0 White is slightly better. **9.Be2 Nh5 10.0-0 Nc6**



11.Be3 Be6 12.Qd2 h6 13.Rfd1 Rc8 14.Bf1 Bg5 15.b3 Qf6

(Diagram)



16.g3 Rfd8

[16...Qxf3 17.Bxg5 Nxg3 18.hxg3± *(18.Bg2 Qxc3 19.hxg3 Qxg3±)*]

17.Be2 0.07/18

[17.Bg2± 0.42/17 was preferrable.]

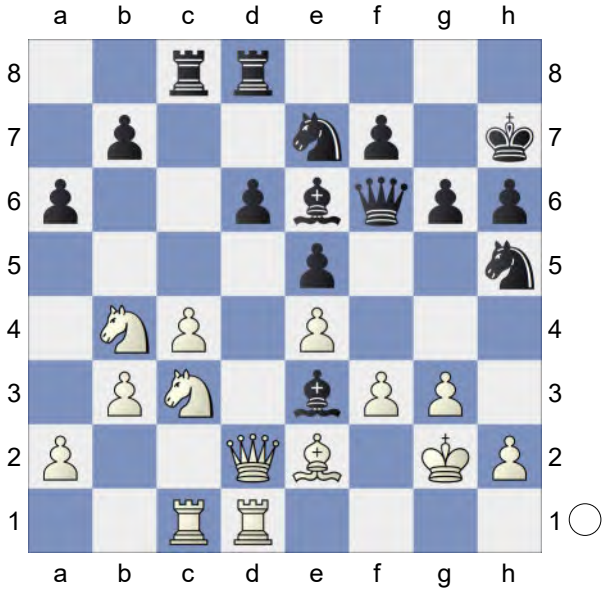
17...g6 0.47/20

[17...Bxe3+= 0.07/18 might be stronger. 18.Qxe3 Qg6]

18.Kg2 Kh7 0.82/20

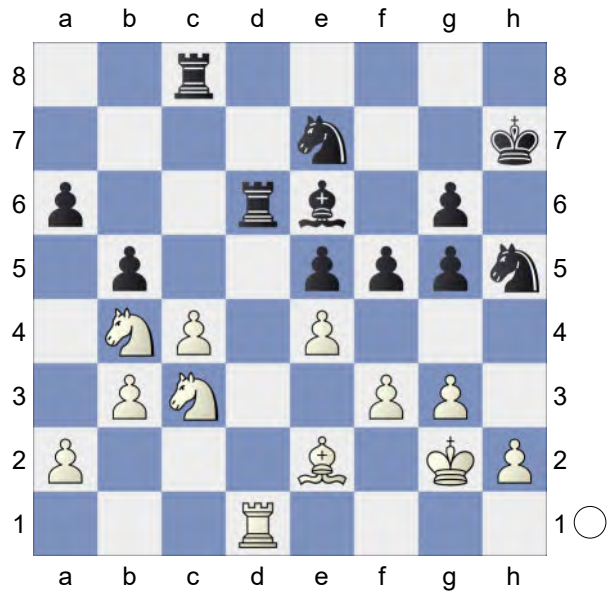
[18...Ne7± 0.42/19]

19.Rac1 Ne7 20.Nb4 Bxe3

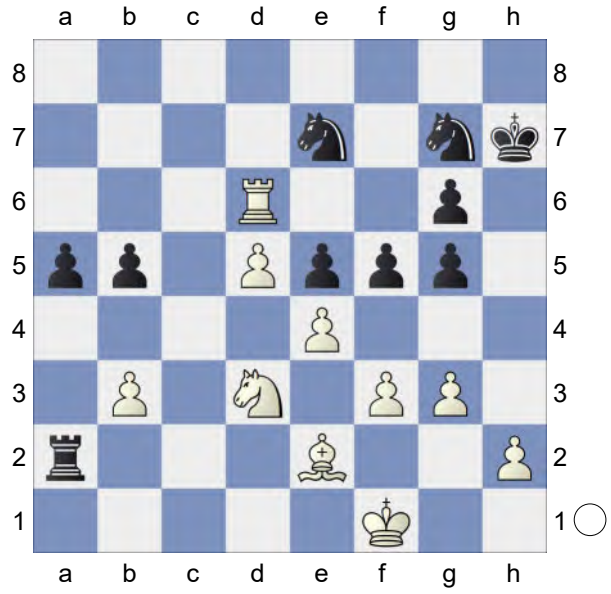


21.Qxe3 Qg5 22.Qxg5 hxg5 23.Rc2 f5 1.40/20 White leaves nothing to

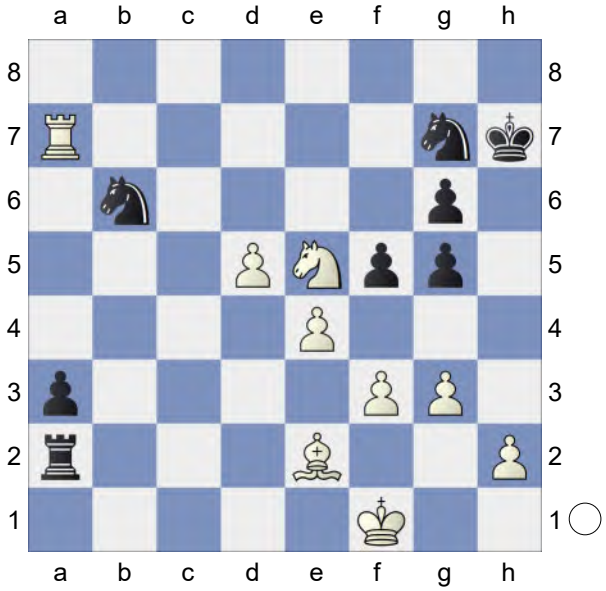
chance now.
[23...Nc6= 0.23/21 24.Nxc6 Rxc6]
24.Rcd2± b5? 4.90/22
[24...a5± 1.44/21]
25.Rxd6+- Rxd6



26.Rxd6 Ng7 27.Ncd5 Bxd5 28.cxd5
[28.Nxd5 Nc6 29.cxb5 axb5 30.Bxb5 Nd4]
28...a5 29.Nd3 Rc2 30.Kf1 Rxa2

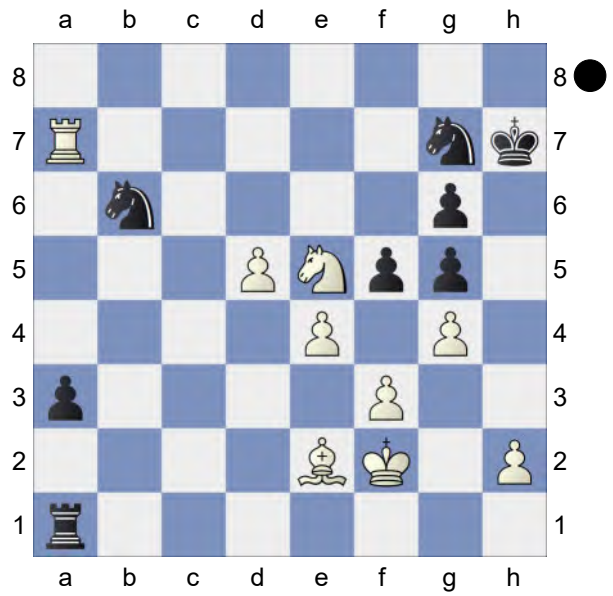


31.Rd7 Nc8 32.Nxe5 a4 7.56/21
[⌓32...fxe4 4.82/18 33.fxe4 a4 34.bxa4 Rxa4]
33.bxa4 bxa4 8.23/19
[⌓33...Nb6 4.65/19 34.Rb7 *(34.Bxb5 Nxd7 35.Nxd7 g4+-)* 34...Ra1+ 35.Kg2 Nxa4 36.exf5 gxf5]
34.Rc7 3.62/18
[⌓34.exf5 8.23/19 Intending f6 and mate. Ra1+ 35.Kf2 gxf5 36.Bd3 Ra2+ 37.Kf1 Ra1+ 38.Kg2]
34...Nb6 35.Ra7 a3

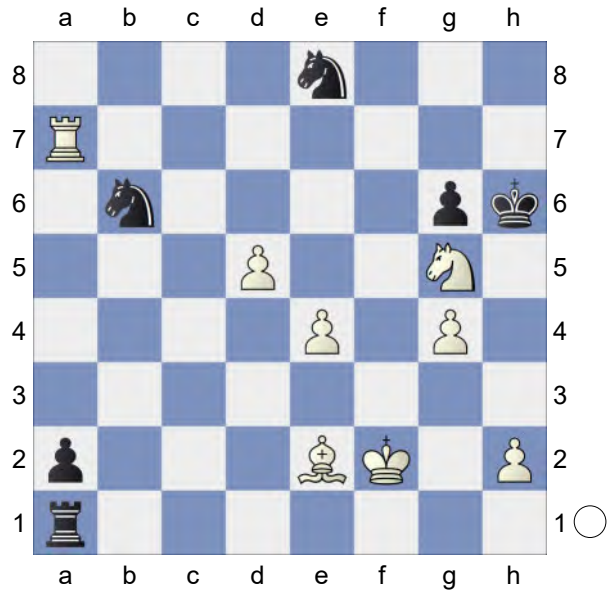


36.g4 2.44/19
[⌓36.d6 4.51/18]
36...Ra1+ 3.54/20
[36...fxe4 2.44/19 keeps fighting. 37.fxe4 Kg8]
37.Kf2

(Diagram)

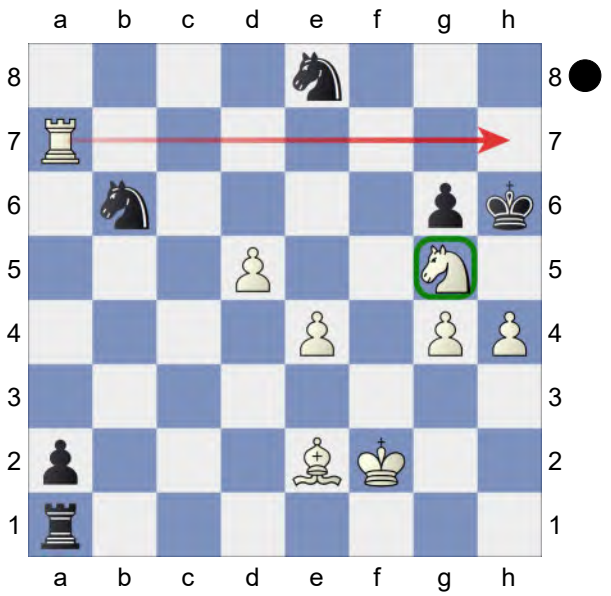


Black must now prevent d6. **37...fxe4** **38.fxe4** d6 is the strong threat. **38...a2** **39.Nf7** **Ne8** 5.25/20
[39...Kg8 3.04/20]
40.Nxg5+ 2.26/21
[⌓40.Nd6+ 5.25/20 Ng7 41.Nf7]
40...Kh6? 5.76/22
[40...Kg8 2.26/21 is tougher. 41.h3 Kf8]

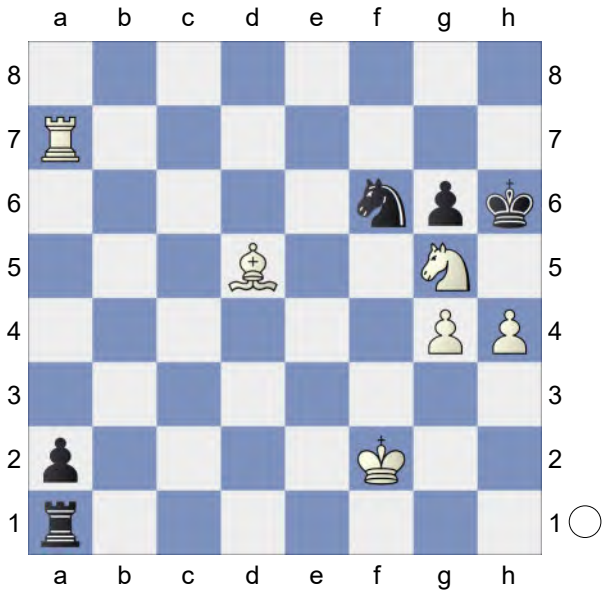


41.h4

(Diagram)

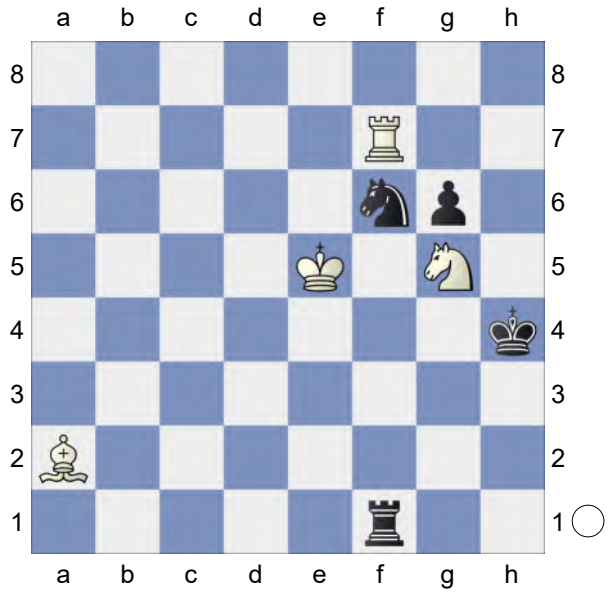


Nf6 Against Rh7+ **42.e5** **Nbxd5** 8.91/23
[⌓42...Nc8 5.07/22 43.Rxa2 *(43.exf6? Nxa7 44.Ne6 Rb1-+)* 43...Rxa2 44.exf6 Nd6]
43.exf6 **Nxf6** **44.Bf3** **Nd7** **45.Bd5** 10.74/26
[⌓45.Rxd7 #5/12 Rf1+ 46.Kg2 Rg1+ 47.Kh3 Rg3+ 48.Kxg3 a1Q 49.Rh7#]
45...Nf6

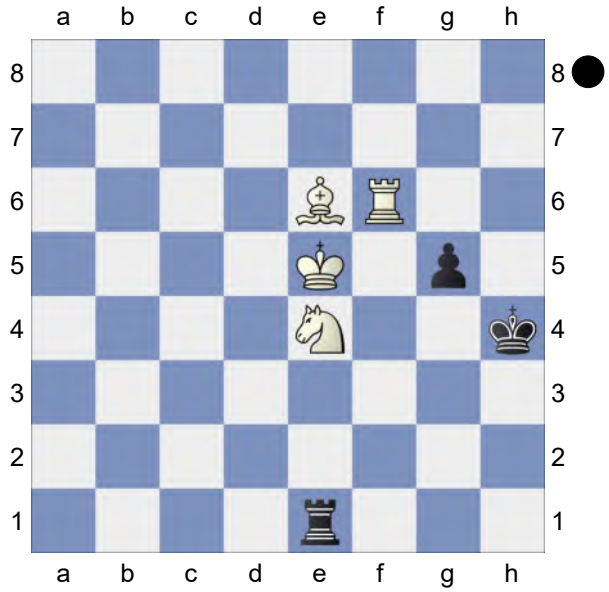


46.Bxa2? 3.87/26
[46.Nf7+ 10.34/23 Kg7 47.Ne5+ Kf8 48.Bxa2 Rxa2+ 49.Rxa2]

46...Nxg4+ 47.Kg3 Nf6 Prevents Rh7+. **48.Kf4 Rf1+ 49.Ke5** 2.06/19
[⌓49.Nf3 3.51/21]
49...Kh5 50.Rf7 Kxh4? 6.27/19
[Not 50...Ng4+ 51.Kd6 Rxf7 52.Bxf7=]
[50...Rf5+± 1.57/21 51.Kd4 Kxh4]



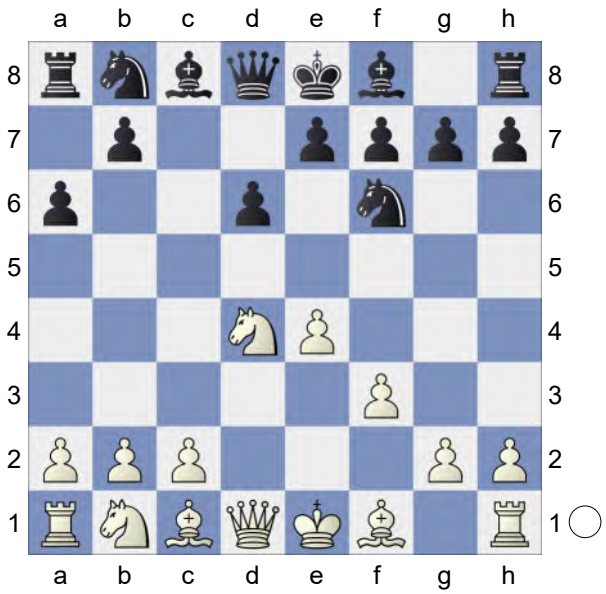
51.Rxf6 Re1+ 52.Ne4 g5 53.Be6



Weighted Error Value: White=0.55/ Black=1.00
1-0

54 **B54**
☐ **Drawdenied Twitch** **2936**
■ **Atakishiyev04** **2717**
Blitz 24.03.2024
[Kitty Kat]

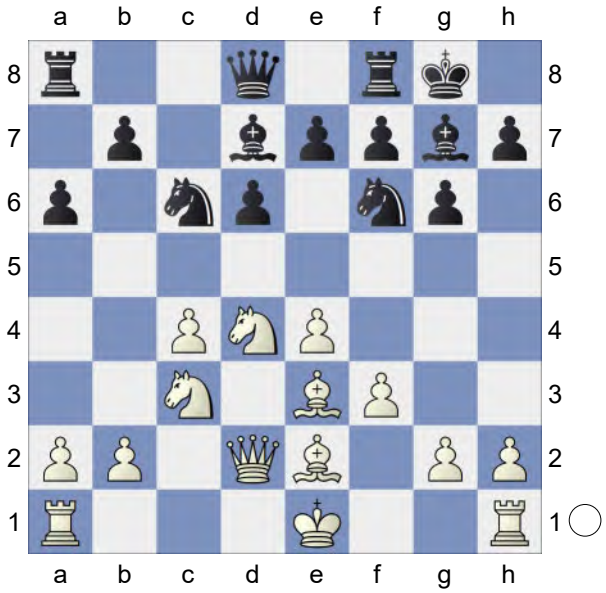
Blitz 3min
B38: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind with 5...Bg7 and 7...0-0
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6



6.c4 g6N
[6...e6 7.Nc3 Be7 *(7...b6 8.Be3 Bb7 9.Be2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Be7 11.a4 Ne5 12.a5 bxa5 13.Qa4+ Qd7 14.Qxa5 Nc6 15.Qa2 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 0-0 17.Rfd1 Qc7 18.Rac1 Nd7 19.b4 Rfc8 20.Na4 Qb8 21.Qa1 Bf8 22.Rb1* Chapter-Games Game 2 (42)) 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Qc7 *(11...Nbd7 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson]) 12.Rac1 *(12.Rfd1*

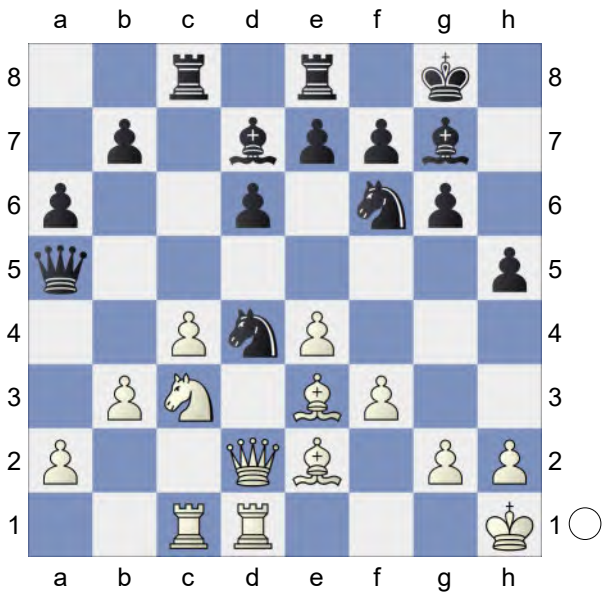
Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2 Bc6 Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53) *)* 12...Nbd7 13.Rfd1 Rac8 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Nc2 Rfe8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bf4 Ne5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Qd6 Bc7 20.Qa3 Rcd8 21.b4 Chumichev,G (2416)-12.0-0 b6 13.Rad1 Bb7 (2599) Moscow 2012 CBM 017 [Ham/Harding] 0-1 (46)]

7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 Nc6 10.Qd2 Bd7



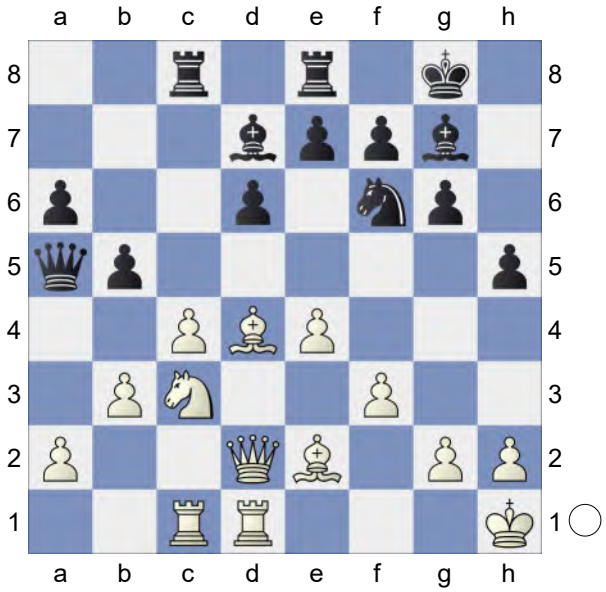
11.0-0 Rc8 12.b3 Re8 13.Rfd1 Qa5 14.Rac1 White is slightly better. **14...h5 15.Kh1 Nxd4**

(Diagram)



16.Bxd4 b5 0.87/20

[16...h4± 0.31/17]

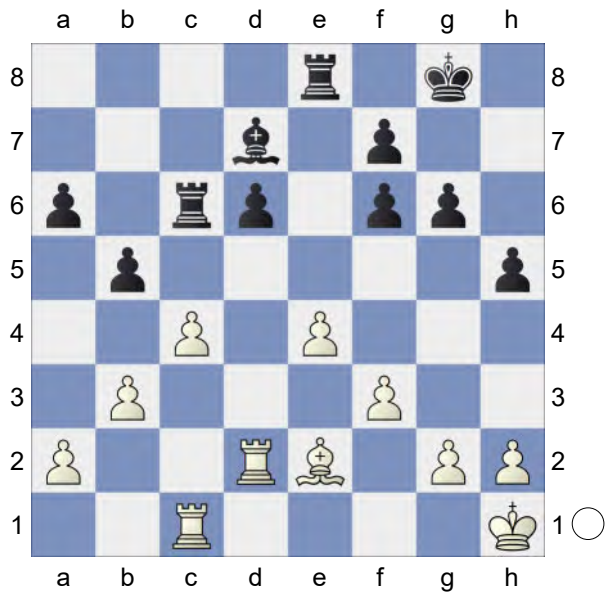


17.Bxf6 -0.01/20

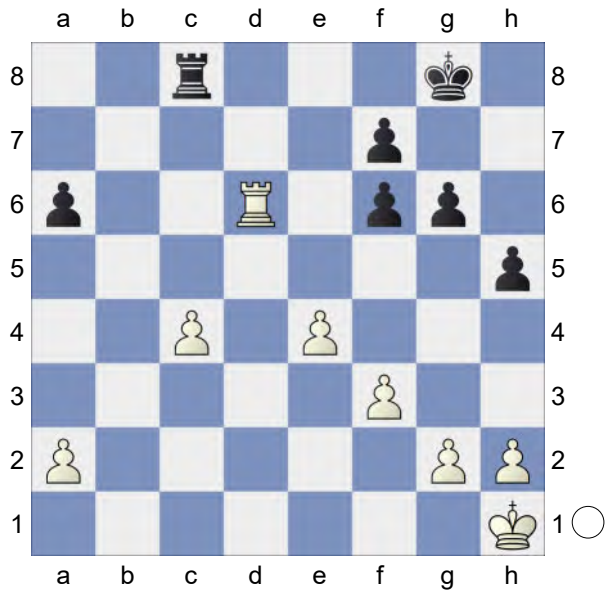
[17.Qb2!± 0.87/20]

17...Bxf6 18.Nd5 Qxd2 19.Nxf6+ exf6 20.Rxd2 Rc6

(Diagram)

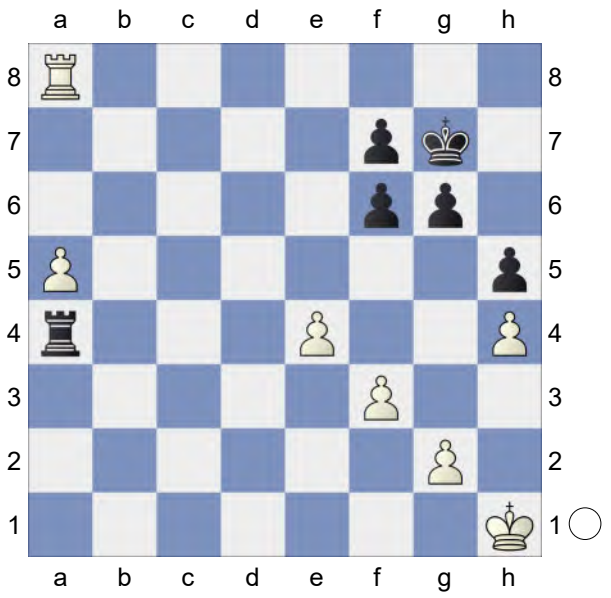


21.Rcd1 bxc4 22.Bxc4 Be6 23.Rxd6 Rxd6 24.Rxd6 Bxc4 25.bxc4±
Endgame KR-KR **25...Rc8**

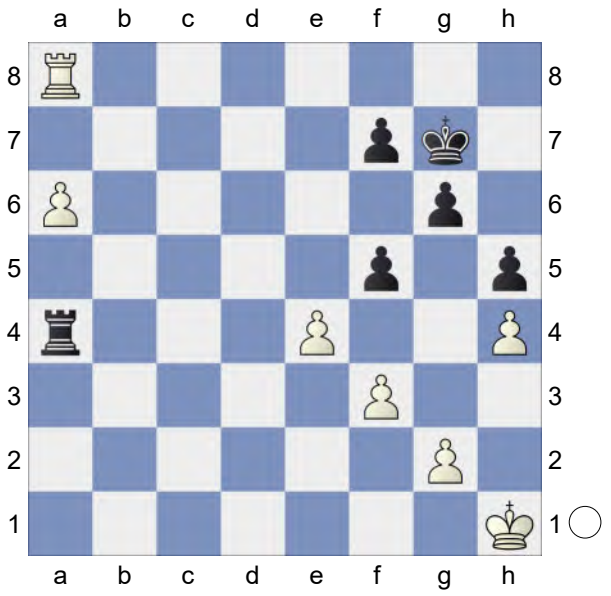


26.h4
[Of course not 26.Rxf6 Rxc4 27.Kg1 Ra4=]
26...Rxc4 27.Rxa6 Rc2 1.03/25
[27...f5± 0.59/26 should be considered.]
28.a4 Ra2 29.Ra8+ Kg7 30.a5 Ra4

(Diagram)

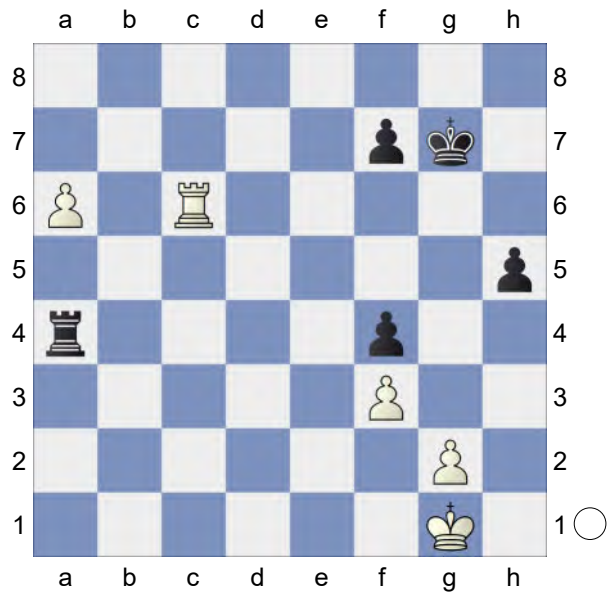


31.a6 f5 2.56/24
[31...g5± 1.12/25]

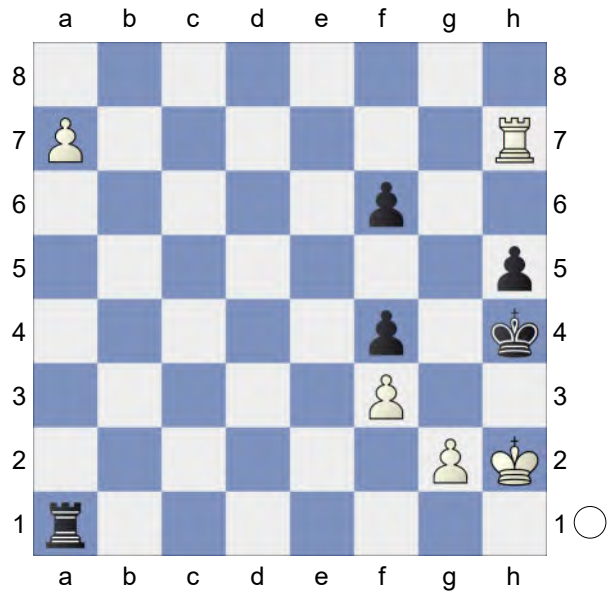


32.exf5 1.03/25
[32.a7!+- 2.56/24 is the precise move to win.]
32...Rxh4+± 33.Kg1 gxf5 5.27/26
[33...Ra4± 0.98/25 is tougher.]
34.Rc8? 0.07/24
[34.g4+- 5.27/26 fxg4 35.a7 gxf3 36.Rb8]
34...Ra4= 35.Rc6 f4

(Diagram)

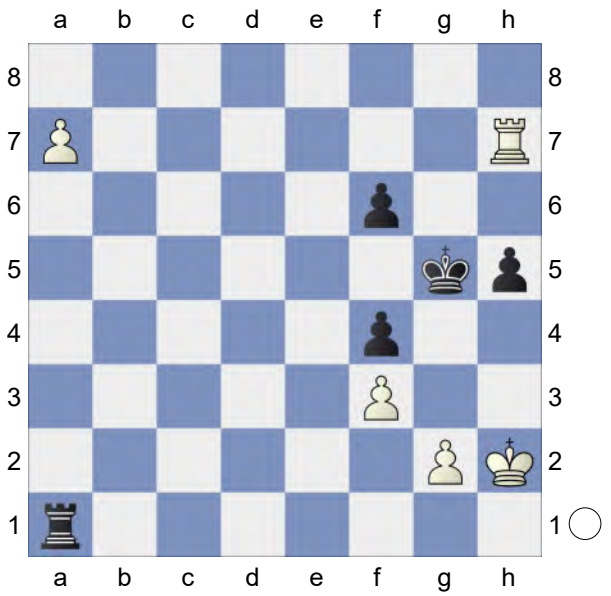


36.Kh2 f6 37.Rc7+ Kg6 38.a7 Ra1! 39.Rd7 Kg5 40.Rh7 Kh4

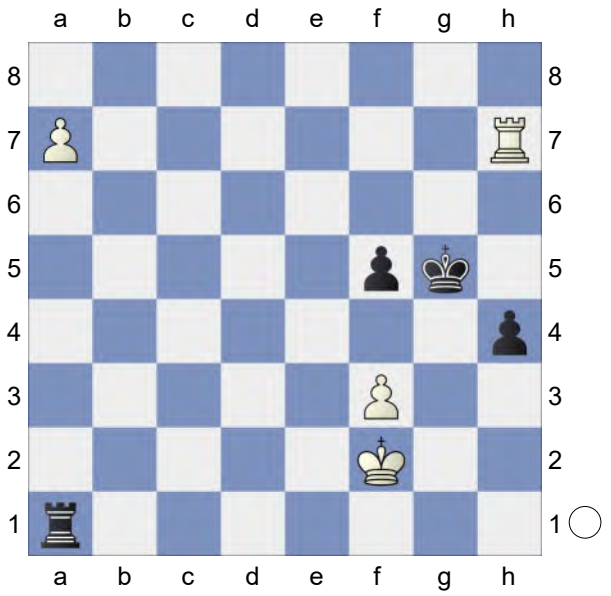


41.Rf7 Kg5 42.Rd7 Kh4 43.Rb7 Kg5 44.Rc7 Kh4 45.Rh7 Kg5

(Diagram)

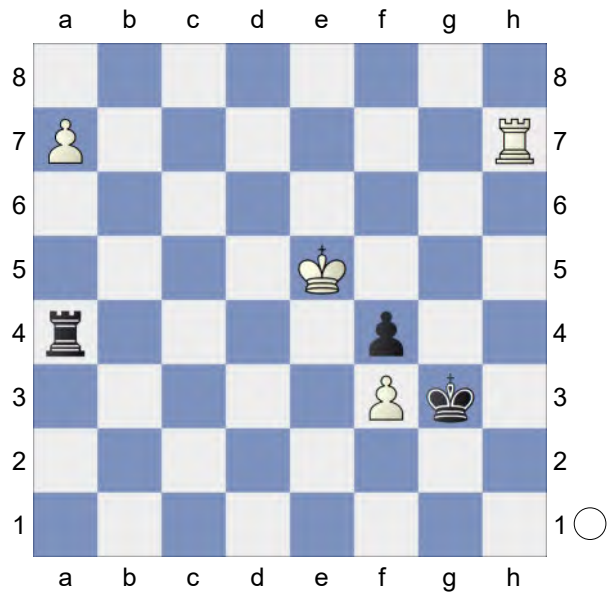


46.g3 fxg3+ 47.Kxg3 h4+ 48.Kh3 Rh1+ 49.Kg2 Ra1 50.Kf2 f5

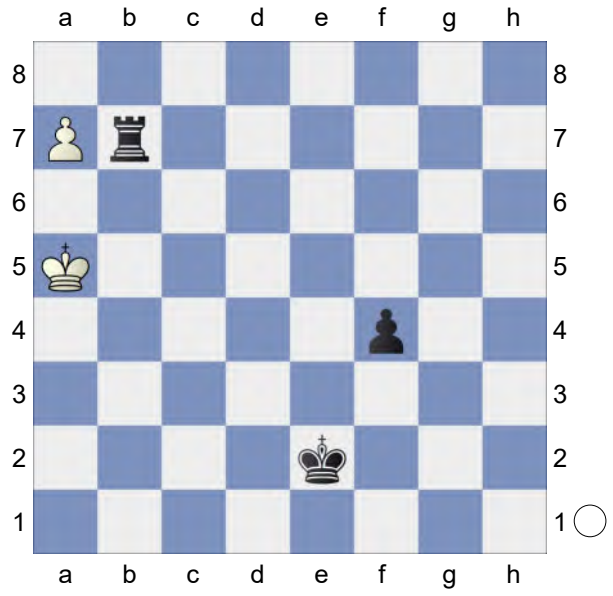


51.Ke3 Ra3+ 52.Kd4 Kf4 53.Rxh4+ Kg3 54.Rh7 Ra4+ 55.Ke5 f4

(Diagram)

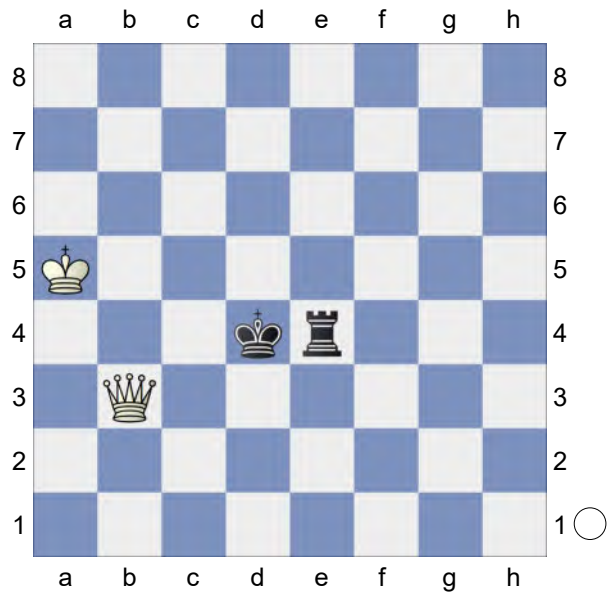


56.Kd6 Kxf3 57.Kc5 Ke2 58.Kb6 Rb4+? #14/21
[58...f3= 0.00/20]
59.Ka5 Rb1 60.Rb7? 0.00/24 **Rxb7??** 2.64/25
[60...Ra1+= 0.00/24 61.Kb6 f3]

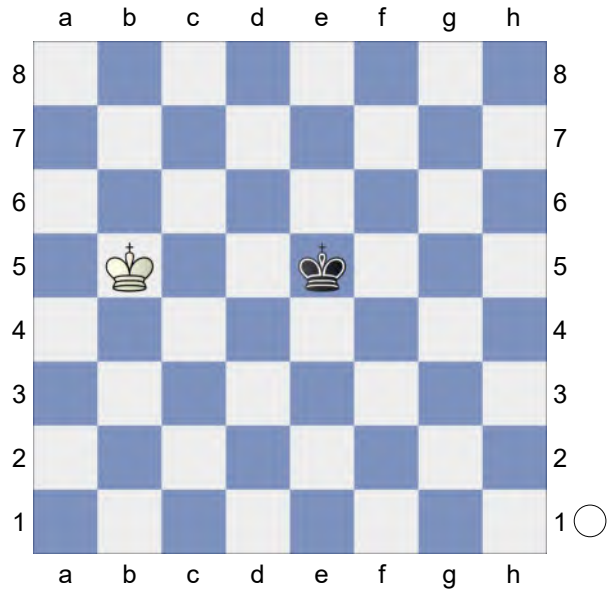


61.a8Q+- KQ-KR **61...Rb3?** 5.55/30
[61...Re7 2.71/27 62.Qg2+ Ke3]
62.Qe4+ Re3 63.Qxf4 Kd3 64.Qb4 Re4 65.Qb3+ Kd4

(Diagram)



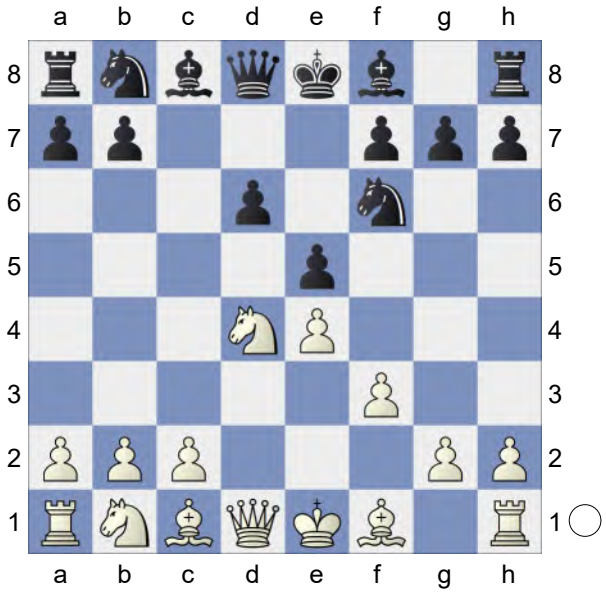
66.Kb5 Ke5 67.Qc4? 0.00/22 **Kf4?** 5.45/23
[67...Rxc4= 0.00/22 68.Kxc4]
68.Qc5? 0.00/65
[White should try 68.Qc7++- 5.45/23 Kf3 69.Kc5]
68...Re5= 69.Qxe5+ Kxe5



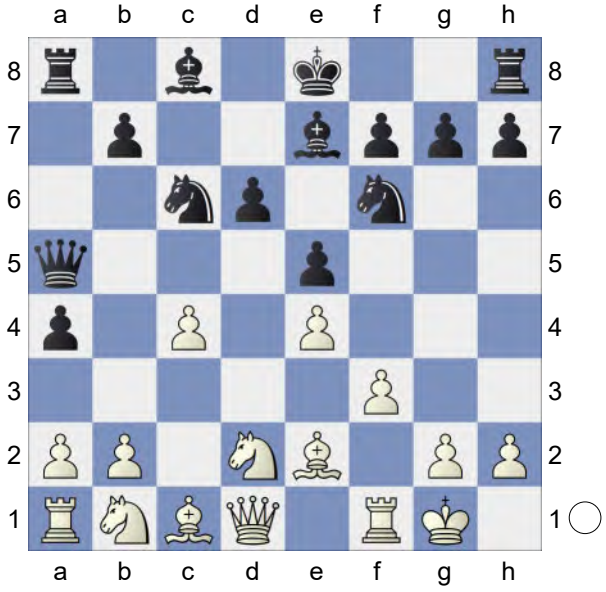
Weighted Error Value: White=0.42/ Black=0.44
½-½

55 **B54**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2936**
■ **Charmgame** **2842**
Blitz 30.03.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

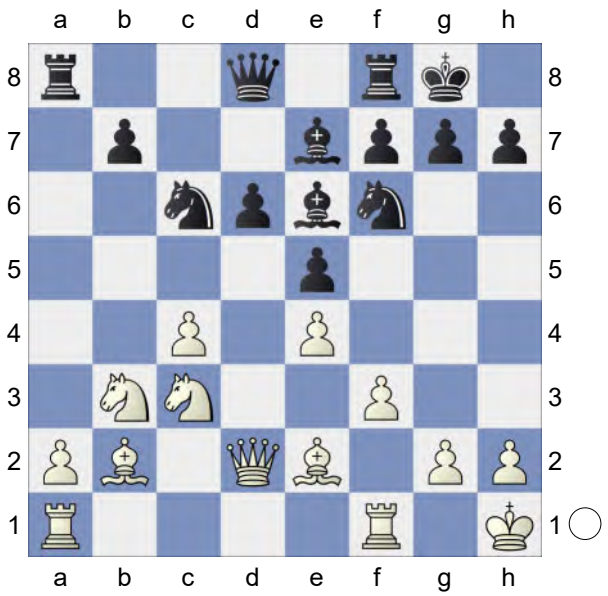


6.Nb3 a5 0.41/20
[6...d5= -0.14/21]
7.c4 -0.32/21
[7.Bb5+± 0.41/20 Bd7 8.Bxd7+ Nbxd7 9.a4]
7...a4 8.N3d2 Qa5 The position is equal. **9.Be2 Nc6 10.0-0 Be7**

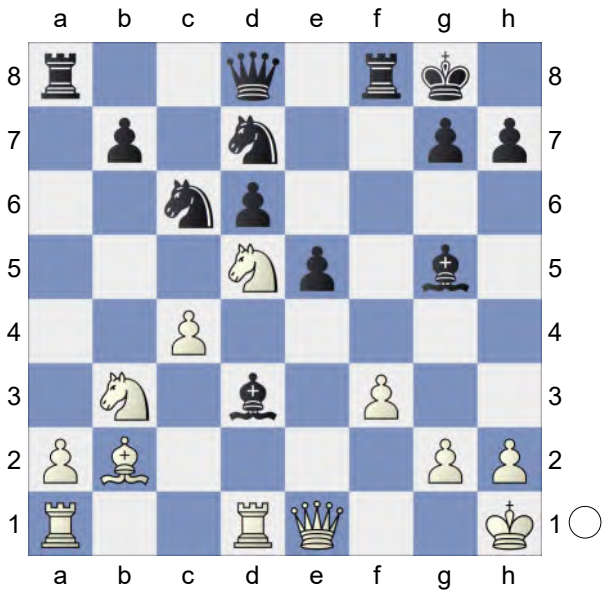


11.Kh1 0-0 12.Nc3 a3 13.Nb3 axb2 14.Bxb2 Qd8 15.Qd2 Be6

(Diagram)

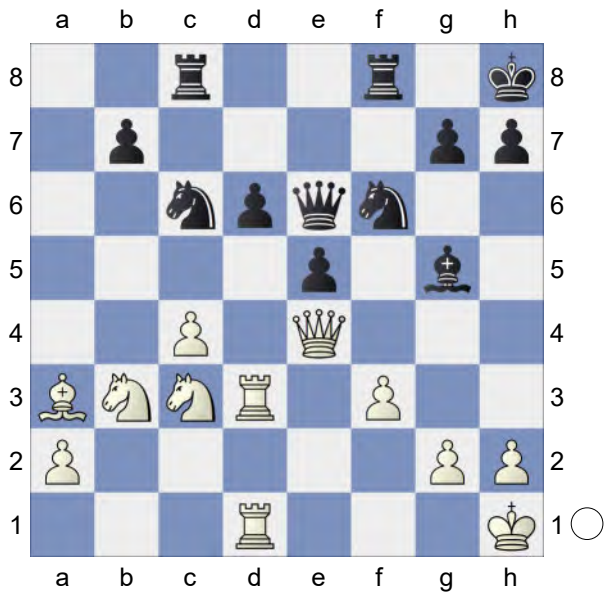


16.Nd5 Nd7 17.Rfd1 Bg5 18.Qe1 f5 19.exf5 Bxf5 20.Bd3 Against Bc2
20...Bxd3

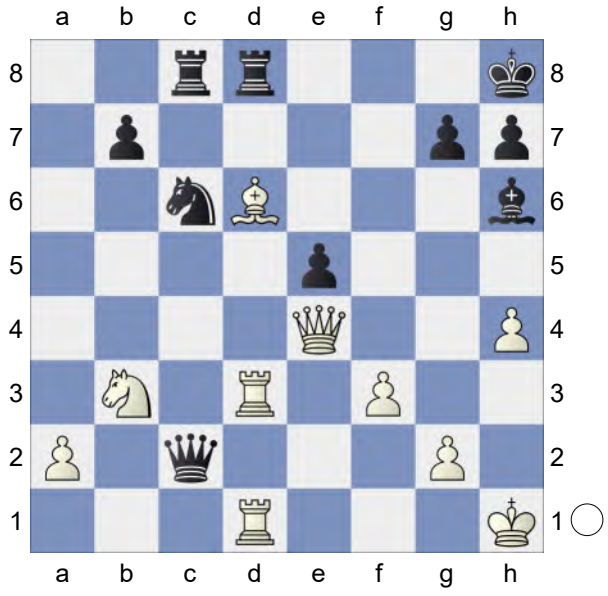


21.Rxd3 Rc8 0.53/19
[21...e4= 0.22/19 was preferrable. 22.fxe4 *(22.Qxe4 Re8∓)* 22...Nce5]
22.Rad1 Qe8 23.Qe4 Qe6 24.Ba3 Kh8 25.Nc3 -0.11/22
[White should try 25.c5± 0.81/20]
25...Nf6=

(Diagram)

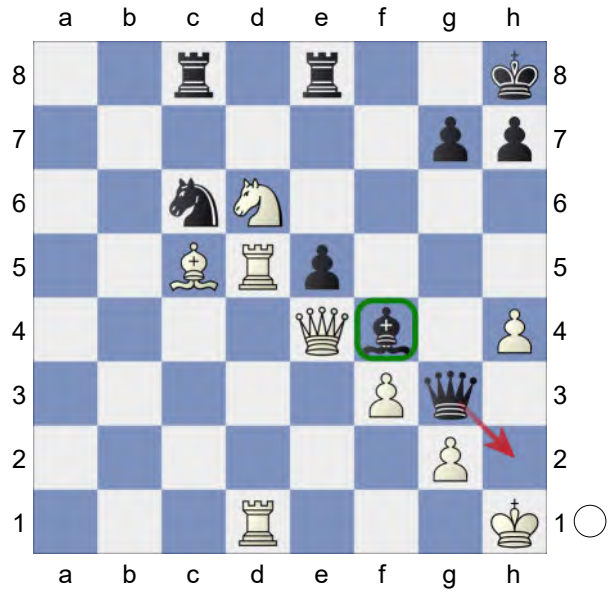


26.Qe1 Qxc4 27.Bxd6 Rfd8
Strongly threatening ...Nb4. **28.Ne4! Nxe4 29.Qxe4 Qc2 30.h4** -0.99/21
[30.Qg4= -0.20/23 Be3 31.Qe4]
30...Bh6? 0.73/23
[30...Bf4!∓ -0.99/21 stays on course. ...Ra8 is the strong threat. 31.a3 Rxd6! 32.Rxd6 Qxb3]

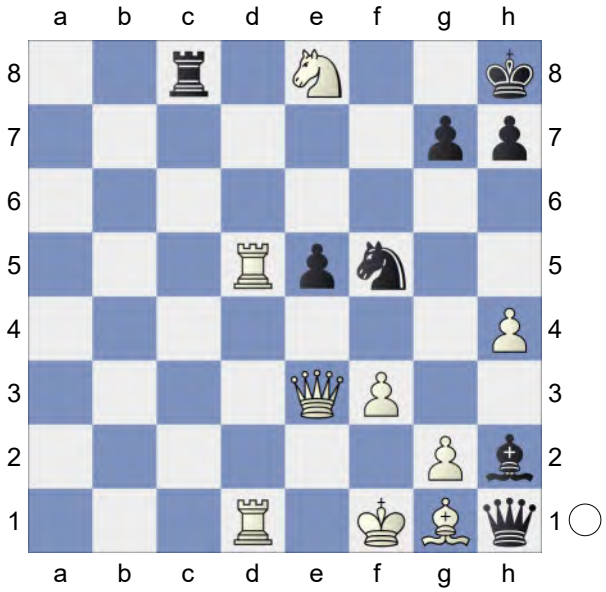


31.Rd5 0.22/22
[31.Bxe5± 0.73/23 aiming for Rxd8+. Qxd1+ 32.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 33.Kh2]
31...Qxa2 32.Nc5 Re8 33.Nxb7

Threatens to win with Bc5. **33...Qf2** 2.29/23
[33...Bf4= 0.15/24]
34.Bc5+- Qg3 35.Nd6? -0.01/24
[35.Qg4!+- 2.46/23 Bf4 36.Qxg3 Bxg3 37.Nd6]
35...Bf4=

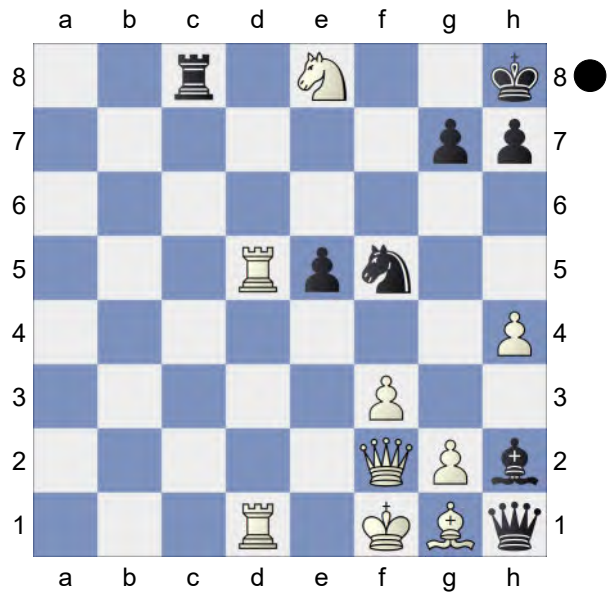


36.Kg1⇄ White is not keeping still
36...Qh2+
[36...Qxh4? 37.Nxe8 Rxe8 38.Rd7 Bh2+ 39.Kf1 Qxe4 40.fxe4+-]
37.Kf1 Qh1+ 0.79/24
[37...Nd4!= -0.01/24 38.Bxd4 *(38.Nxc8 Qh1+ 39.Kf2 Qxh4+ 40.Kg1 Qh2+ 41.Kf1 Qh1+ 42.Kf2 Qxd1∓)* 38...exd4 39.Nxe8 Be3]
38.Bg1± &Bianco is more active.
38...Bh2? 3.60/22
[38...Ne7? 39.Nxc8 Nxd5 40.Qxd5+-]
[38...Rb8± 0.92/22 was necessary. 39.Nxe8 Bh2]
39.Qe3? -0.93/21
[White has to play 39.Kf2+- 3.60/22 Nd4 40.Nxc8 *(40.R5xd4 exd4 41.Nxe8 d3±)* 40...Rxc8 41.Re1]
39...Nd4 0.24/24
[39...Ne7!∓ -0.93/21 40.Nxc8 *(40.Nxe8? Nxd5 41.Qa7 Rxe8-+)* 40...Nxd5 41.Rxd5 Rxc8]
40.Nxe8?? -7.29/26
[40.Nxc8= 0.24/24 Rxc8 41.Rxe5 Bxe5 42.Qxe5 Nxf3 43.gxf3 Qxf3+ 44.Ke1]
40...Nf5? -0.19/25
[Black should play 40...Rc2-+ -7.29/26 41.Qf2 Nf5!]

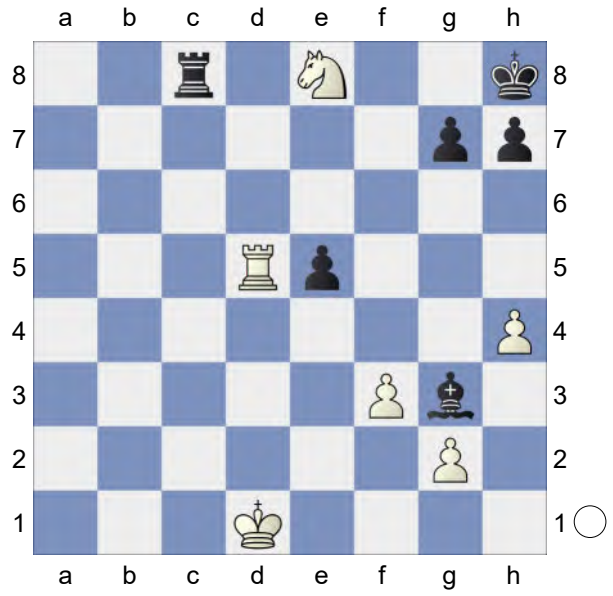


41.Qf2 -7.19/23
[41.Qa7= -0.19/25 Bxg1 42.Qxg1 Ne3+ 43.Ke2 *(43.Kf2 Nxd1+ 44.Qxd1 Qxh4+ 45.g3 Qh2+ 46.Ke3 Qh6+ 47.Ke2 Qa6+ 48.Kf2 Rxe8∓)* 43...Qxg1 44.Rxg1 Nxd5 45.Nd6 Nf4+ 46.Ke3]

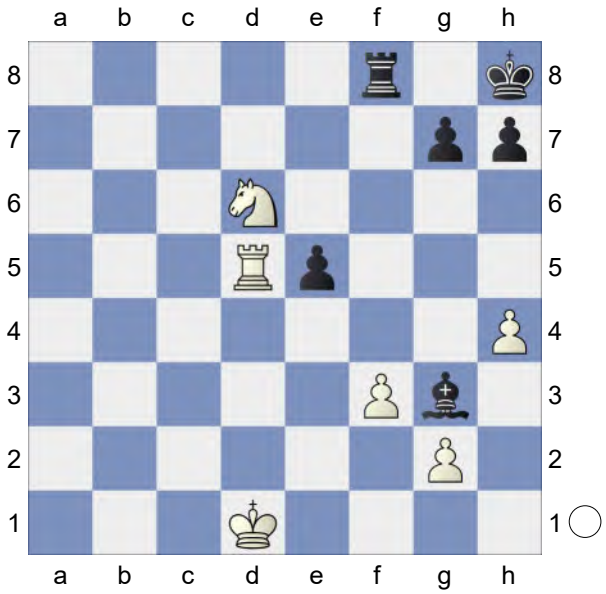
(Diagram)



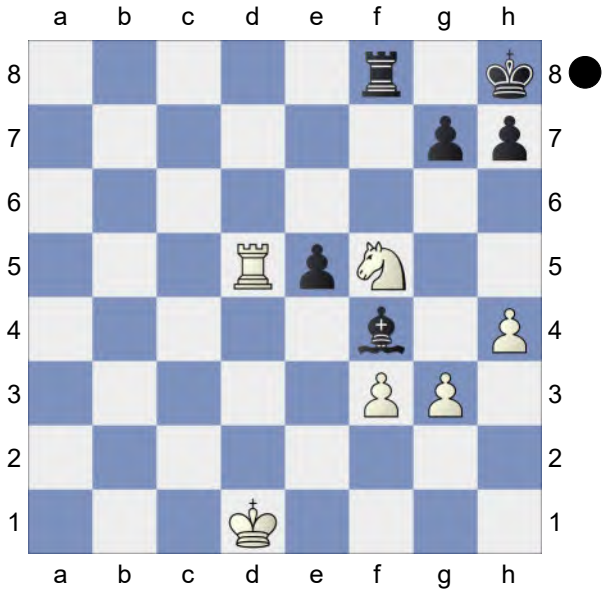
41...Ng3+? 0.48/27
[41...Rc2!-+ -7.19/23 42.R5d2 Rxd2 43.Qxd2 Qxg1+ 44.Ke2 Qxg2+ 45.Kd3 Qxf3+ 46.Kc4 Ne3+ 47.Kc5 Nxd1 48.Qxh2 Qa3+ 49.Kb5 Qe7 50.Nxg7 Qb7+ 51.Ka5 Qxg7]
42.Ke1± Intending Rd8! and mate.
42...Bxg1 43.Qxg3 Bh2+ 44.Ke2 Qxd1+! 45.Kxd1 Chess con chili.
45...Bxg3=



Endgame KRB-KRN **46.Nd6 Rf8** 0.76/20
[46...Ra8= 0.27/22]

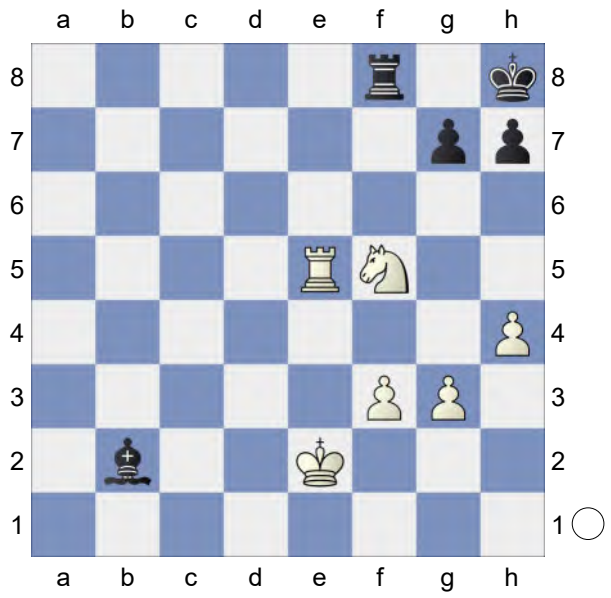


47.Nf5 0.01/22 **Bf4 48.g3**

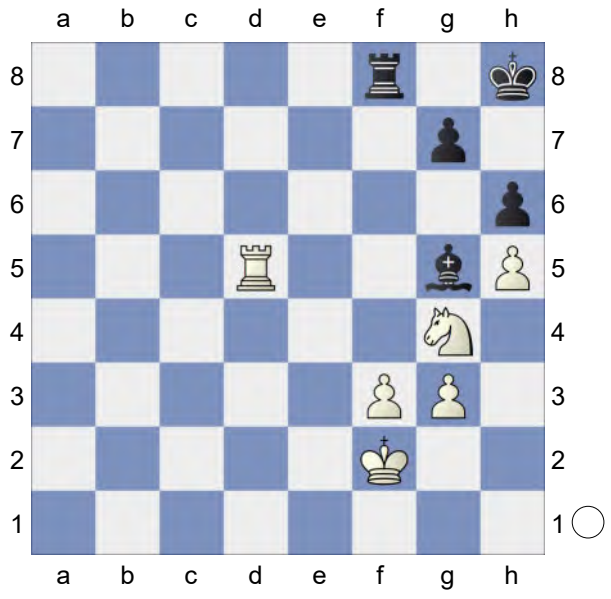


Bh6 1.18/18
[48...g6!= -0.01/21 keeps the balance.]
49.Ke2 Black is on the road to losing.
49...Bc1 50.Rxe5 Bb2

(Diagram)

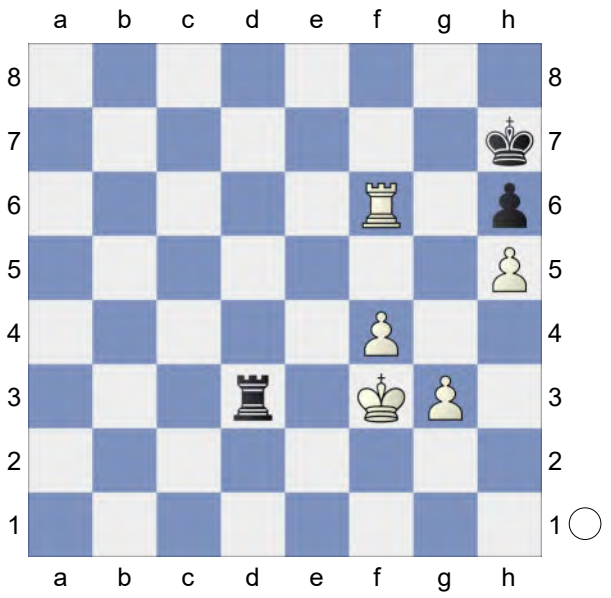


51.Rd5 Bf6 52.Ne3 h6 53.Ng4 Re8+ 54.Kf2 Rf8 55.h5 Bg5 1.72/25
[55...Ra8± 1.10/22 56.Nxf6 gxf6]

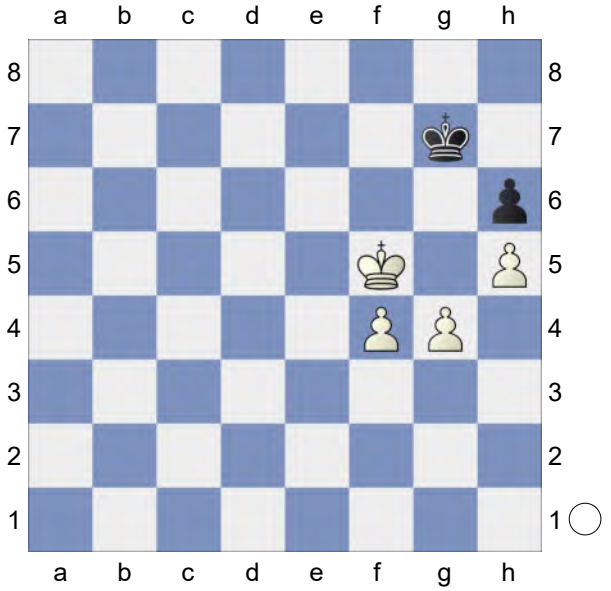


56.f4 Bf6 57.Kf3 Kh7 58.Rf5 Rd8? 3.45/27
[58...Be7 1.64/25 59.Re5 Bb4]
59.Nxf6++- gxf6 60.Rxf6 KR-KR **60...Rd3+**

(Diagram)

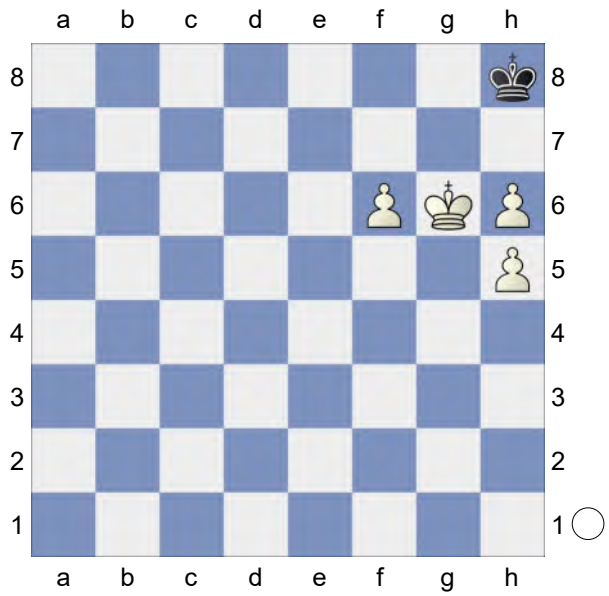


61.Kg4 Rd7 62.Rg6 Rg7? #14/24
[62...Rc7+- 2.94/26 63.f5 Rc4+ 64.Kf3 Ra4]
63.Rxg7+ Kxg7 KP-KP **64.Kf5 Kf7 65.g4 Kg7**

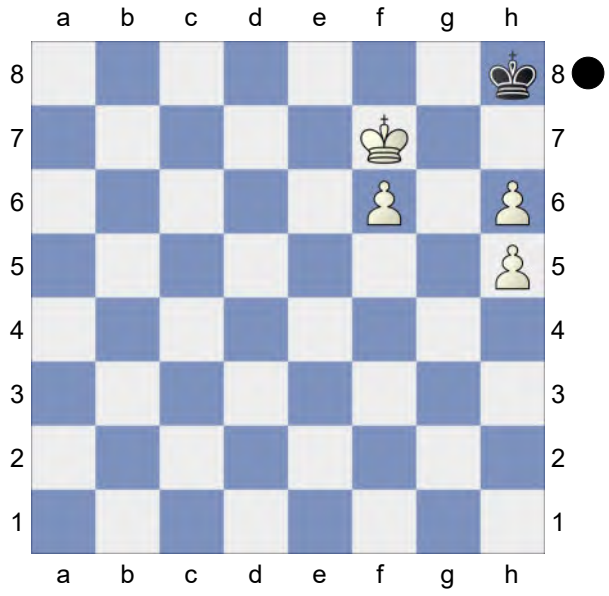


66.g5 Kf7 67.gxh6 Kg8 68.Kg6 Kh8 69.f5 f6 would kill now. **69...Kg8 70.f6 Kh8**

(Diagram)



71.Kf7 8.86/5
[⌓71.Kf5 #8/19 Kg8 72.Ke6 Kh7 73.f7 Kxh6 74.f8Q+ Kg5 75.Qb4 Kh6 76.Qg4 Kh7 77.Kf6 Kh8 78.Qg7#]

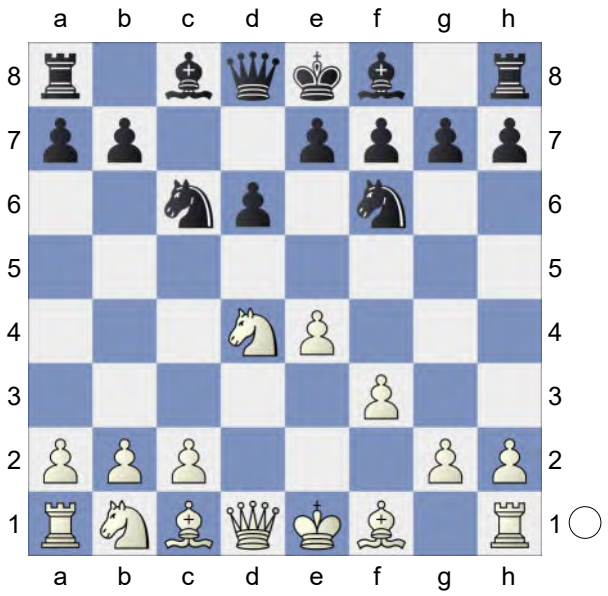


Weighted Error Value: White=0.65/Black=0.69
1-0

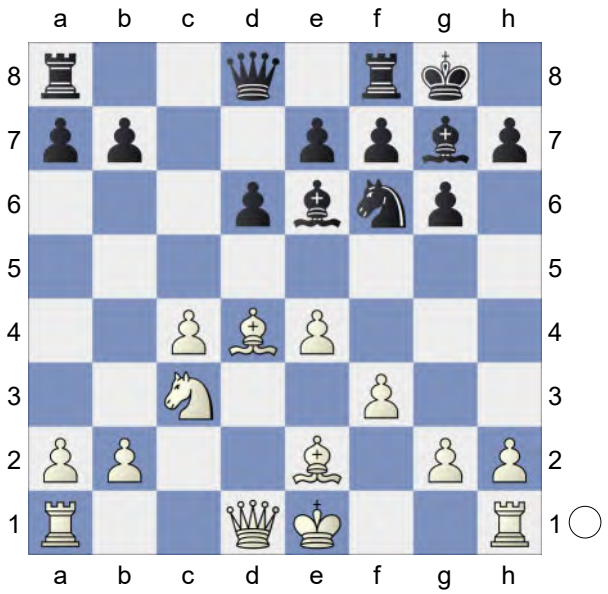
56 **B38**
□ **Drawdenied Twitch** **2935**
■ **Wolfgirl13** **2556**
Blitz 14.03.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B38: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind with 5...Bg7 and 7...0-0
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244

1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



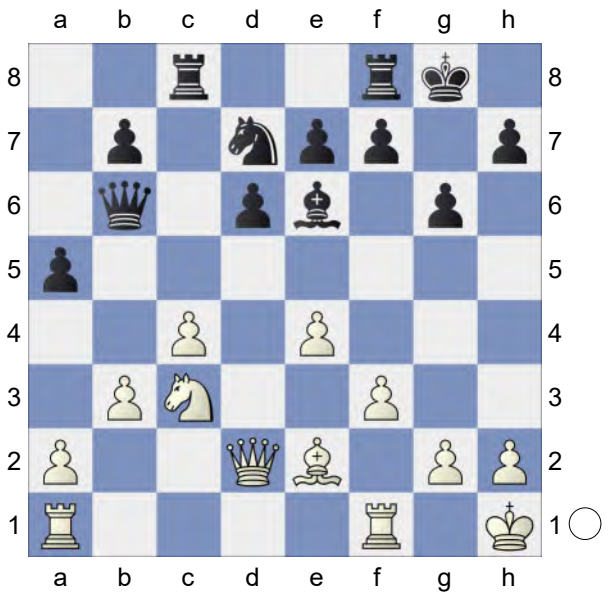
6.c4 g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Be2 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Be6



11.0-0 Nd7 12.Kh1 Bxd4 13.Qxd4 Qb6 White is slightly better. **14.Qd2 Rac8 15.b3 a5** 0.71/18

[15...Qc5± 0.32/15]

(Diagram)



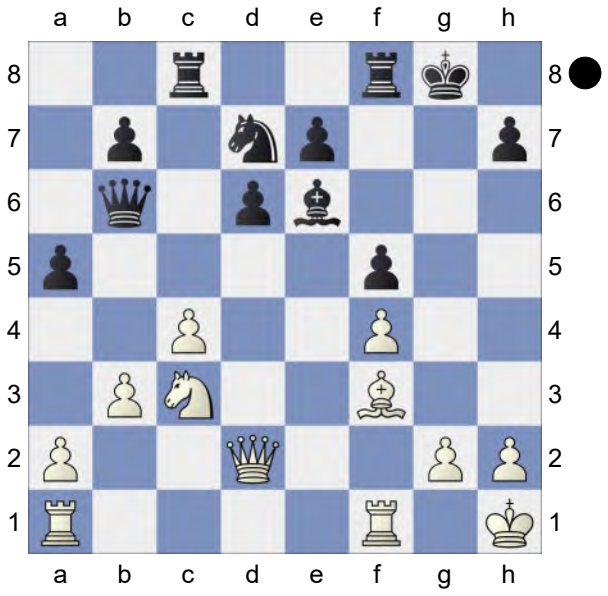
16.f4± And now f5 would win. **16...f5** 1.26/17

[⌓16...Nf6 0.86/17]

17.exf5 gxf5 1.96/19

[17...Bxf5± 1.14/19 18.g4 Be6]

18.Bf3+-



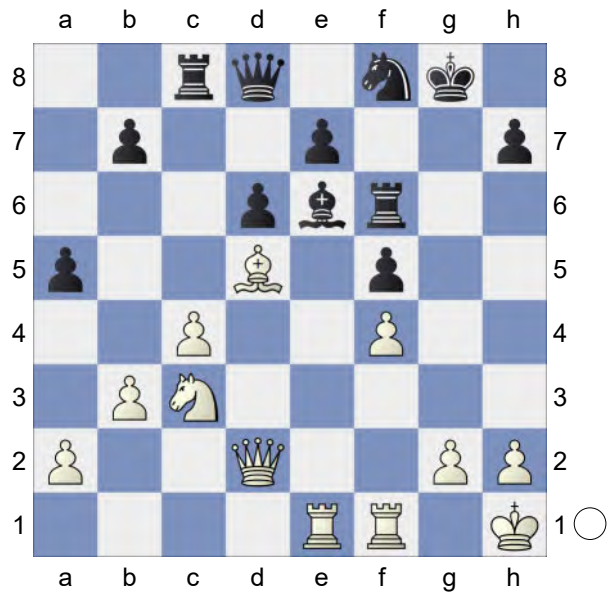
aiming for Rae1. **18...Rf6 19.Rae1 Nf8** 3.21/20

[⌓19...Kf8 2.12/19 20.Re2 Re8]

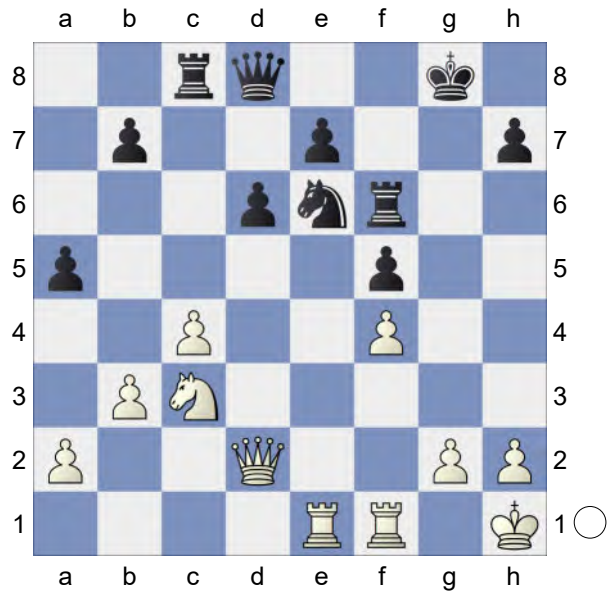
20.Bd5 Qd8? 5.65/20

[20...Kf7 2.94/17 21.g4 Rc5]

(Diagram)

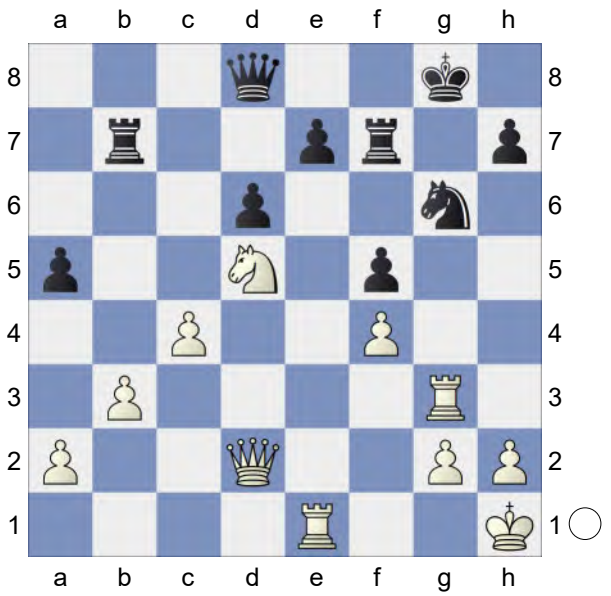


21.Bxb7 2.32/17
[⌓21.Bxe6+ 5.65/20 Nxe6

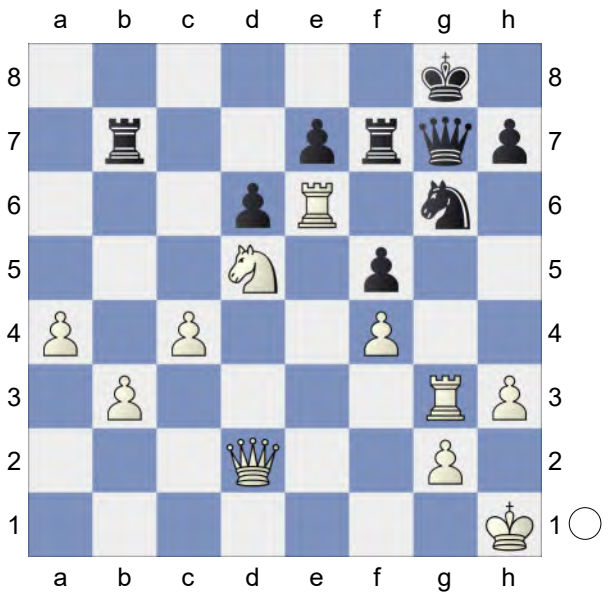


22.Rxe6! Rxe6 23.Qd5]
21...Rb8 22.Bd5 Bxd5 23.Nxd5 Rf7
24.Rf3 Black must now prevent Rg3+.
24...Rb7? 4.50/21
[24...e6 2.08/17 is a better defense.]
25.Rg3+ Ng6 4.27/19
[⌓25...Rg7 2.93/20 26.Rxg7+ Kxg7]

(Diagram)

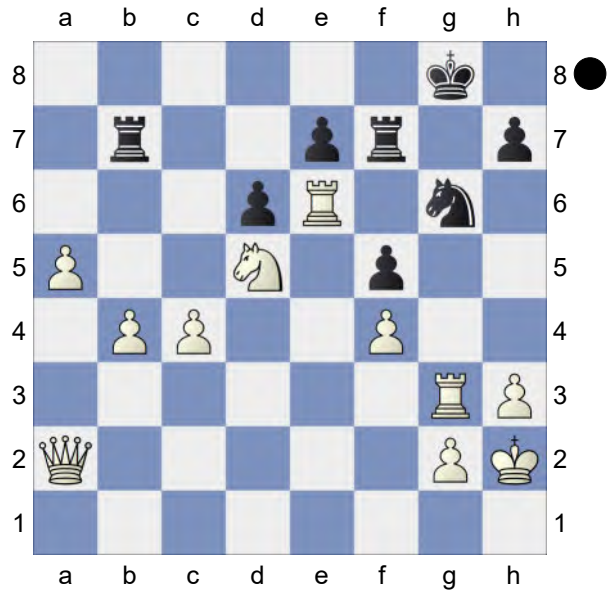


26.Re6 Qf8 4.26/18
[26...Rg7 2.89/17 keeps fighting.
27.Qe1 Kh8]
27.Qxa5 White is clearly winning.
27...Qh6 12.41/23
[⌓27...Qc8 4.50/18 28.Qe1 Kf8]
28.Qd2 4.71/18
[⌓28.Qa8+ 12.41/23 Qf8 29.Qxb7]
28...Qg7 29.h3 Ra7 30.a4 Rb7 7.83/21
[⌓30...Qa1+ 5.13/18 31.Kh2 Kh8]



31.Kh2 Qa1 32.a5 Qa3 33.b4 Qa2

34.Qxa2

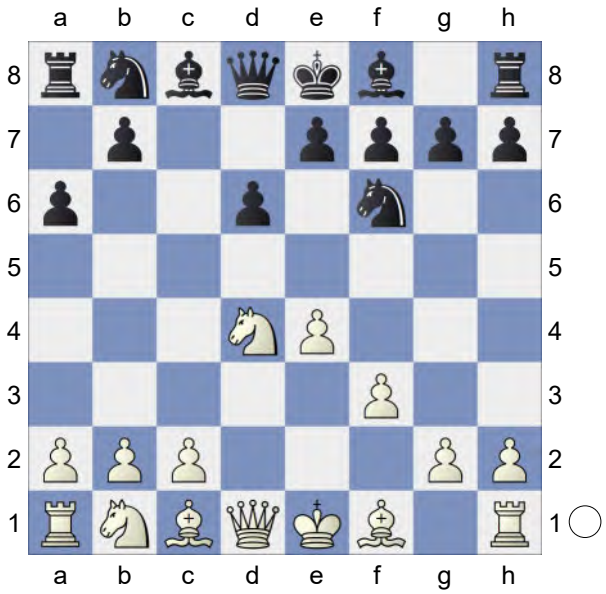


White took control after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.72/ Black=0.69
1-0

57 **B54**
□ **Zubov,Alexander** **2934**
■ **Gogotaniye** **2669**
Blitz 12.01.2020
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B54: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4, Unusual Lines
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6

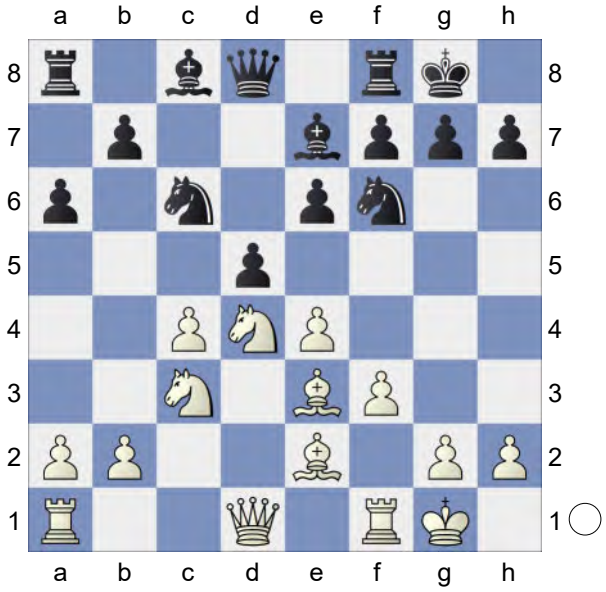
(Diagram)



6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Nc6N
[7...Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Qc7 *(11...Nbd7 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson]*)* 12.Rac1 *(12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2 Bc6* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53) *)* 12...Nbd7 13.Rfd1 Rac8 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Nc2 Rfe8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bf4 Ne5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Qd6 Bc7 20.Qa3 Rcd8 21.b4 Bd6 22.Qb2 Chumichev,G (2416)-12.0-0 b6 13.Rad1 Bb7 (2599) Moscow 2012 CBM 017 [Ham/Harding] 0-1 (46)]
[7...b6 8.Be3 Bb7 9.Be2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Be7 11.a4 Ne5 12.a5 bxa5

13.Qa4+ Qd7 14.Qxa5 Nc6 15.Qa2 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 0-0 17.Rfd1 Qc7 18.Rac1 Nd7 19.b4 Rfc8 20.Na4 Qb8 21.Qa1 Bf8 22.Rb1 Chapter-Games Game 2 (42)]

8.Be3 Be7 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 d5



11.exd5 exd5 12.Rc1 Nxd4 0.16/18

[⌓12...Bc5 -0.18/20 13.Kh1 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 Bxd4 15.Qxd4 dxc4 16.Qxd8 *(16.Qxc4 Re8=)* 16...Rxd8]

13.Qxd4= Be6 14.c5 0.31/18

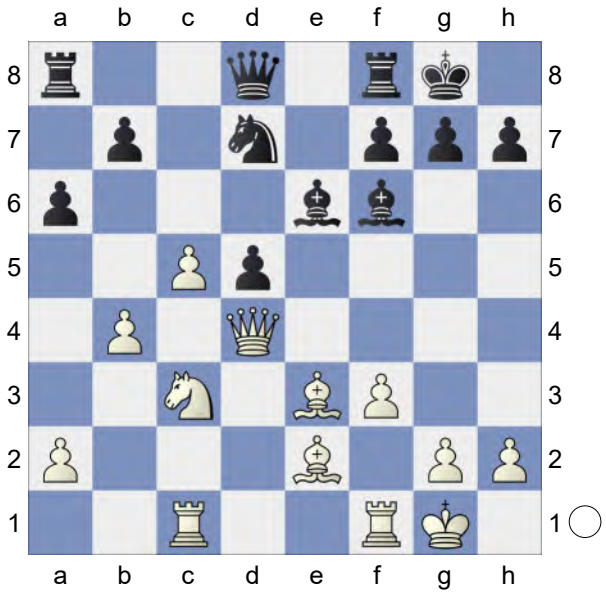
[14.cxd5= -0.11/18 feels stronger. Nxd5 15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.Qxd5 Bxd5 17.b3]

14...Nd7± 15.b4

[Much worse is 15.Nxd5 Bxc5 16.Qd2 Bxd5 17.Bxc5 Nxc5 18.Rxc5 Bxa2 19.Qxd8 Rfxd8∓]

15...Bf6

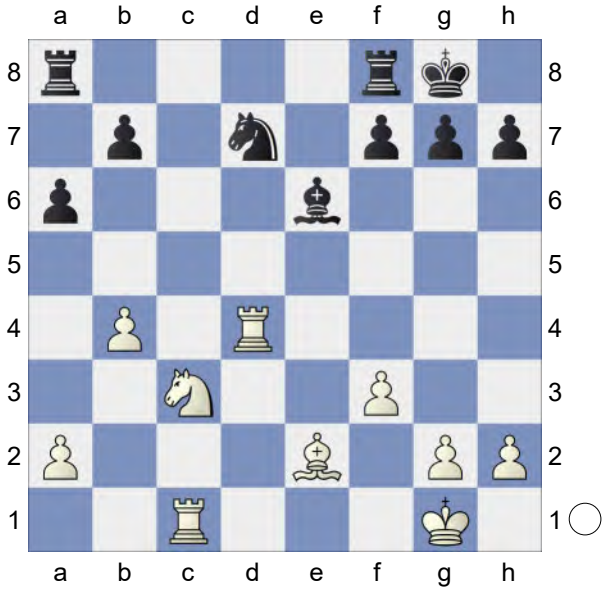
(Diagram)



16.Qd2 d4 17.Bxd4 Nxc5! 18.Rfd1 Bxd4+ 19.Qxd4

[19.Kh1 keeps more tension. Bxc3 20.Qxc3 Nd7 21.Qe3]

19...Qxd4+ 20.Rxd4 Nd7

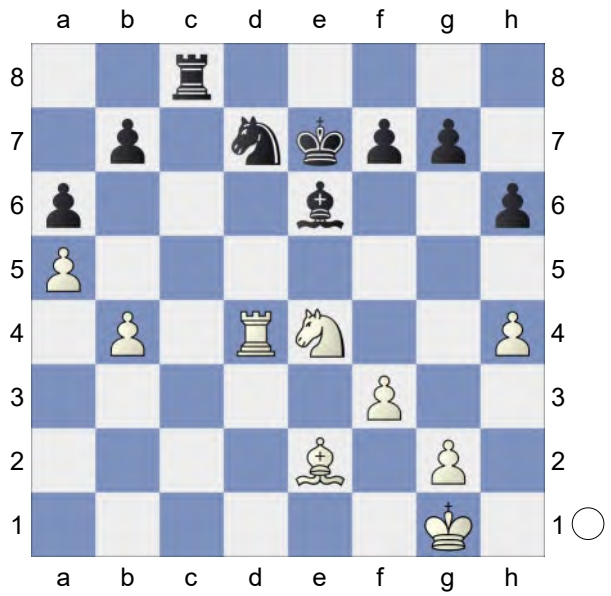


21.Ne4 Rac8 Against Rc7 **22.Rxc8** 0.06/19

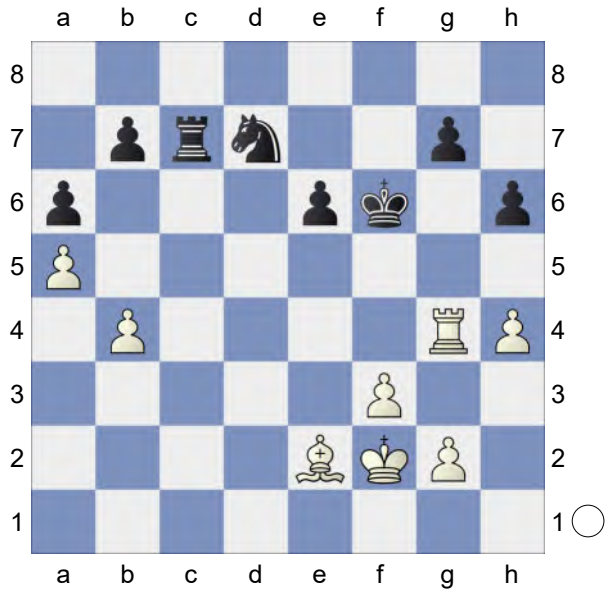
[22.Rcd1± 0.40/18]

22...Rxc8= 23.a4 Kf8 24.a5 Ke7 25.h4 h6

(Diagram)

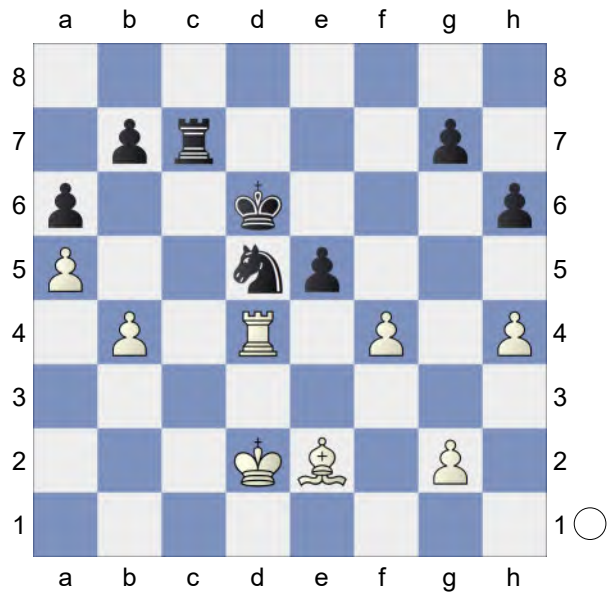


26.Kf1 Rc7 27.Kf2 Ne5 0.26/18
[⌓27...f5 -0.15/17 28.Nd6 Ne5]
28.Nc5 Nd7 0.59/19
[28...Ba2= 0.21/16]
29.Nxe6± fxe6 Endgame KRB-KRN
30.Rg4! Kf6

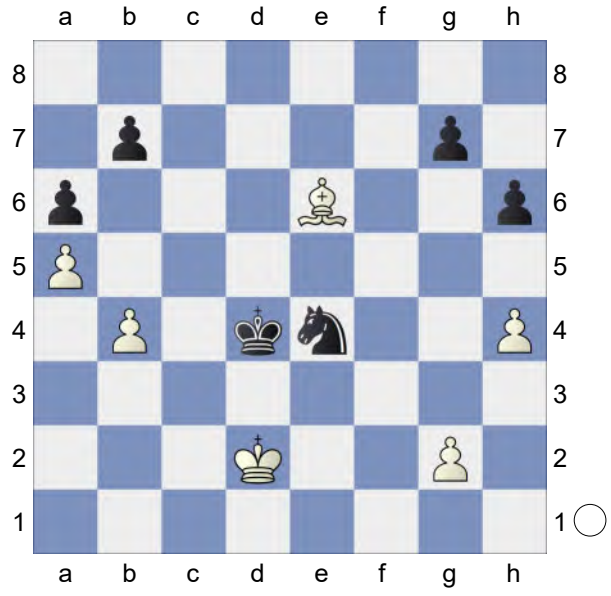


31.Rf4+ 0.18/20
[31.Ke3± 0.58/18 is superior.]
31...Ke7!= 32.Ke3 Nf6 Against Rg4
33.Kd2 Nd5 34.Rd4 Kd6 35.f4 e5

(Diagram)

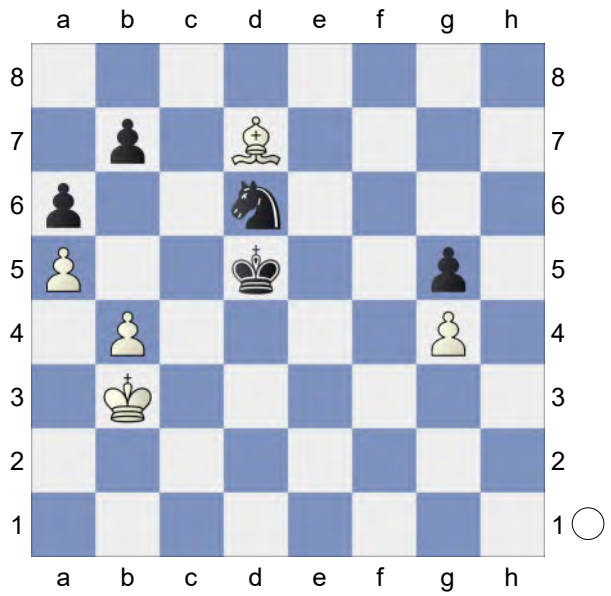


36.fxe5+ Kxe5 37.Rg4 Nf6 38.Rc4 Rxc4 39.Bxc4 KB-KN **39...Kd4 40.Be6 Ne4+**

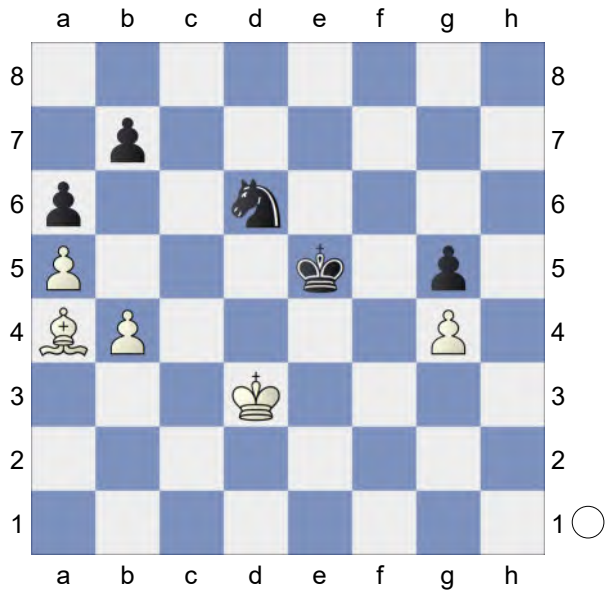


41.Kc2 Nd6 42.Kb3 g5 43.hxg5 hxg5 44.g4 Ke5 45.Bd7 Kd5

(Diagram)

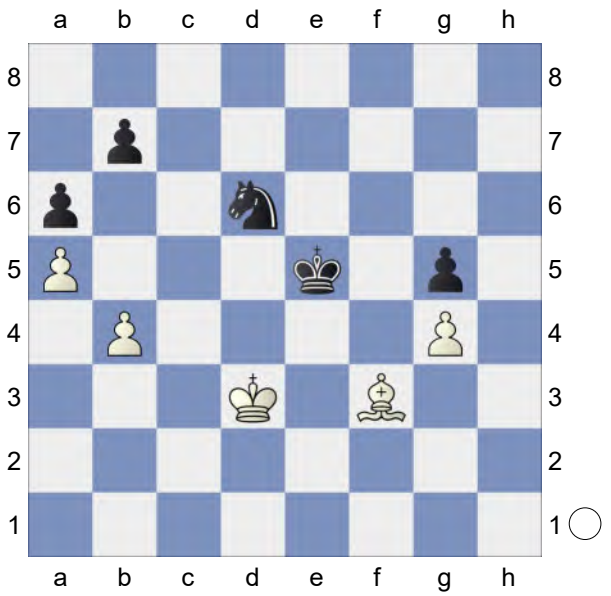


46.Kc3 Ne4+ 47.Kd3 Nd6 48.Ba4 Ke5 1.12/25
[48...Ne4!= -0.01/30]



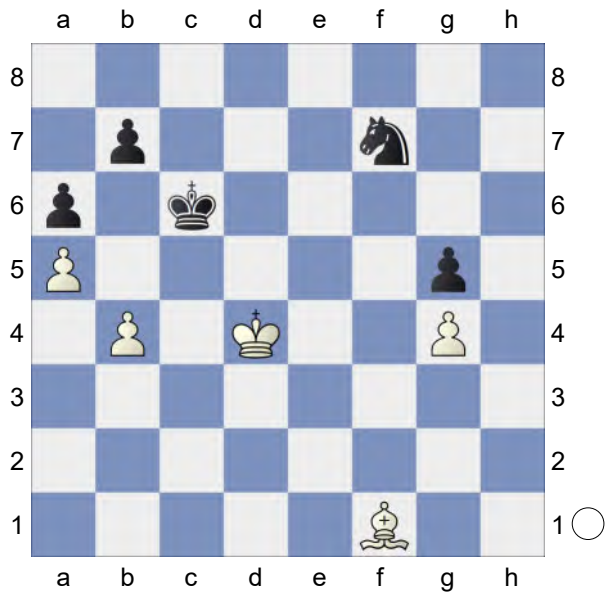
49.Bd1!± Ne4? 4.14/26
[49...Nc8± 1.06/26]
50.Bf3+- Nd6

(Diagram)

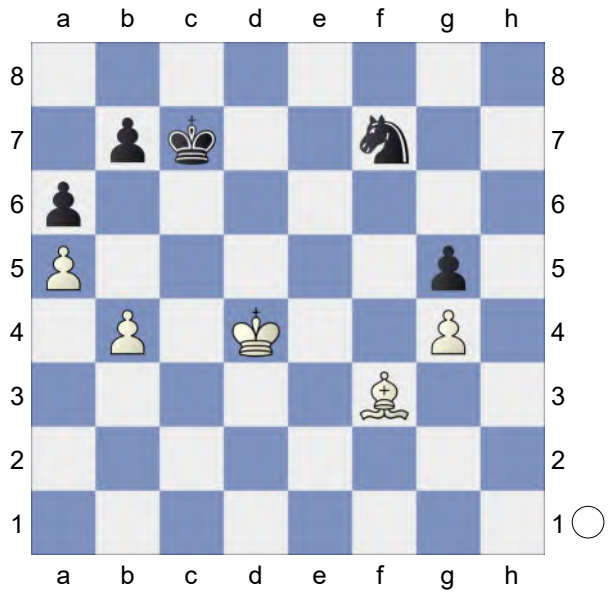


51.Ke3 0.01/26
[White should try 51.Bg2+- 4.44/28 Black must now prevent Bh1. Ke6 52.Kd4]
51...Nc4+ 1.27/27
[51...b6= 0.01/26 keeps the balance.]
52.Kd3 -0.01/22
[52.Ke2± 1.27/27]
52...Nd6= 53.Be2? 0.16/26
[53.Bh1+- 4.24/26 And now Bg2 would win. Kf6 54.Kd4]
53...Kd5 0.55/26
[53...Nf7= 0.16/26 deserves consideration.]
54.Bf1!± Hoping for Bg2+. **54...Kc6 55.Kd4 Nf7**

(Diagram)

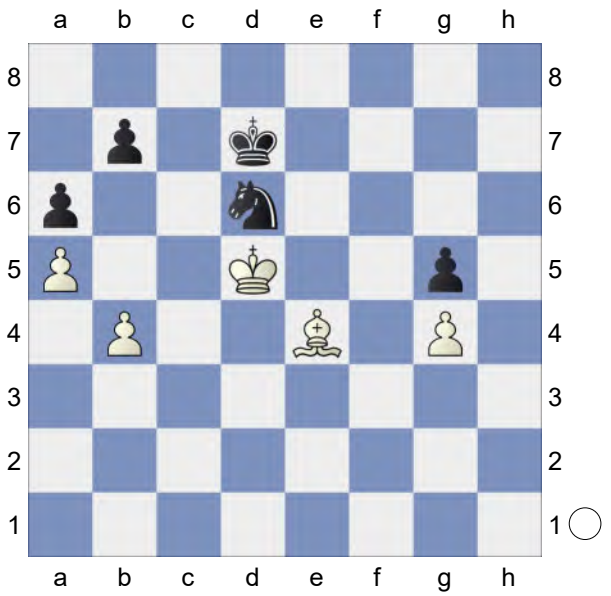


56.Bc4 Nh6! 57.Be2 Nf7 58.Bf3+ Kc7 1.20/26
[⌓58...Kb5 0.77/28]

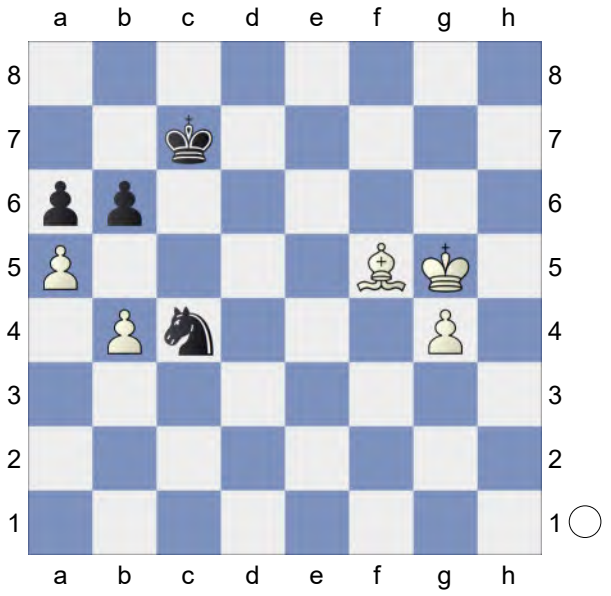


White now steadily converts the win.
59.Kd5!± Kd7 60.Be4 Nd6

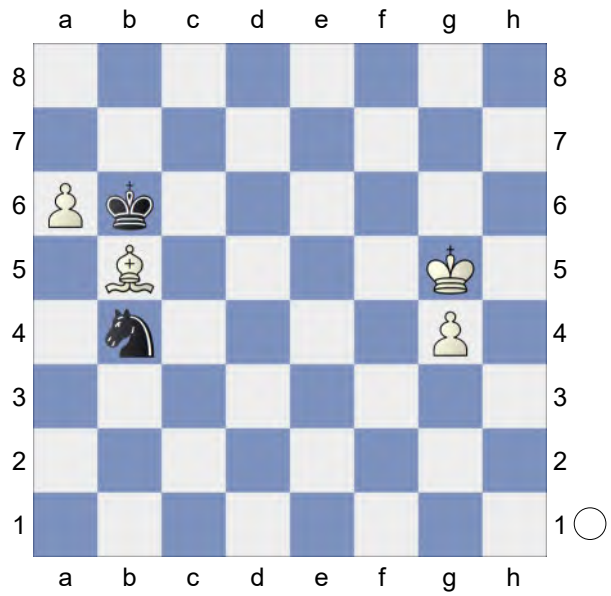
(Diagram)



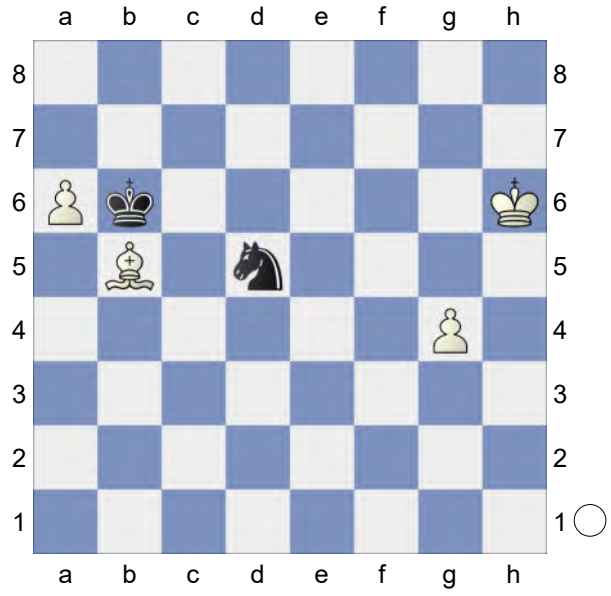
61.Bd3 Ke5 is the strong threat. **61...Nf7**
62.Bf5+ Kc7 63.Ke6 1.08/22
[⌓63.Be4 1.40/25]
63...Nd6? 5.74/24
[63...Nh6± 1.08/22 is tougher.]
64.Kf6+- White is clearly winning.
64...Nc4 7.45/25
[⌓64...Kd8 4.90/21 65.Be6 Ne4+ 66.Kf5 Nd6+ 67.Kxg5 Ne8]
65.Kxg5 b6



66.Bd3 Ne3 67.Bxa6 Nd5 68.Bc4 Nxb4 69.a6 b5 70.Bxb5 Kb6
(Diagram)

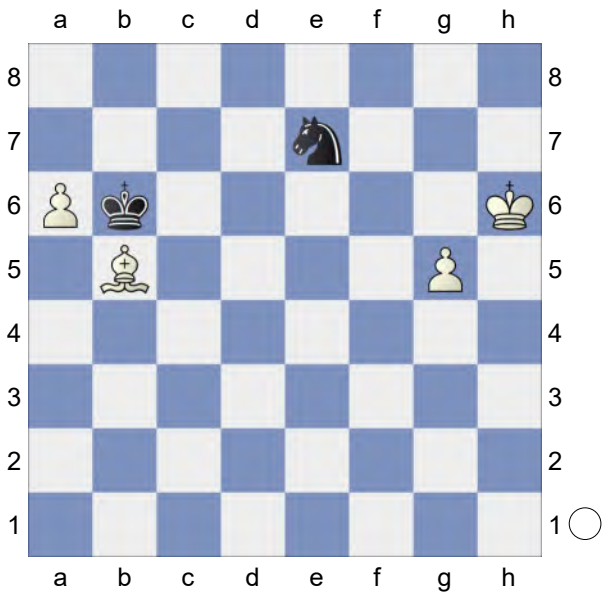


71.Kh6! Nd5

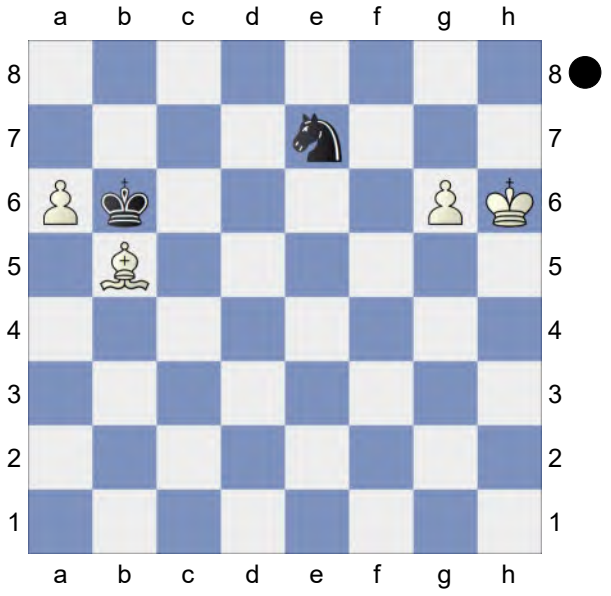


72.g5! Strongly threatening Bd3.
72...Ne7
[72...Kxb5 73.a7]

(Diagram)



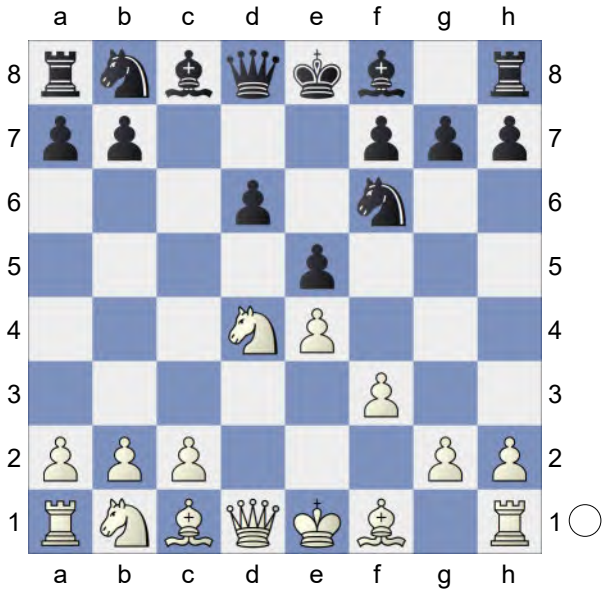
73.g6!



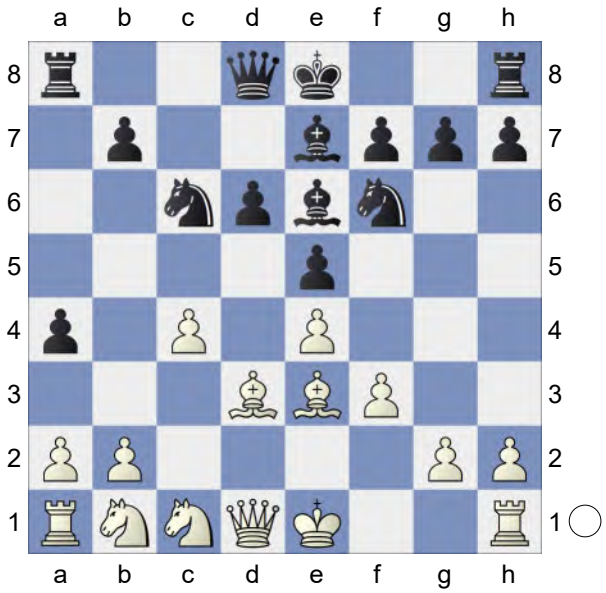
Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/ Black=0.28 (precise)
1-0

58 **B54**
□ **Winx,M** **2932**
■ **Sacrificeinutile22** **2650**
Blitz 16.10.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

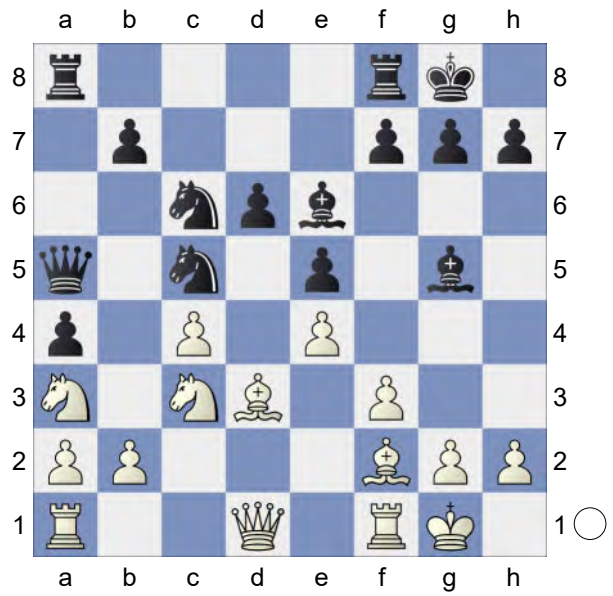


6.Nb3 Nc6 7.c4 a5
[7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]
8.Be3 a4 The position is equal. **9.Nc1 Be6 10.Bd3 Be7**

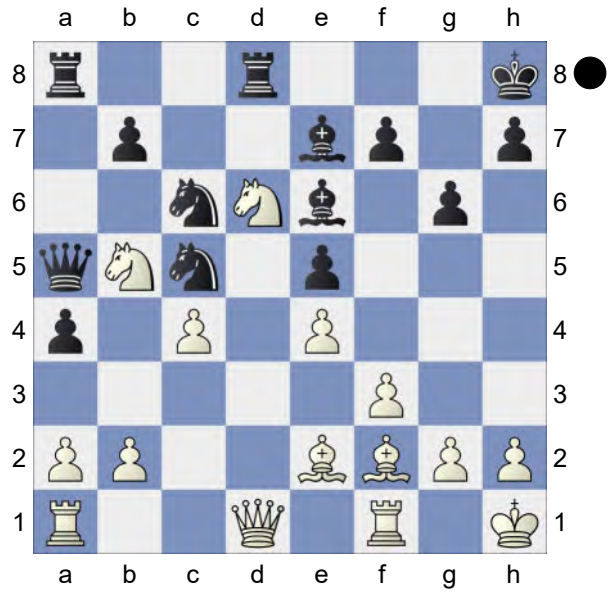


11.0-0 0-0 12.Na3 Nd7 13.Ne2 Bg5 14.Bf2 Nc5 15.Nc3 Qa5 0.36/15
[15...Bf4= -0.03/14]

(Diagram)

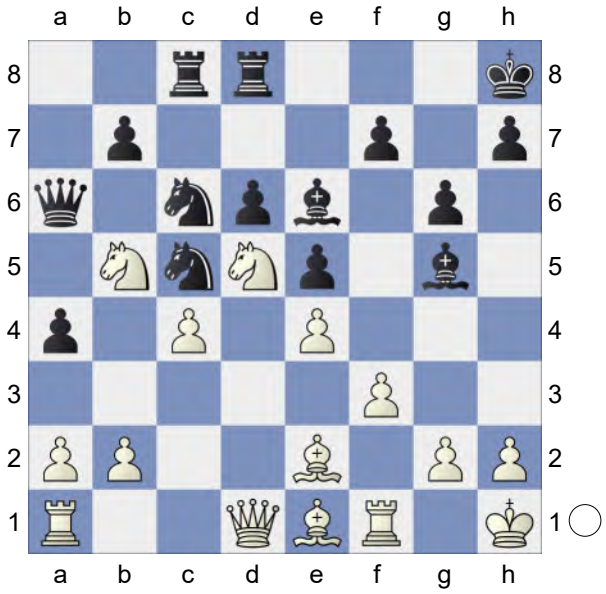


16.Kh1 Kh8 0.57/16
[16...Nxd3= 0.18/15 17.Qxd3 Nb4 18.Qxd6 Rfd8]
17.Be2 Rfd8 18.Nab5 g6 0.82/16
[18...Na7± 0.46/15]
19.Nd5±
[Don't play 19.Nxd6 Be7 20.Ncb5

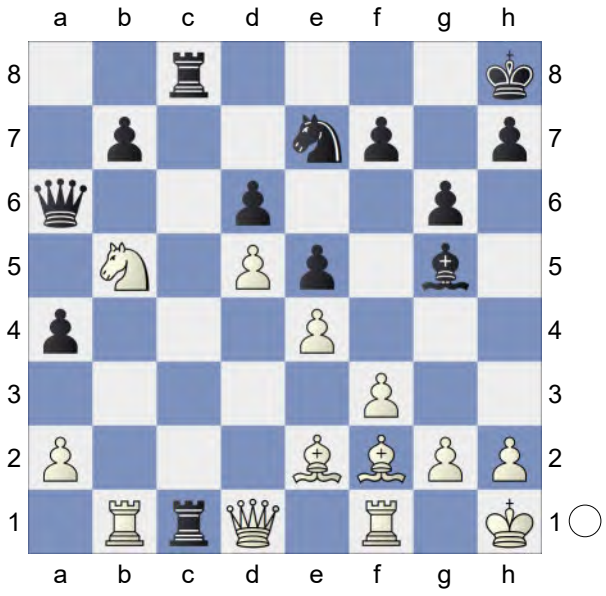


Rxd6! 21.Nxd6 Rd8 22.Bxc5 Qxc5 23.Nxb7 Rxd1 24.Nxc5 Rxf1+ 25.Rxf1 Bxc5∓]
19...Rac8 1.90/19 This costs Black the game.
[19...Rd7± 0.66/15]

20.Be1+- Qa6 2.59/19
[⌓20...Qa8 1.87/20 21.Nb6 Qb8]

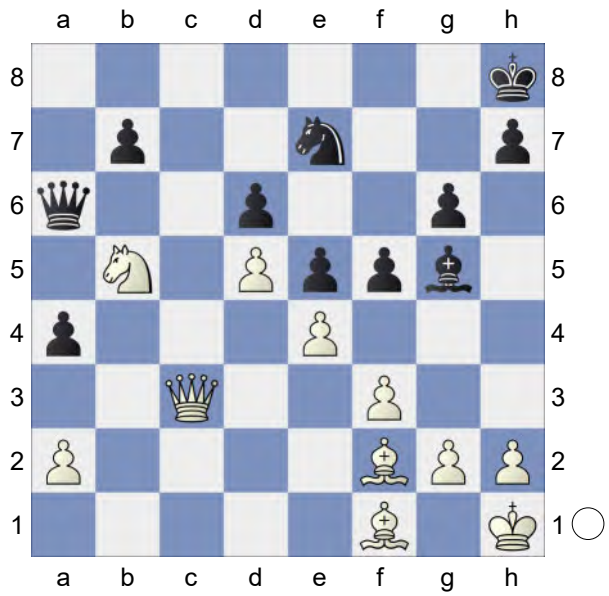


21.b4 Bxd5 22.cxd5 Ne7 4.65/18
[⌓22...Nxb4 3.20/17 23.Bxb4 Kg8]
23.bxc5 White is clearly winning.
23...Rxc5 24.Rb1 Rdc8 25.Bf2 Rc1

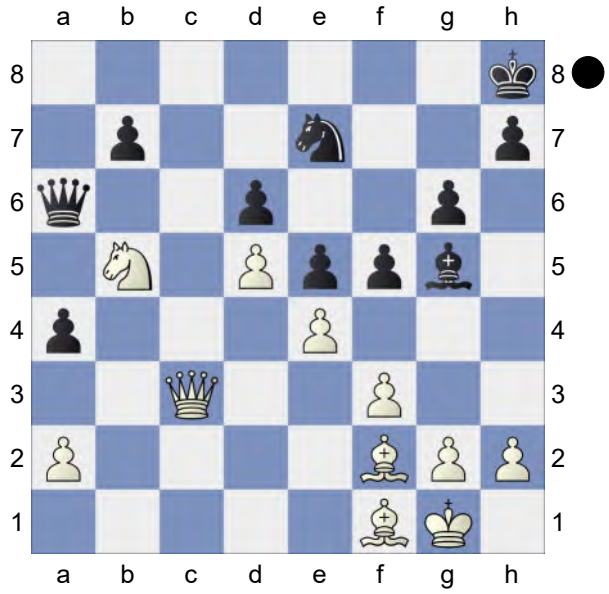


26.Rxc1 Rxc1 27.Qd3 Rxf1+ 28.Bxf1 f5 29.Qc4 Qa5 30.Qc3 Qa6

(Diagram)

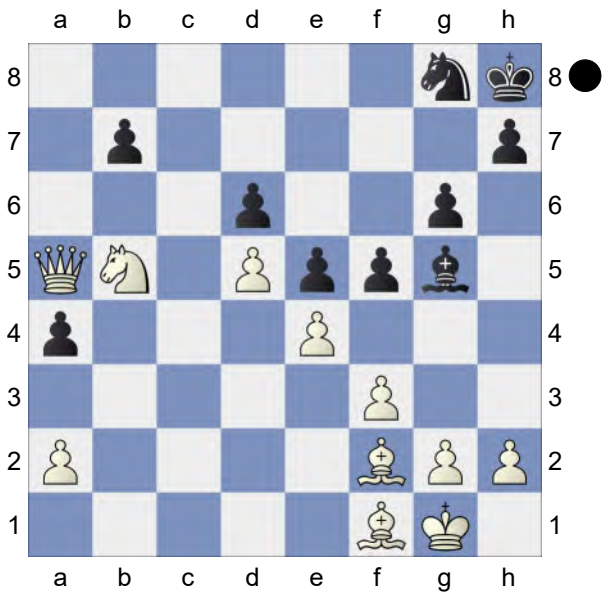


31.Kg1



Black must now prevent Nc7. **31...Ng8 32.Qc7 Qa5 33.Qxa5**

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.39

1-0

59 **B54**

□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2931**

■ **Dmdonch** **2828**

Blitz 14.05.2022

[Kitty Kat]

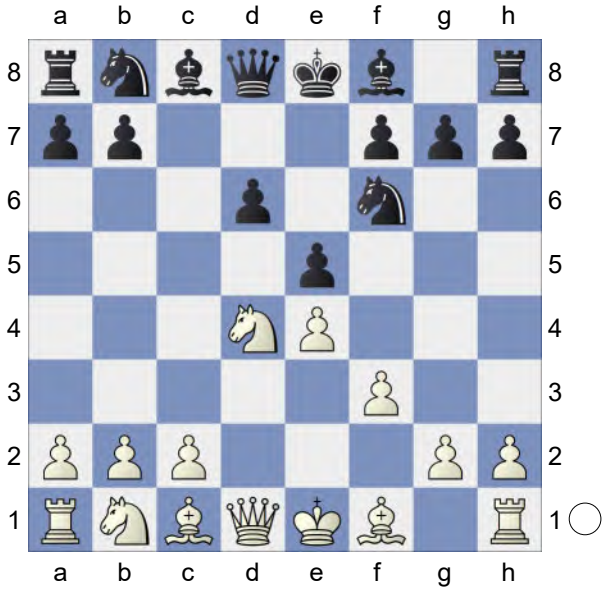
Blitz 3min

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

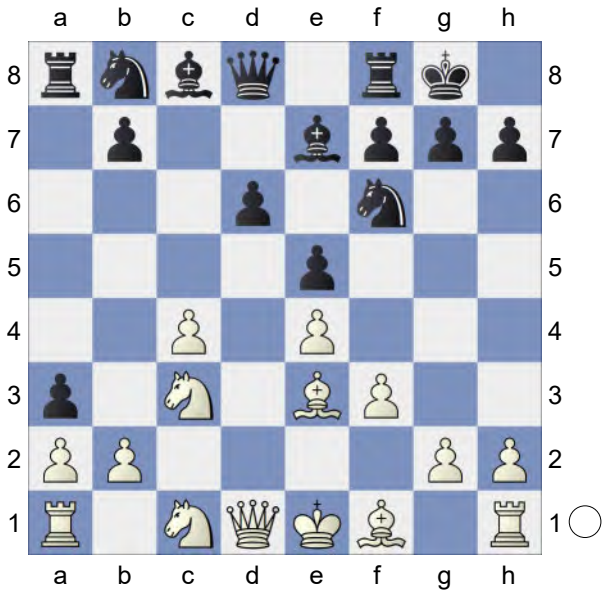
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/ Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1

Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

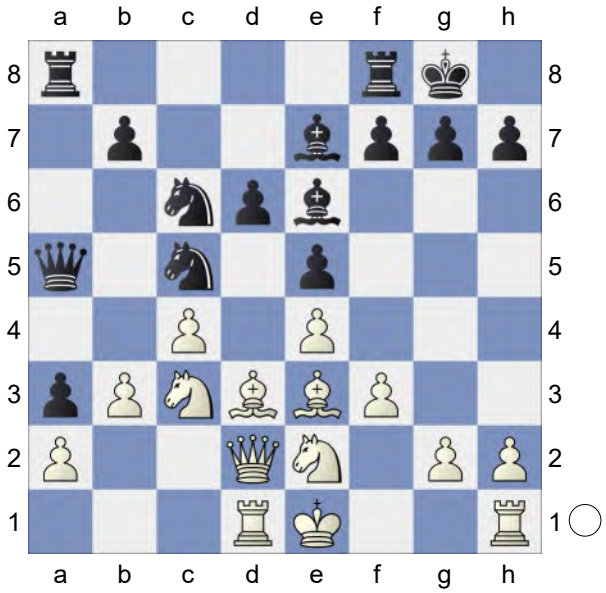


6.Nb3 Be7 7.c4 0-0 8.Nc3 a5 9.Be3 a4 10.Nc1 The position is equal. **10...a3**

(Diagram)

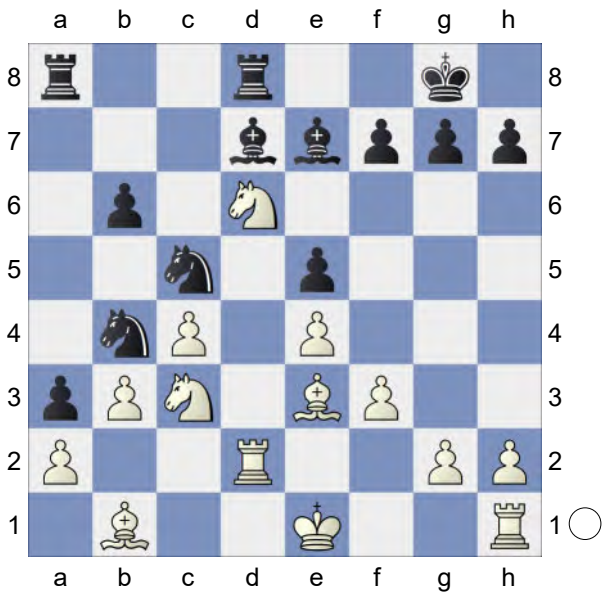


11.b3 Nc6 12.Qd2 Be6 13.Bd3 Nd7 14.N1e2 Nc5 15.Rd1 Qa5

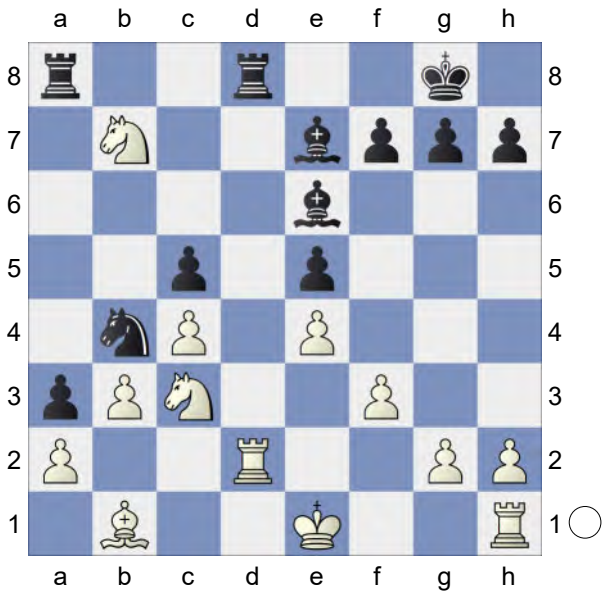


16.Bb1 Rfd8 17.Nb5 Qxd2+ 1.05/19
[17...Nxb3!= 0.10/19 keeps the balance. 18.axb3 a2 19.Bxa2 Qxa2]
18.Rxd2± White now steadily converts the win. **18...Nb4 19.Nec3 Bd7 20.Nxd6 b6** 1.92/20
[20...Ncd3+± 1.23/20 21.Bxd3 Bxd6]

(Diagram)

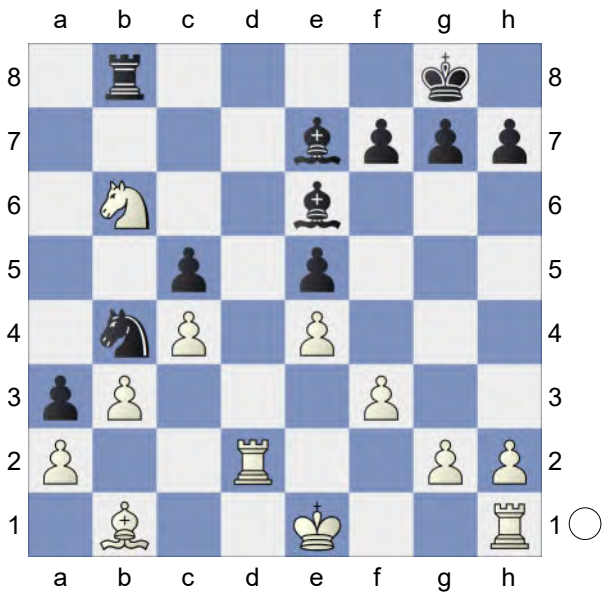


21.Bxc5+- bxc5 22.Nb7
Pair of Knights! **22...Be6**

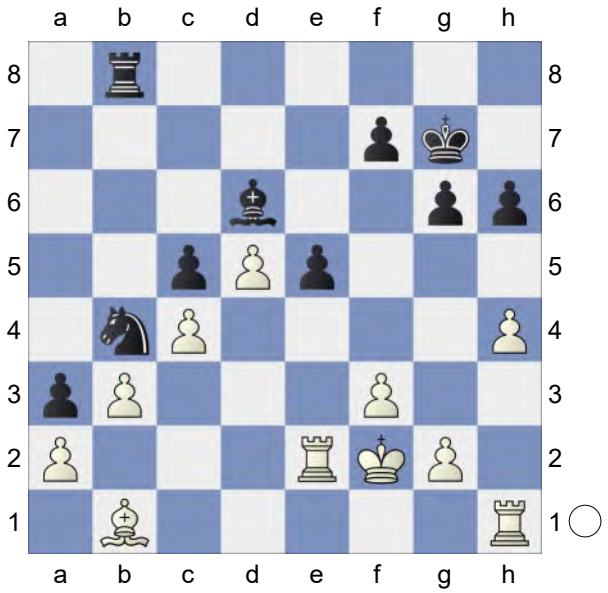


And now ...Rxd2 would win. **23.Nxd8 Bxd8 24.Na4 Be7 25.Nb6 Rb8** 2.39/23
[25...Re8 1.75/21 keeps fighting. 26.h4 Nc6]

(Diagram)

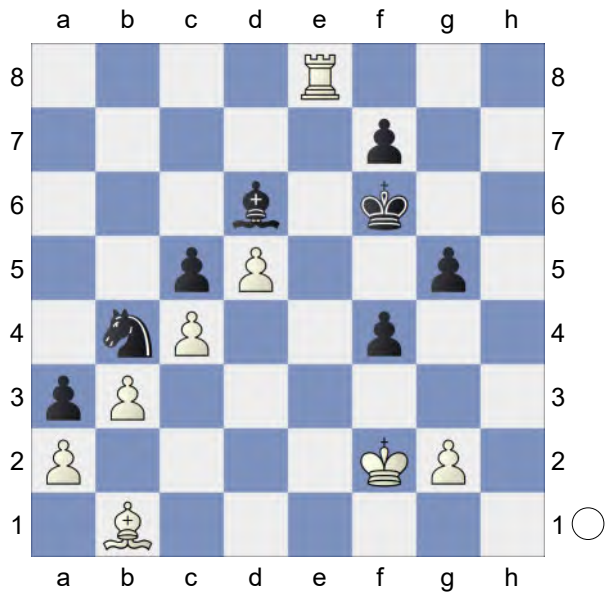


26.Nd5 Bxd5 2.70/22
[26...Bg5 1.66/21 was worth a try. 27.Rd1 Bd8]
27.exd5 Bd6 28.Re2 g6 29.h4 h6 30.Kf2 Kg7

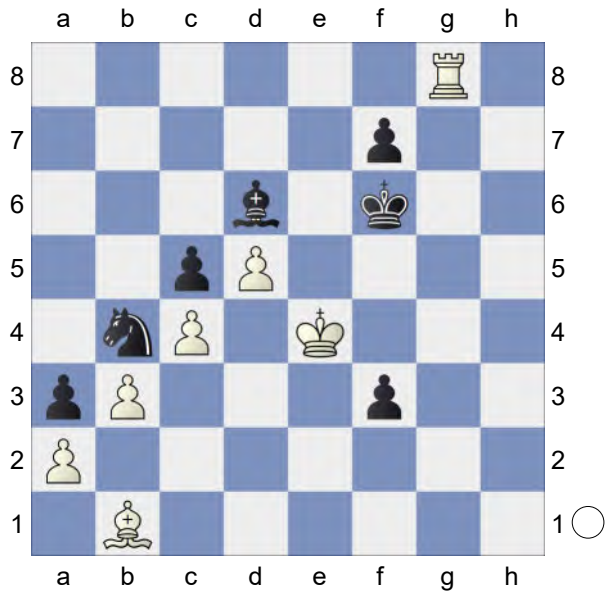


31.Rhe1 Kf6 32.f4 exf4 33.Re8 Rxe8? 5.27/21
[33...Rb6 3.29/20 34.h5 gxh5]
34.Rxe8 Endgame KRB-KBN. White is clearly winning. **34...g5 35.hxg5+ hxg5**

(Diagram)

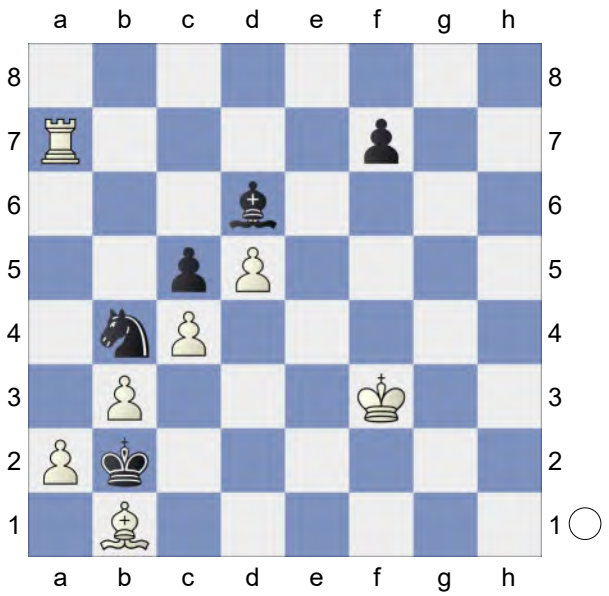


36.Kf3 Be5 37.Ke4 Bd6 38.Ra8 g4 39.Rg8 f3 40.gxf3 gxf3

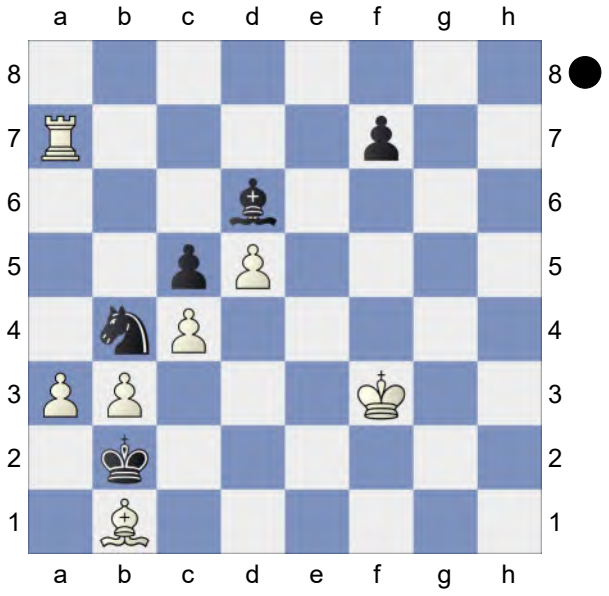


41.Kxf3 Ke5 42.Ra8 Kd4 43.Rxa3 Kc3 44.Ra7 Kb2

(Diagram)



45.a3!

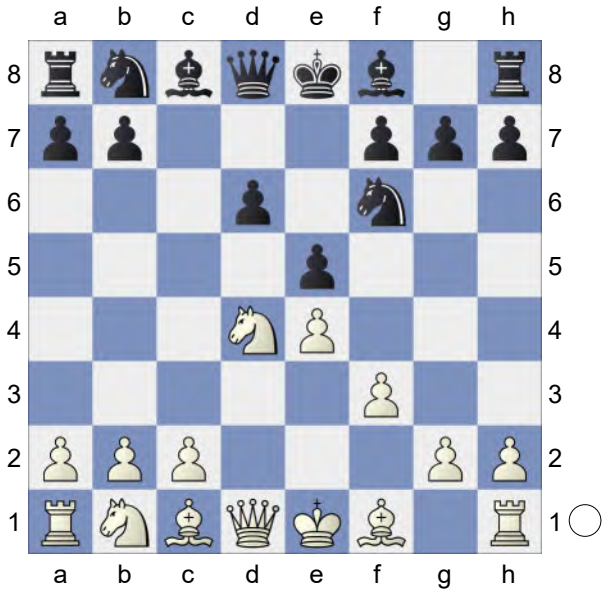


Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.37

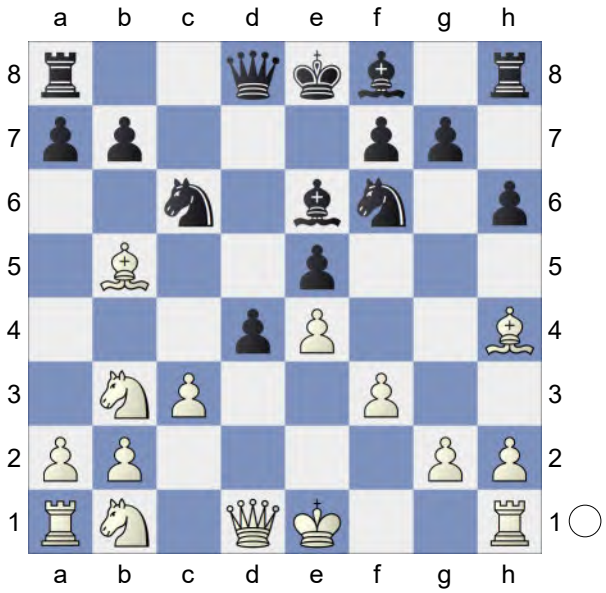
1-0

60 **B54**
□ **Zubov,Alexander** **2930**
■ **Kirill Kopyonkin** **2611**
Blitz 19.01.2020
[Kitty Kat]

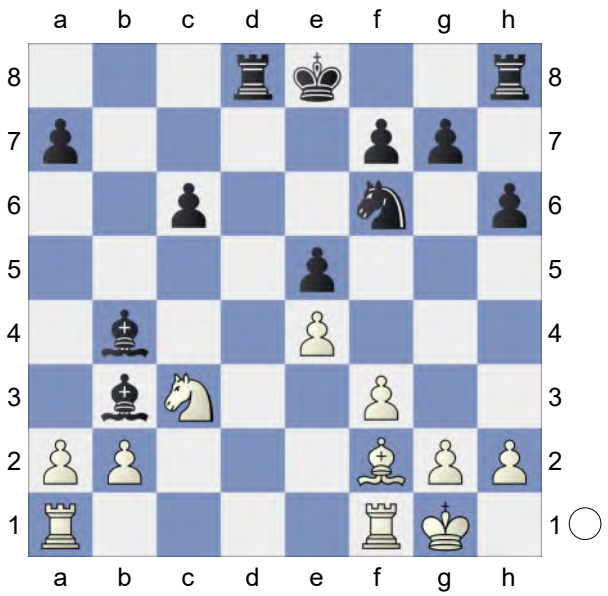
Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



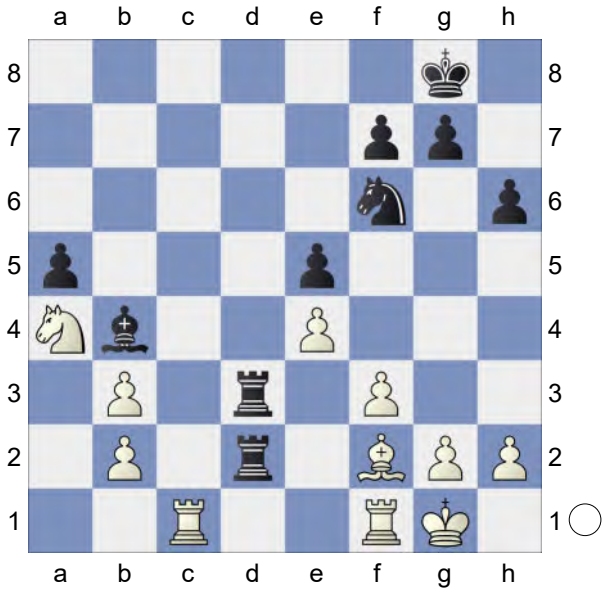
6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4! 8.c3 Nc6 9.Bb5 The position is equal. **9...h6**
[9...Qb6!? 10.Qd3 Be6=]
10.Bh4 Be6



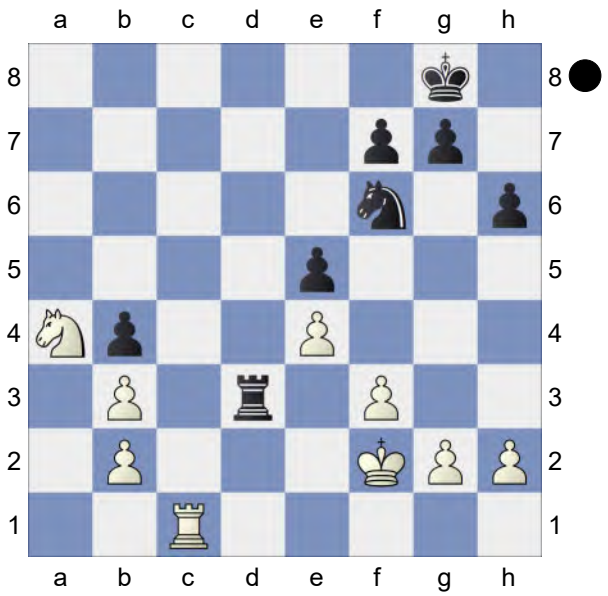
11.Bf2 -0.26/18
[⌓11.cxd4 0.25/17 Bxb3 12.Qxb3 exd4 13.e5]
11...dxc3 0.68/19
[11...Qb6= -0.26/18 12.Qe2 a6]
12.Qxd8+± Rxd8 13.Bxc6+ bxc6 14.Nxc3 Bb4 15.0-0 Bxb3



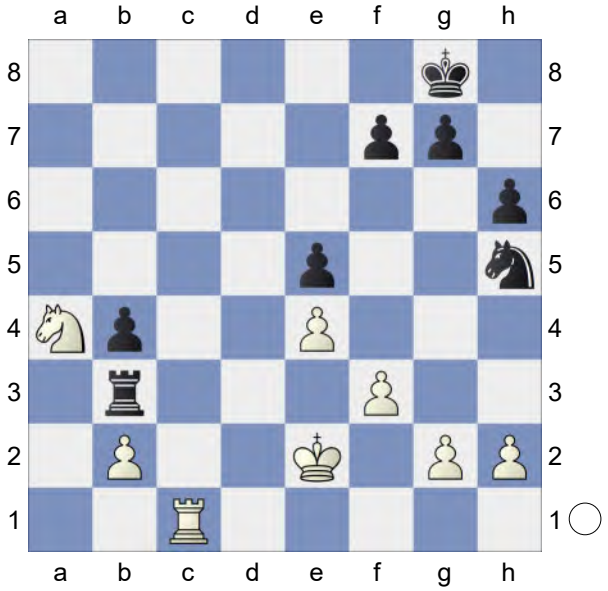
16.axb3 a5 17.Na4 Rd2 0.98/19
[17...0-0± 0.61/19]
18.Rac1 0.50/21
[18.Be1± 0.98/19]
18...0-0 19.Rxc6 Rfd8 20.Rcc1 0.00/20
[20.Bg3!± 0.58/21]
20...R8d3 0.60/20
[20...Nh5!= 0.00/20]



21.Be1 Re2 22.Bxb4 0.01/23
[22.Bg3± 0.41/22 feels stronger.]
22...axb4= 23.Rf2 Rxf2 24.Kxf2
(Diagram)

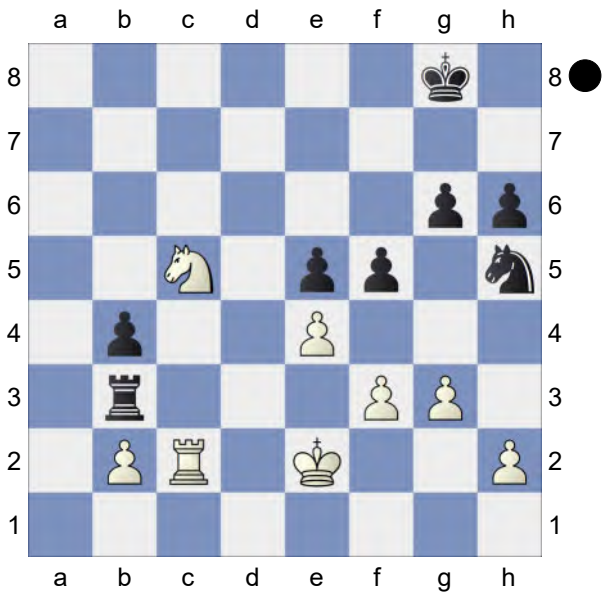


And now Ke2 would win. **24...Rxb3?** 7.68/24 Black cannot hold the game after this.
[24...Rd2+= 0.06/22 25.Kg1 g6]
25.Ke2? 2.18/23
[25.Rd1 7.68/24 g5 26.Rd2]
25...Nh5+-



26.g3 Prevents Nf4+. **26...g6?** 5.97/24
[26...f5± 1.60/23]
27.Rc2 aiming for Nc5. **27...f5 28.Nc5**

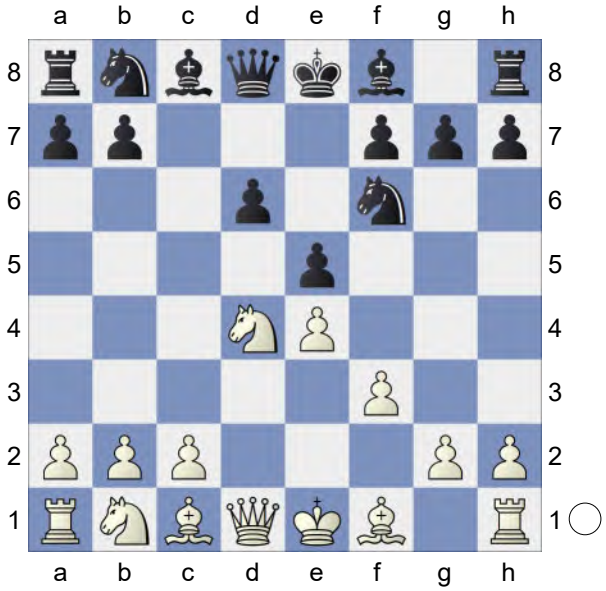
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.49/ Black=0.43
1-0

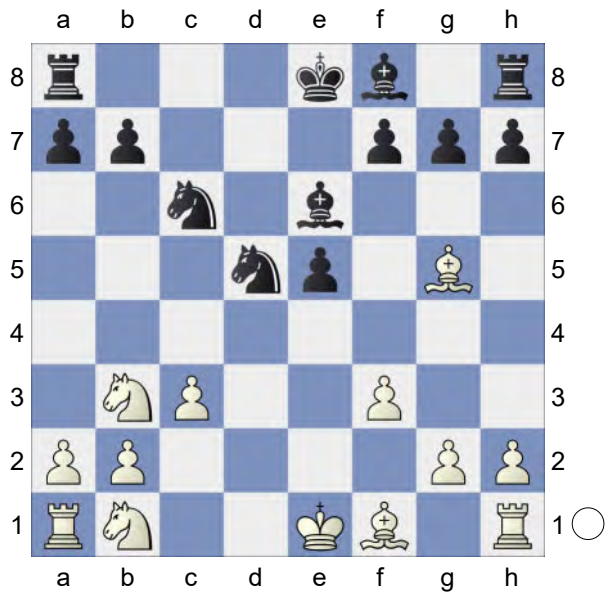
61 **B54**
□ **Zubov,Alexander** **2930**
■ **Jacksonteller** **2625**
Blitz 19.01.2020
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/ Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/ Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

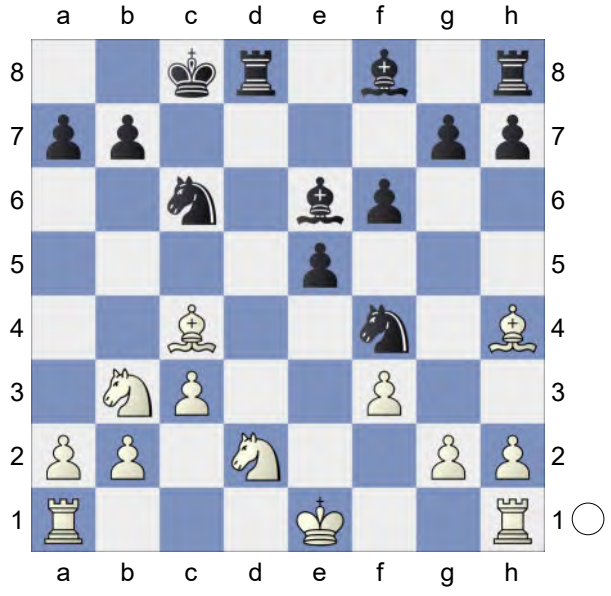


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.exd5 Qxd5 9.Qxd5 Nxd5 10.c3 -0.68/17
[10.Bd2= -0.08/17]
10...Nc6

(Diagram)

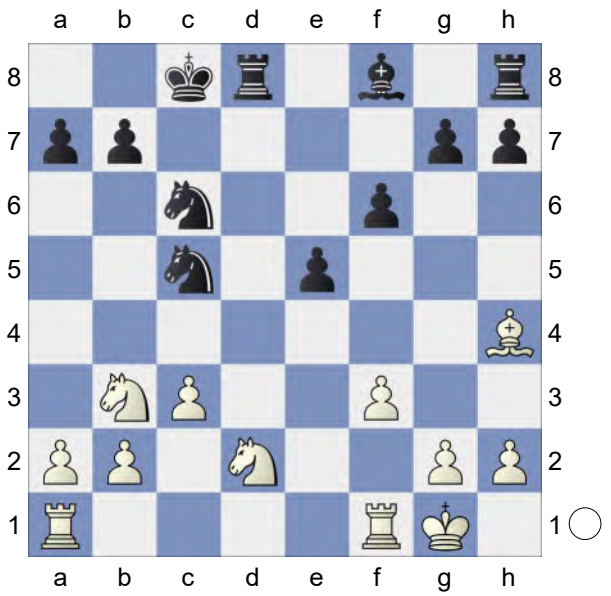


11.N1d2 -1.09/19
[11.Bb5∓ -0.62/17]
11...f6∓ 12.Bh4 0-0-0 -0.43/20
[12...Ne3∓ -1.02/21 ...Nc2+ is the strong threat. 13.Kf2 Nxf1 14.Rhxf1 Be7]
13.Bc4 Nf4

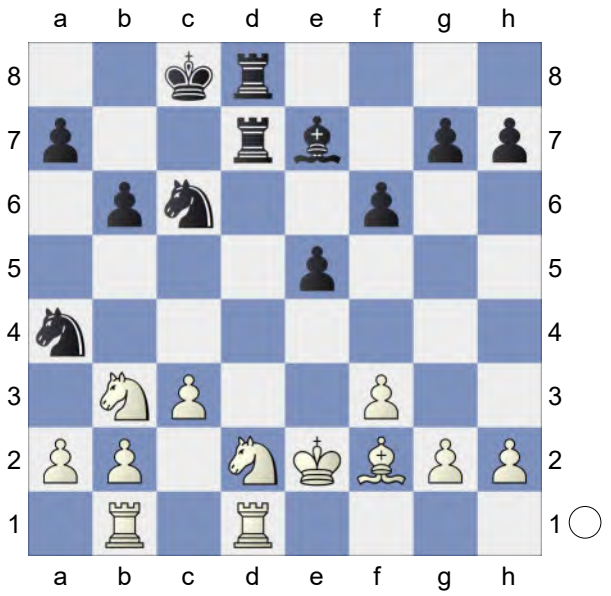


And now ...Bxc4 would win. **14.Bxe6+ Nxe6 15.0-0 Nc5**

(Diagram)

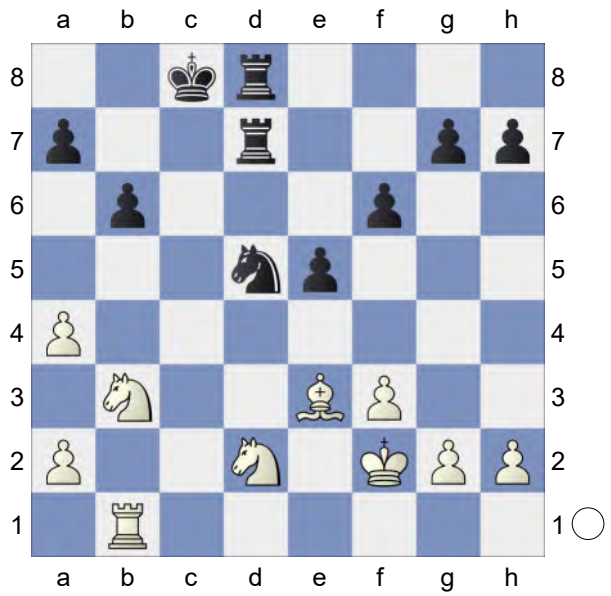


16.Rfd1 Na4 17.Rab1 Be7 18.Kf1 Rd7 19.Ke2 Rhd8 20.Bf2 b6

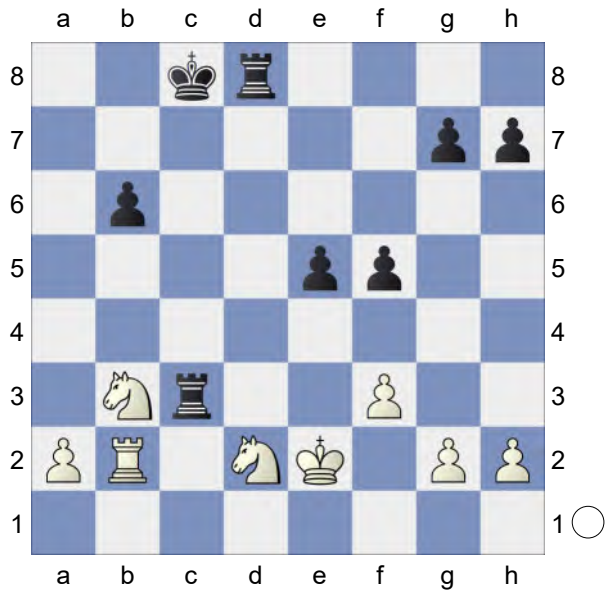


21.Be3 Ba3 -0.24/23 **22.bxa3= Nxc3+ 23.Kf2 Nxb1 24.Rxb1 Ne7 25.a4** -0.61/21
[25.Ne4= -0.29/19]
25...Nd5 -0.26/21
[25...Rc7!∓ -0.61/21 is superior.]

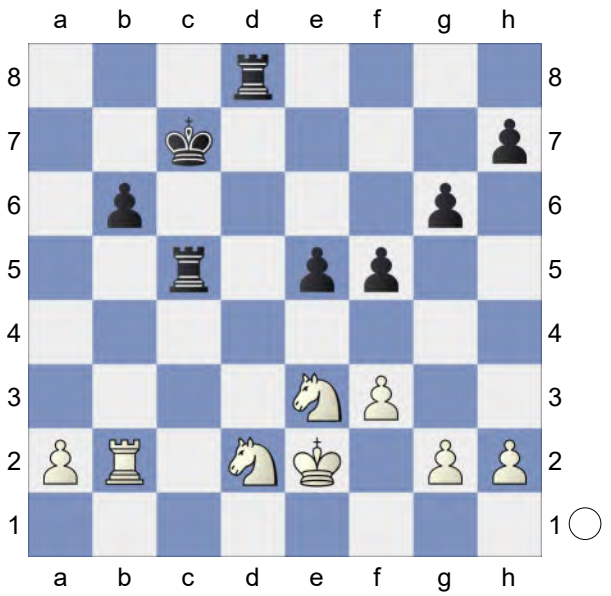
(Diagram)



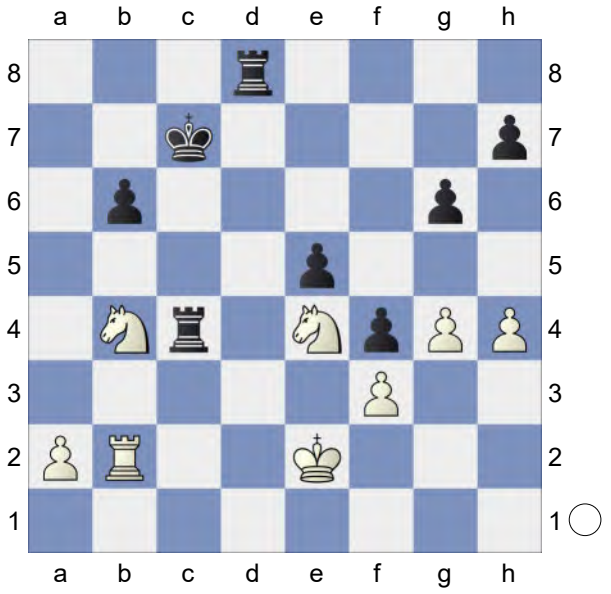
26.a5 Nxe3 27.Kxe3 Rd3+ 0.43/22
[27...bxa5= -0.07/19 28.Rc1+ Rc7]
28.Ke2± Rc3 29.axb6 axb6 30.Rb2 Against Rc2 **30...f5**



31.Na1 Kc7 0.77/20
[31...Kb7± 0.46/21 might be stronger.]
32.Nc2± g6 33.Ne3 Rc5 34.Nb3 0.34/19
[34.h3± 0.89/20]
34...Rc3± 35.Nd2 -0.01/19
[35.h3± 0.41/19]
35...Rc5!=

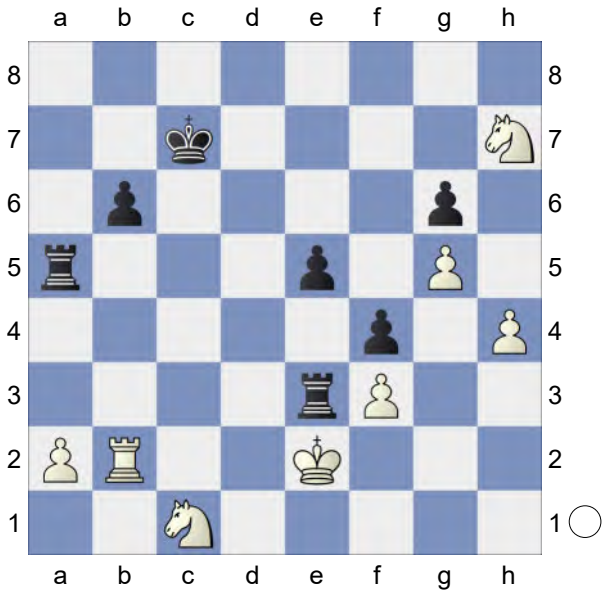


36.g4 f4 1.14/21
[36...fxg4± 0.62/19 37.Nxg4 *(37.fxg4 Kc6=)* 37...h5]
37.Nc2 Rc3 38.Ne4 Rc4 39.h4 0.81/21
[White should play 39.g5 1.14/19]
39...Kc6 1.45/22
[⌓39...h6 0.81/21]
40.Nb4+ Kc7



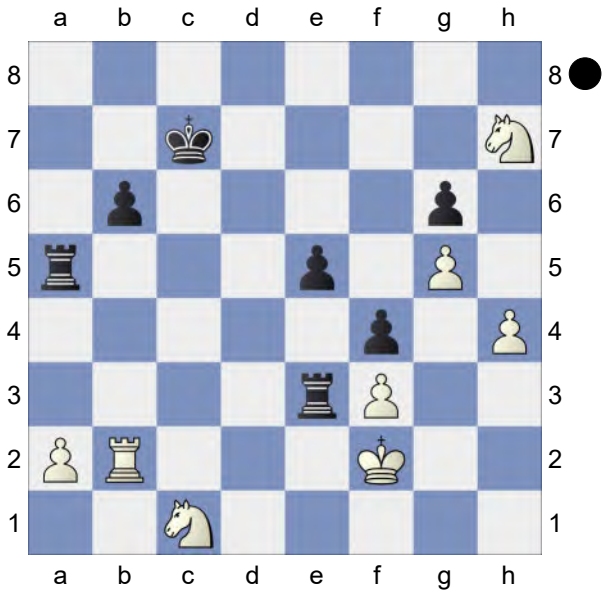
41.Nd3 Prevents Rc1. Pair of Knights!
41...Rd5 2.25/22
[⌓41...Rdd4 1.69/22 42.Ng5 *(42.Nxe5 Rxe4+ 43.fxe4 Rxe4+*

44.Kf3 Rxe5=) 42...Rd7]
42.Nf6+- Ra5 43.g5 1.23/19
[43.Nxh7+- 2.65/20 has better winning chances. Hoping for Nf6. Kd8 44.Nf8 *(44.Rxb6 Rxa2+ 45.Kd1 e4∓)*]
43...Rca4 1.75/20
[43...Ra3± 1.23/19]
44.Nc1
[Don't play 44.Nxh7?! Rxa2 45.h5 Kd6±]
44...Ra3 45.Nxh7 aiming for Nf6. &Bianco is more active. **45...Re3+**



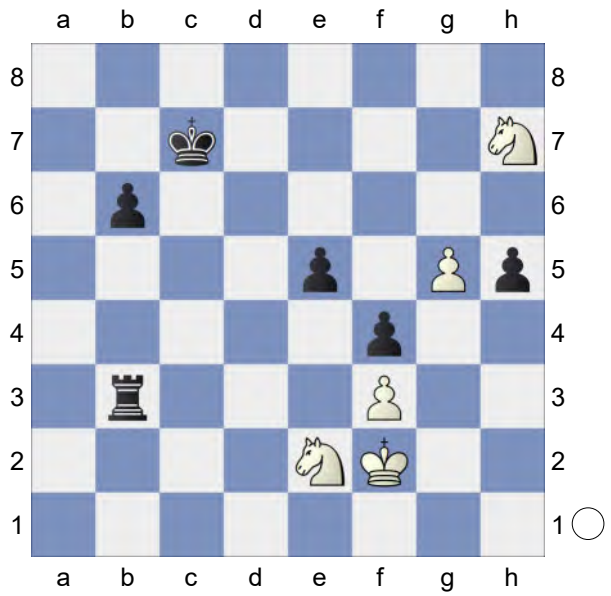
46.Kf2

(Diagram)

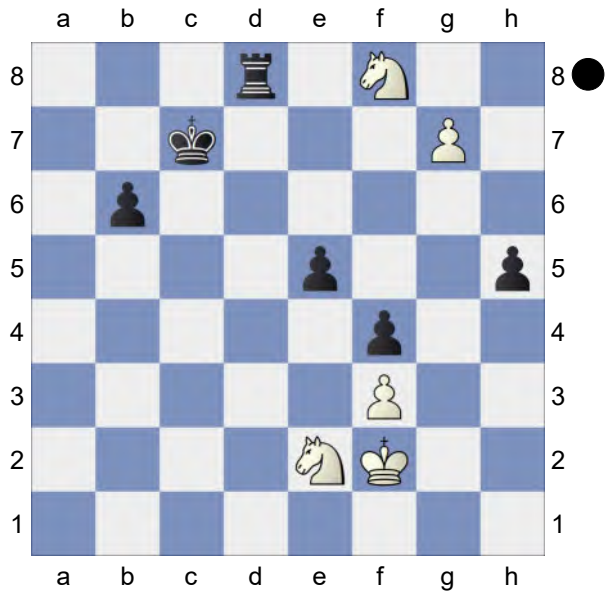


Strongly threatening Nf6. **46...Raa3?** 2.88/19
[46...e4± 1.24/19 might work better.]
47.Rb3? 0.73/24
[47.Nb3+- 2.88/19 is more deadly.]
47...Raxb3? 3.01/24
[47...Rxa2+± 0.73/24 is a better defense. 48.Nxa2 Rxb3]
48.axb3 Rc3 49.Ne2 Rxb3 5.02/24
[⌓49...Rc2 3.25/21 50.Nf8 Kd6 51.Nxg6 Ke6 52.Nf8+ Ke7]
50.h5 2.46/25
[⌓50.Nf8 5.02/24]
50...gxh5 9.29/19
[50...Kd6 2.46/25]

(Diagram)



51.g6 White is clearly winning. **51...Rd3 52.g7 Rd8 53.Nf8**



Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/Black=0.34

1-0

62 **B54**

□ **Zubov,Alexander** **2929**

■ **Finalist** **2654**

Blitz 12.01.2020

[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min

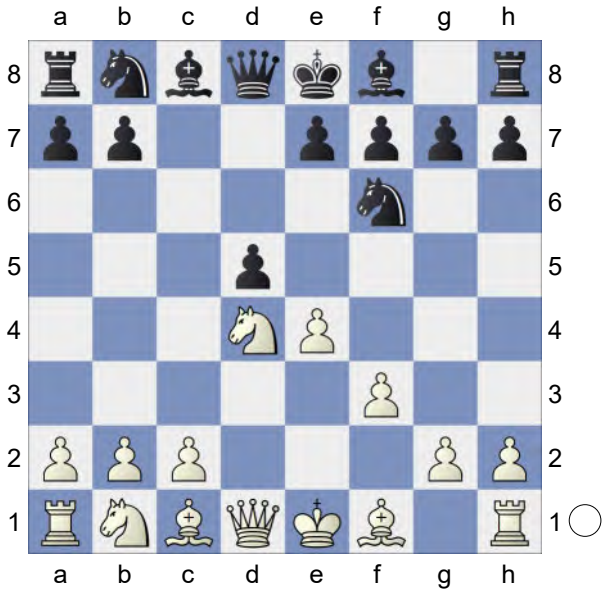
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 d5N

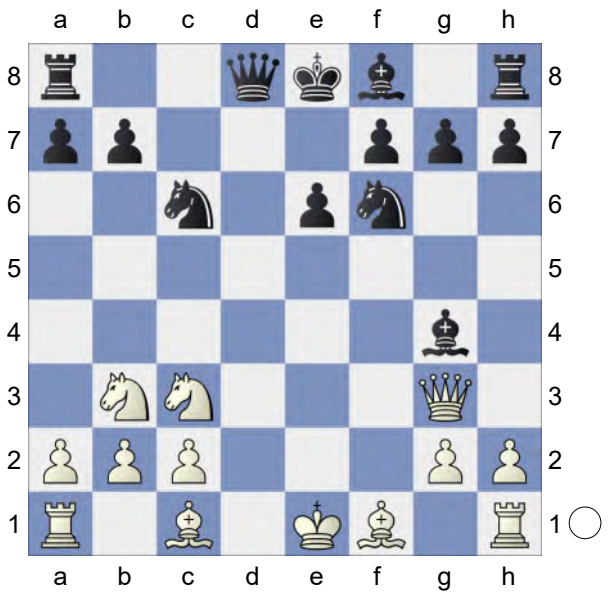
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244

1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

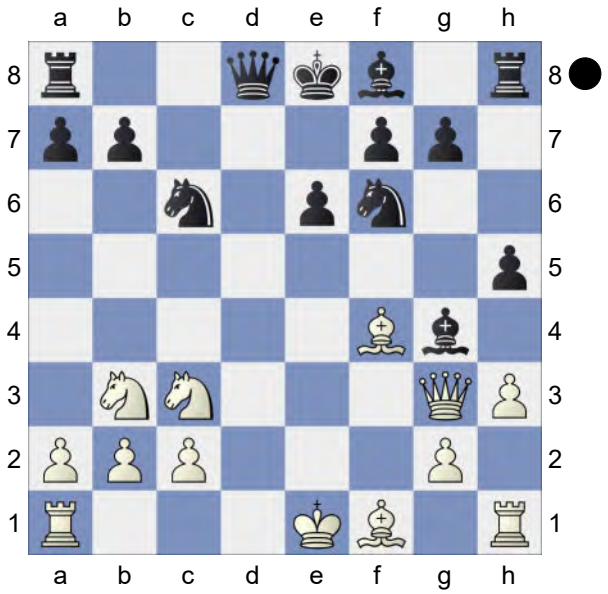


6.Nb3 0.00/17
[6.e5± 0.38/15 Nfd7 7.e6]
6...dxe4 7.Qe2 -0.69/18
[7.Qxd8+= 0.01/17 Kxd8 8.fxe4]
7...exf3∓ 8.Qxf3 Black is better. **8...Nc6 9.Nc3 Bg4 10.Qg3 e6**

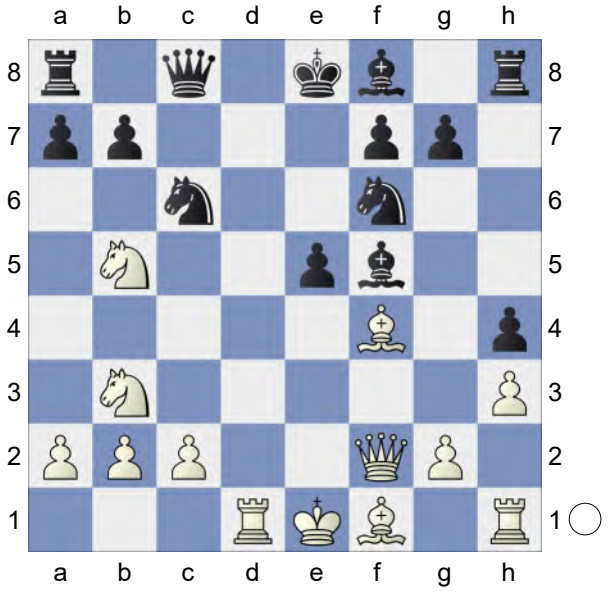


11.Bf4 Against Bd6 **11...h5 12.h3**

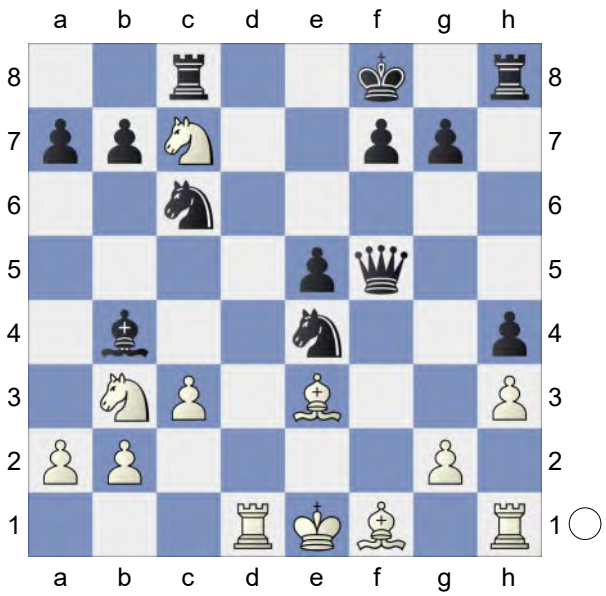
(Diagram)



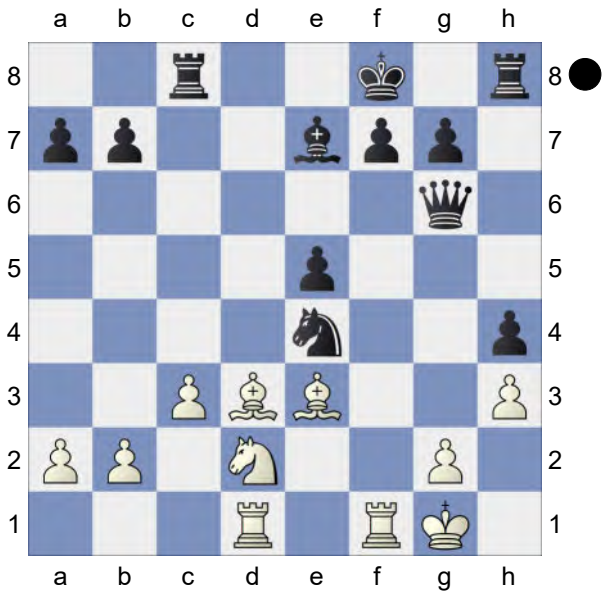
h4! 13.Qf2 Bf5 14.Rd1 Qc8 15.Nb5 -0.77/20
[15.Bb5= -0.29/17 might be stronger.]
15...e5∓



16.Bg5? -3.08/19
[16.Bh2∓ -1.06/18 is a better defense.]
16...Ne4!-+ 17.Qxf5 -9.84/21
[17.Qe3 -3.32/18]
17...Bb4+ 18.c3 Qxf5 19.Nc7+ Kf8 20.Be3 Inhibits Qf2+. **20...Rc8**
(Diagram)

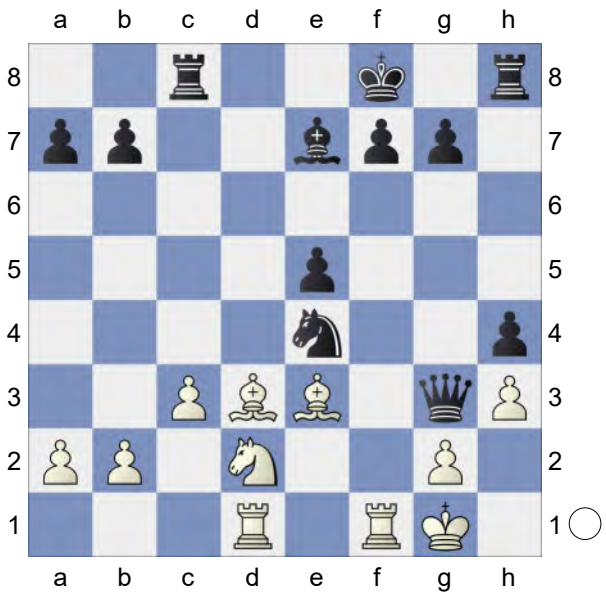


21.Nd5 Bd6 22.Bd3 Qg6 23.0-0 Ne7 24.Nxe7 Bxe7 25.Nd2

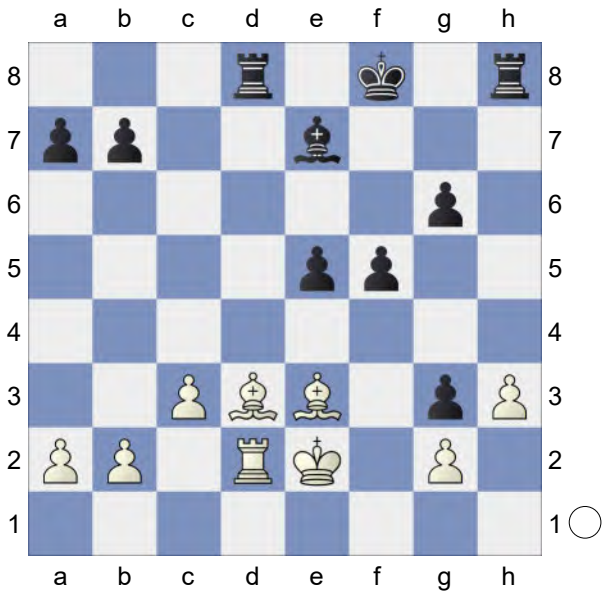


Qg3 -3.71/22

(Diagram)



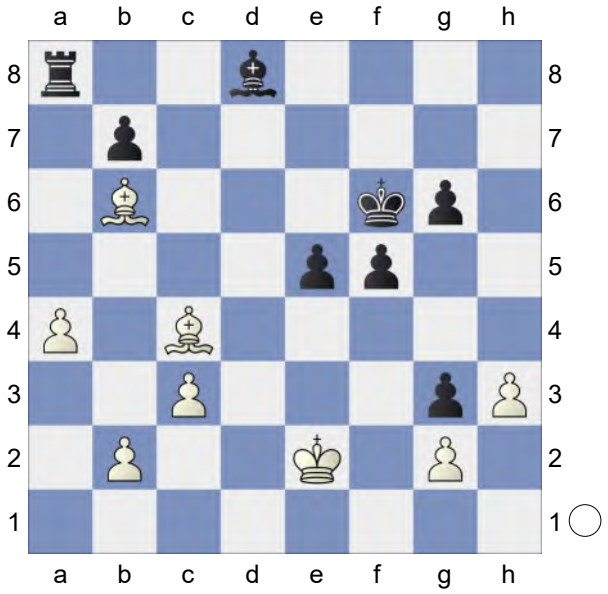
26.Rf3 Nxd2 27.Rxg3 hxg3 28.Rxd2 Rd8 29.Kf1 g6 30.Ke2 f5



31.Bxa7 Ra8 32.Bb6 Kf7? -0.98/20
[But not 32...Rxa2? 33.Bc7-+]
[32...Bg5-+ -2.96/21 has better winning chances. 33.Be3 Bxe3 34.Kxe3 Rd8]
33.Bc4+∓ Kf6 34.a4? -3.26/20
[34.Rd7∓ -1.18/20 might work better.]
34...Rhd8? -0.13/22 **35.Rxd8??** -5.56/24
[35.Bxd8= -0.13/22 and White is

okay. Rxd8 36.Rxd8 Bxd8 37.Kf3]

35...Bxd8-+



36.a5 -11.71/21

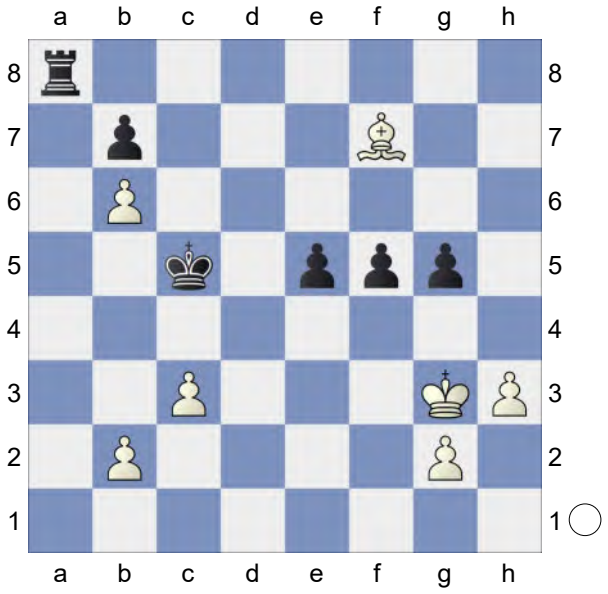
[⌓36.Be3 -5.00/20 Rxa4 37.Bd5]

36...Bxb6 37.axb6 Endgame KR-KB

37...Ke7 -5.29/21

[⌓37...e4 -10.61/21 ...f4 is the strong threat. 38.Bd5 Ra6]

38.Kf3 Kd6 39.Kxg3 Kc5 40.Bf7 g5

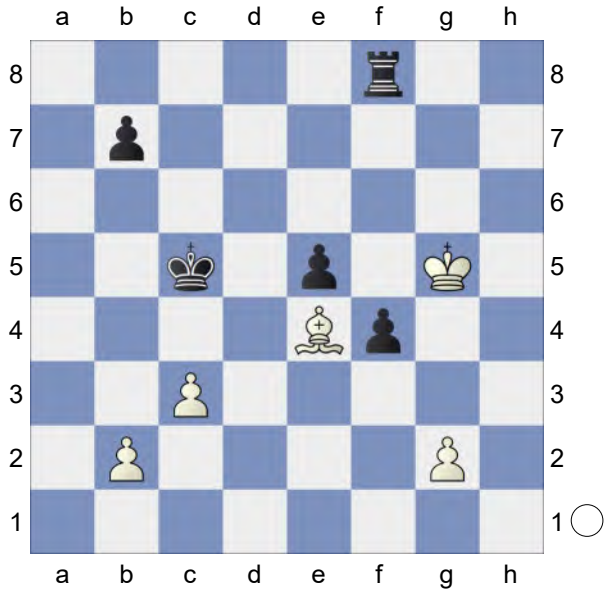


41.Bg6? -5.10/23

[41.b4+ -3.06/20 Kxb6 42.Be6]

41...Rf8 42.h4 gxh4+ 43.Kxh4 Kxb6 44.Kg5 f4 45.Be4 Kc5 -2.49/23

[⌓45...Kc7 -4.30/25 46.Kg4 b6]



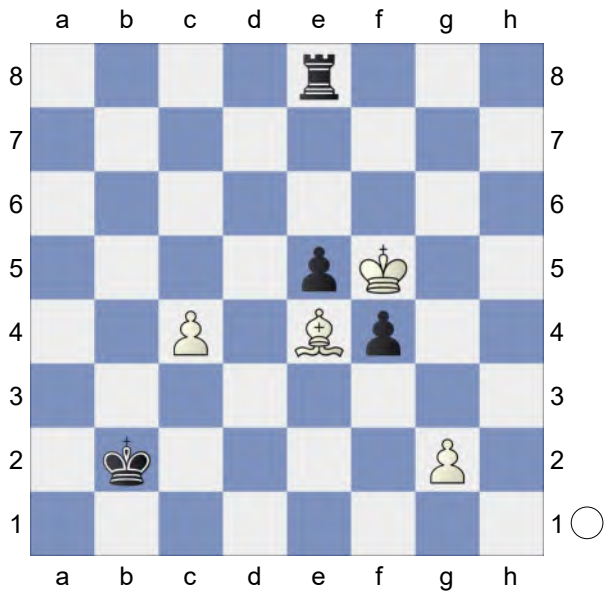
46.Bxb7 Kc4 47.Be4 -6.64/25

[47.Kg4 -2.75/21]

47...Kb3 48.Kg4 Kxb2 49.c4 Rg8+? -0.01/25

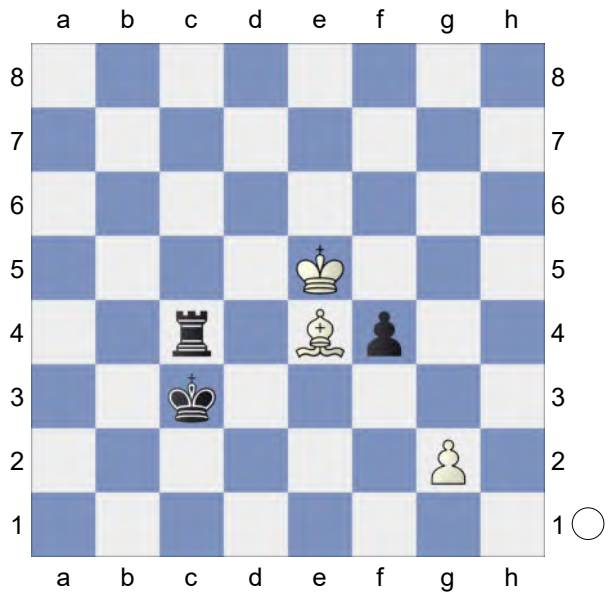
[49...Kc3-+ -8.21/25 50.Bd5 Kd4]

50.Kf5= The position is equal. **50...Re8**

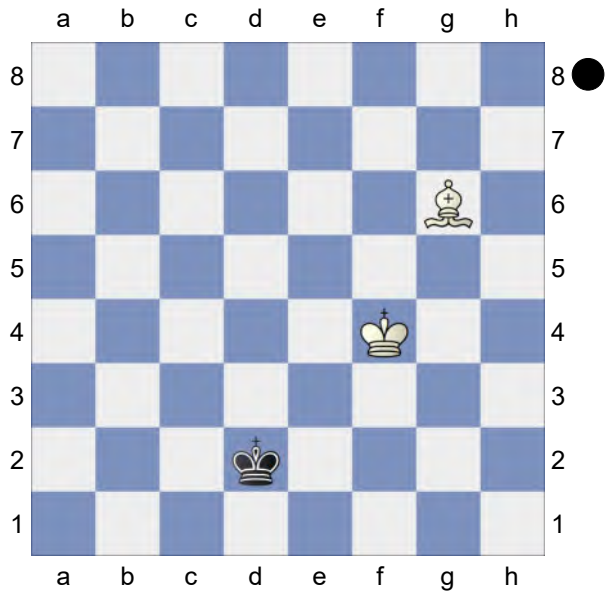


Threatens to win with ...Kc3. **51.Bc6! Re7** Strongly threatening ...Kc3. **52.Kf6! Rc7 53.Bd5 e4 54.Bxe4 Rxc4 55.Ke5 Kc3**

(Diagram)



56.Kxf4 Kd2 57.g4 Rc7 58.g5 Rg7 59.g6 Rxg6 60.Bxg6

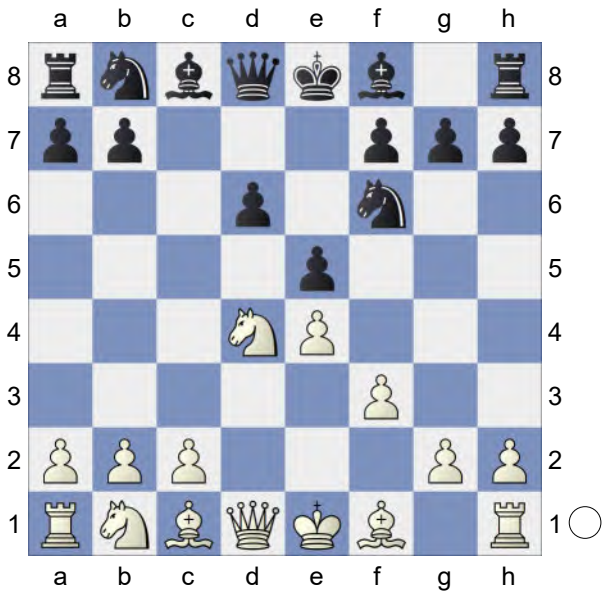


And White is the lucky defender.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.53/ Black=0.26 (precise)
½-½

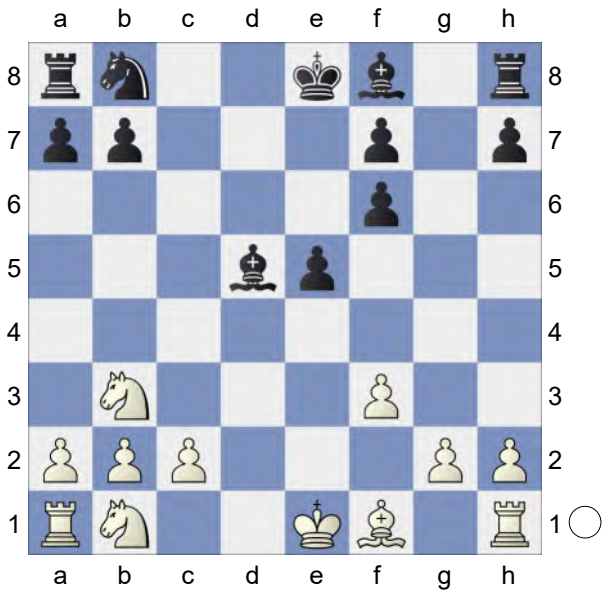
63 **B54**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2927**
■ **Avs2000** **2830**
Blitz 14.05.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244

1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

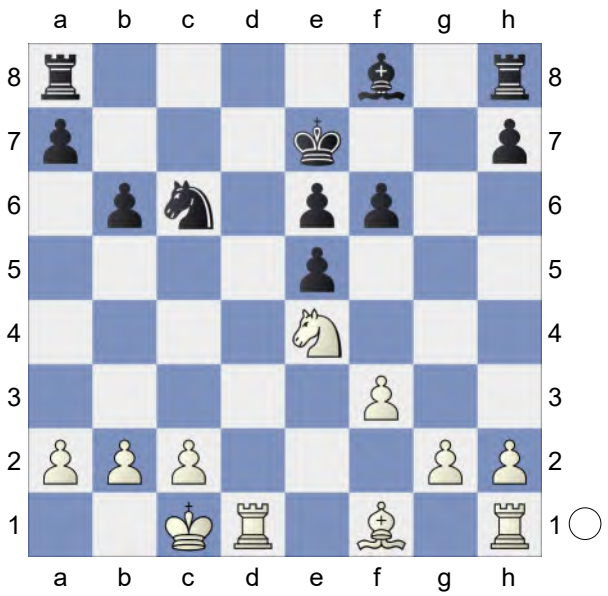


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Bxd5

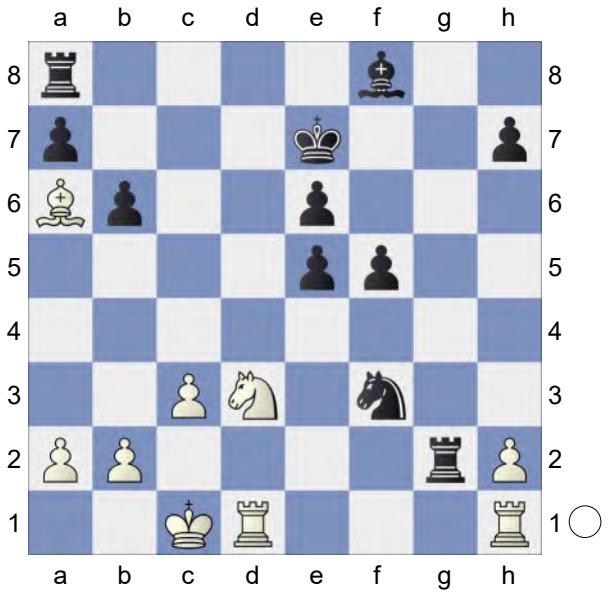


11.Nc3 Be6 12.0-0-0 Nc6 13.Ne4 0.14/18
[13.Bb5± 0.50/18]
13...Ke7 14.Nbc5 -0.26/19
[⌓14.Nec5 0.18/15]
14...b6 15.Nxe6 fxe6

(Diagram)

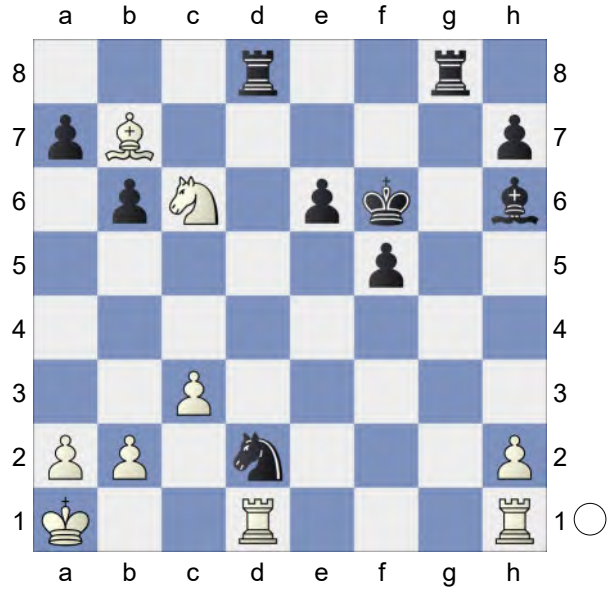


16.Bb5 Nd4 17.Ba6 f5 18.Nf2 -0.56/21
[18.Nd2!= 0.20/19]
18...Rg8∓ 19.c3 -1.40/21
[19.Bf1∓ -0.61/19]
19...Rxg2∓ 20.Nd3 -1.72/24
[20.Rhf1∓ -1.26/21 is a better defense. Nxf3 21.Bb7]
20...Nxf3 -2.27/18
[⌓20...Bh6+ -1.72/24 21.Kb1 Nxf3]

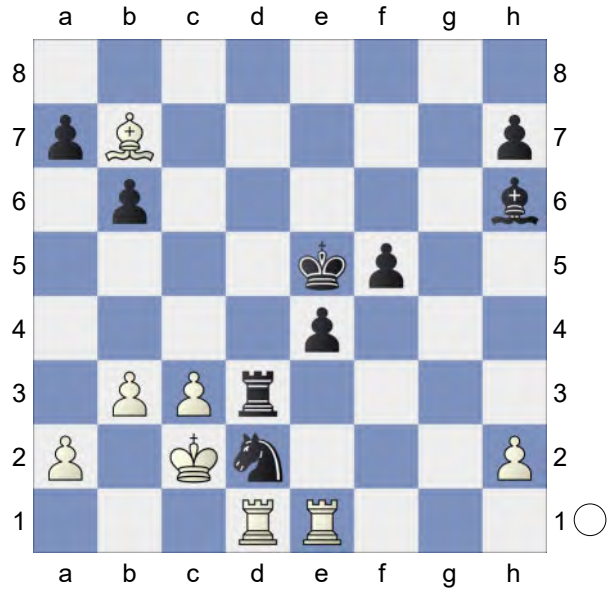


21.Bb7-+ Bh6+ 22.Kb1 Nd2+ 23.Ka1 Rd8 -0.76/20
[⌓23...Rag8 -1.47/19 24.Bxg2 Rxg2

25.Nxe5 f4]
24.Nxe5∓
[24.Bxg2? Rxd3 25.b3 f4-+]
24...Rgg8 ...Kf6 is the strong threat.
25.Nc6+ Deflection, Double Attack
25...Kf6

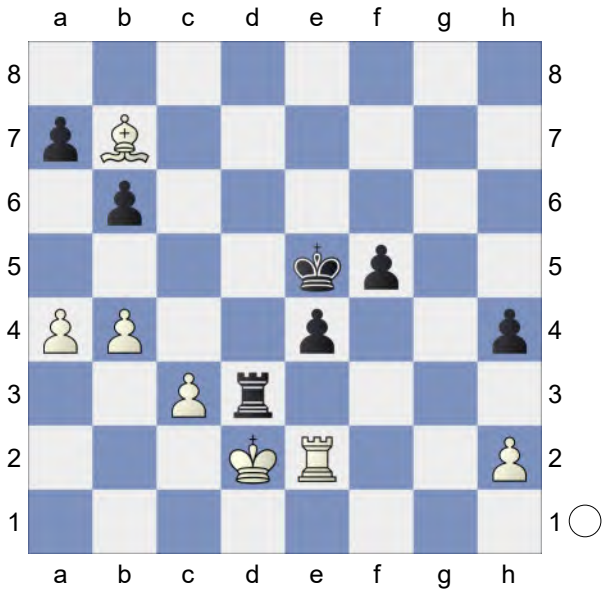


aiming for ...Rd7. **26.Nxd8 Rxd8 27.b3 e5** Black has compensation. **28.Kb2 e4 29.Kc2 Ke5 30.Rhe1 Rd3**



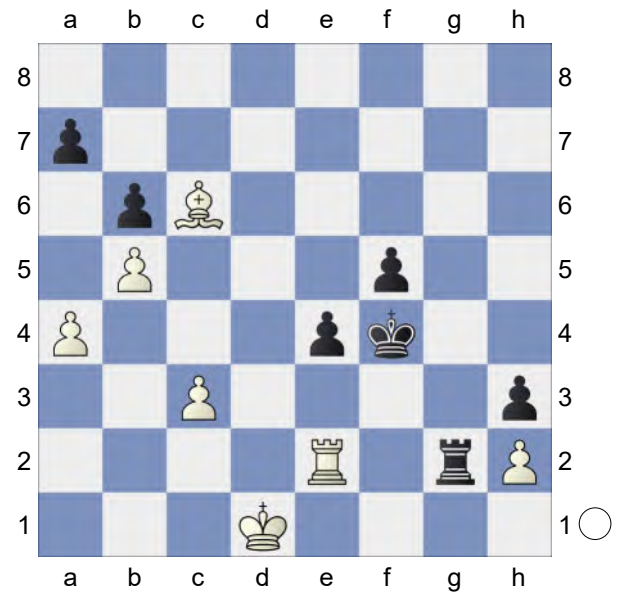
31.Re2 Rh3? 1.48/22
[31...Rd7∓ -0.42/20 stays ahead. 32.Bc6 Rd6]
32.Rdxd2± Bxd2 33.Kxd2 0.60/19

Endgame KRB-KR
[33.Rxd2± 1.52/20 Rh6 34.c4]
33...h5 1.38/19
[33...Rd3+± 0.60/19 34.Kc2 Rd7]
34.a4 0.92/21
[⌓34.Kc2 1.38/19]
34...h4 1.31/23
[⌓34...Rd3+ 0.92/21 35.Kc2 Kf4]
35.b4 Rd3+

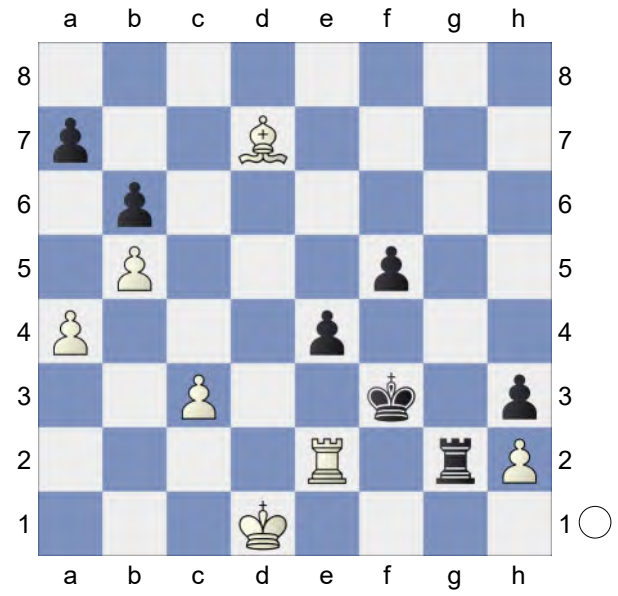


36.Kc2 h3 1.96/18
[36...Rd7± 1.20/20 37.Bc6 Rc7]
37.Bc6? 0.30/19
[Better is 37.Ba6+- 1.96/18 Rf3 38.Kb3]
37...Rd6= 38.b5 -0.01/20
[⌓38.Be8! 0.30/21]
38...Rg6! 39.Kd2 Rg2 0.64/20
[39...Rg1= 0.01/22]
40.Kd1 -0.01/24
[40.Ke1± 0.64/20 Rg1+ 41.Kd2]
40...Kf4

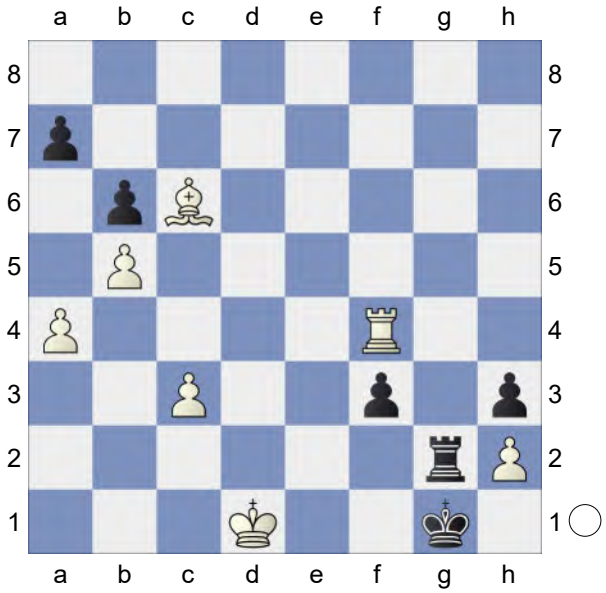
(Diagram)



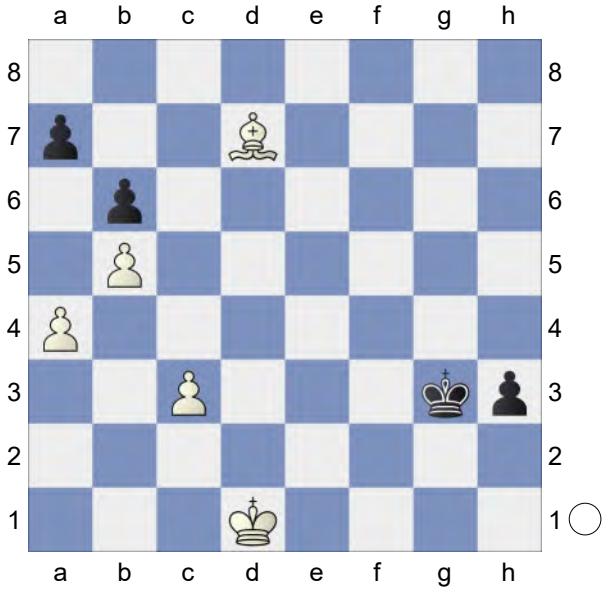
41.Bd7 Kf3? 6.01/24
[41...Rg7= -0.01/21 42.Be8 Ke5]



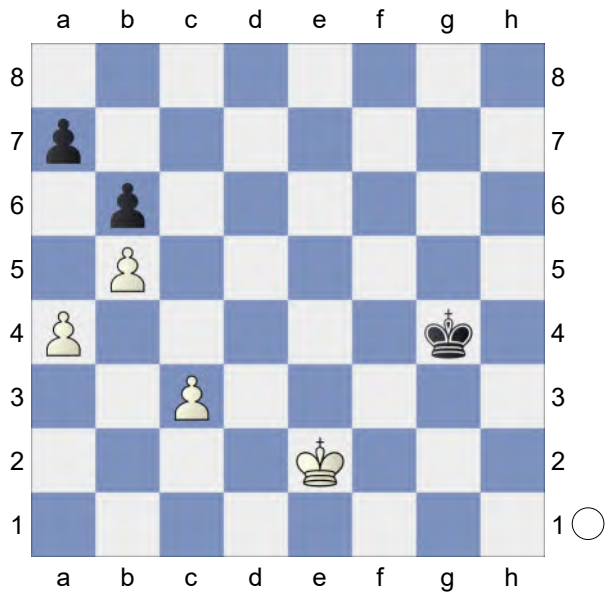
42.Re1? -0.01/23
[42.Bxf5!+- 6.01/24 Rxe2 *(42...Kf4 43.Bxe4)* 43.Bg4+ Kxg4 44.Kxe2]
42...f4? 1.56/23
[42...Rxh2= -0.01/23 43.Bxf5 e3]
43.Bc6±
[Weaker is 43.Bxh3 Ra2 44.Rf1+ Ke3 45.Re1+ Kf3 46.Rf1+ Ke3 47.Re1+ Kf3=]
43...Kf2? 5.25/23
[43...Rxh2± 0.64/21 44.Rxe4 *(44.Bxe4+ Kg3=)* 44...Rg2]
44.Rxe4+- f3 45.Rf4 Kg1



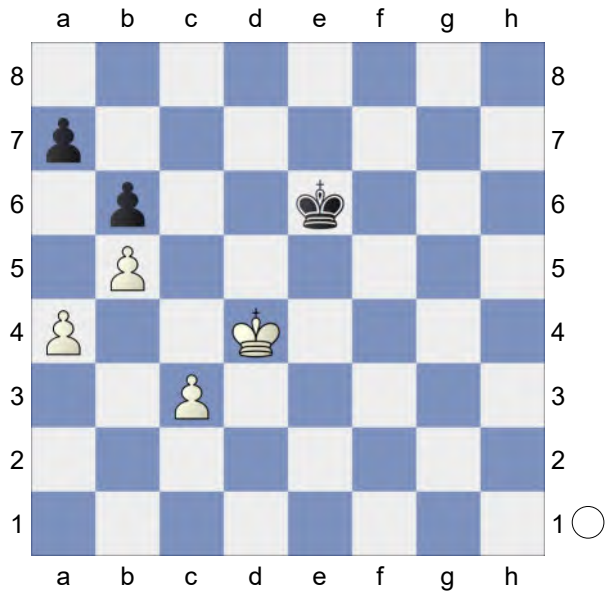
46.Rxf3 Black must now prevent Rg3.
46...Kxh2 47.Bd7 Rg3 48.Rxg3 Kxg3



49.Bxh3! Kxh3 K3P-KPP
[49...Kf4 50.Kd2]
50.Ke2 10.15/21
[⌓50.c4 #18/24 Kg4 51.c5 Kf5 52.cxb6 axb6 53.a5 bxa5 54.b6 Kg6 55.b7]
50...Kg4
(Diagram)



51.Ke3 Kf5 52.Kd4 Threatens to win with Kd5. **52...Ke6**

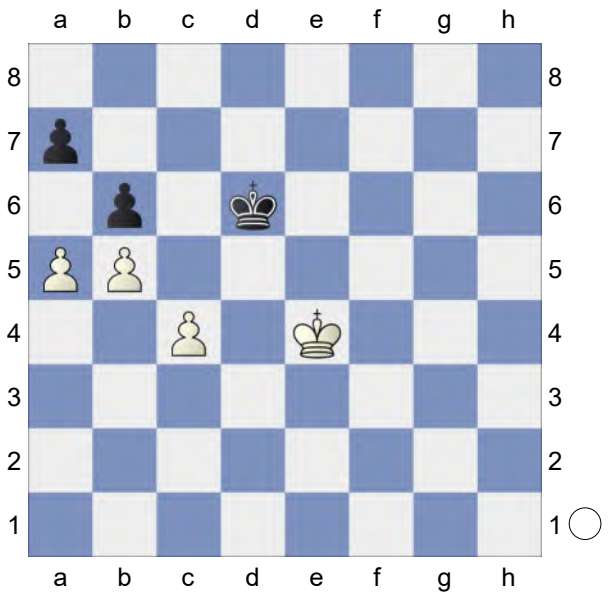


53.c4! Kd6 Prevents c5+. **54.a5 Ke6 55.Ke4?** 0.00/27

[55.axb6+- 10.32/35 axb6 56.c5]

55...Kd6

(Diagram)



56.Kd4 Ke6! 57.Kc3? 0.00/23

[57.axb6 #26/33 mates axb6 58.c5 Ke7 59.Kd5 Kd8 60.cxb6 Kd7 61.Kc5 Kc8 62.Kc6]

57...Kd6? 10.32/36

[57...bxa5= 0.00/23 58.Kd4 a4]

58.Kb4? 0.00/36

[58.axb6+- 10.32/36 axb6 59.Kd4 Ke6 60.c5 Kd7 61.c6+ *(61.cxb6 Kc8=)* 61...Kd6 62.Ke4 Ke6 63.c7]

58...Kd7? 1.86/34

[58...bxa5+= 0.00/36 and Black stays safe. 59.Ka4 *(59.Kxa5 Kc5=)* 59...Kc5]

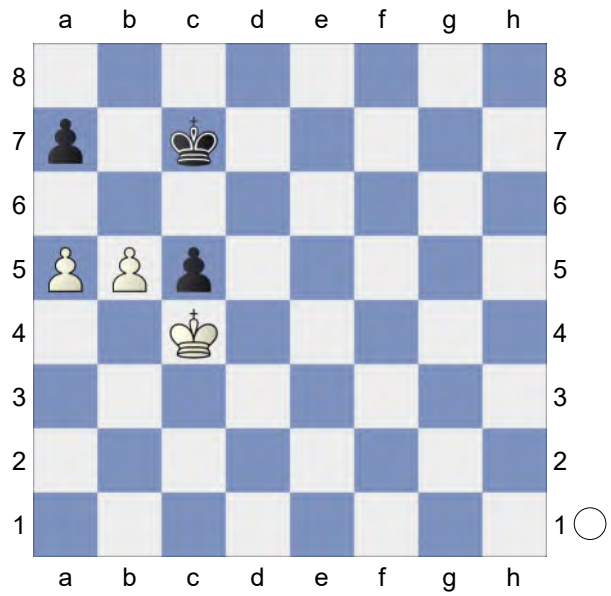
59.c5? 0.01/27

[White should play 59.Kb3+- 1.86/34]

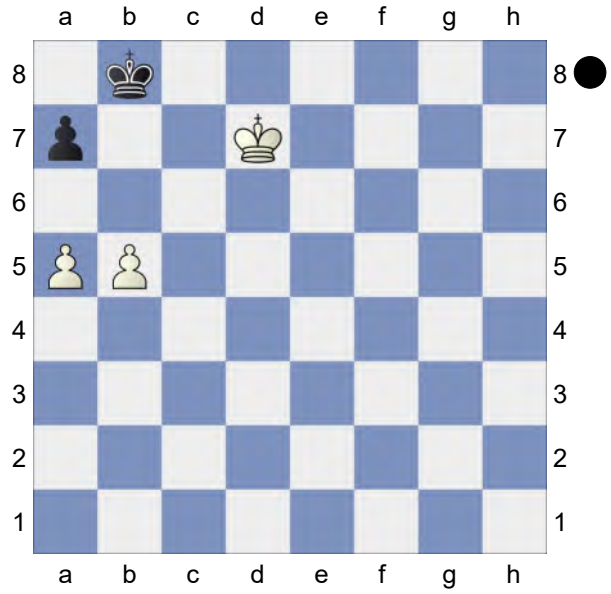
59...bxc5+= The position is equal.

60.Kc4 Kc7

(Diagram)



61.Kxc5 Kb7 62.Kd6 Kb8 63.Kd7

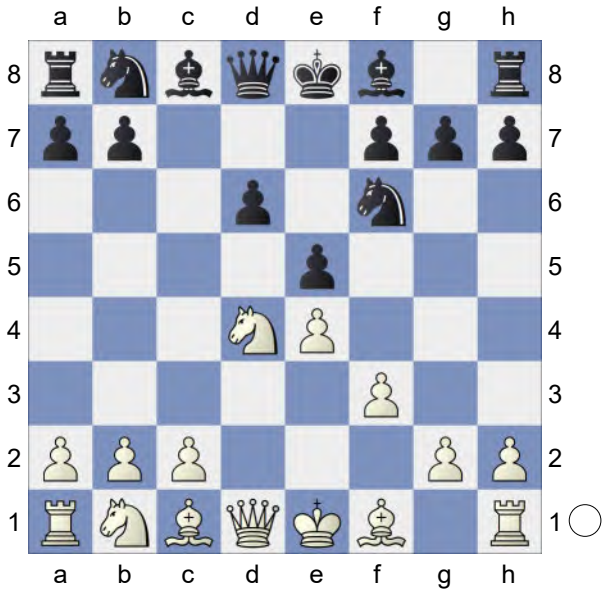


Quite a comeback for White.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.83/Black=0.76. Sensor Board Error (Ke4/e5)?
1-0

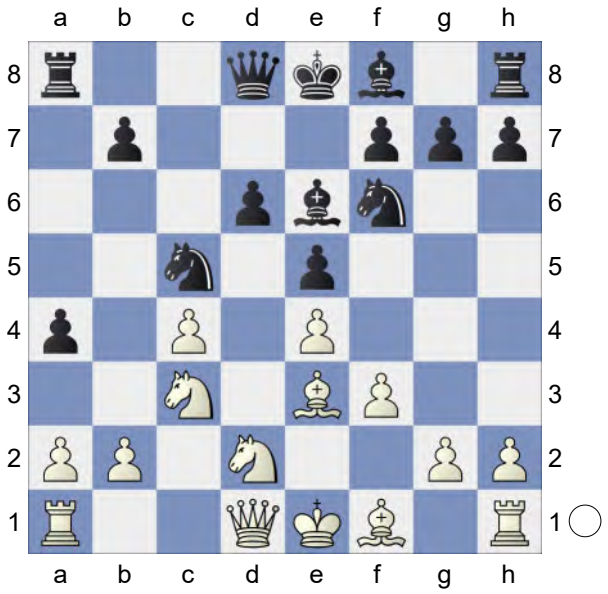
64 **B54**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2927**
■ **Gabuzyan Chessmood** **2789**
Blitz 03.11.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244

1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

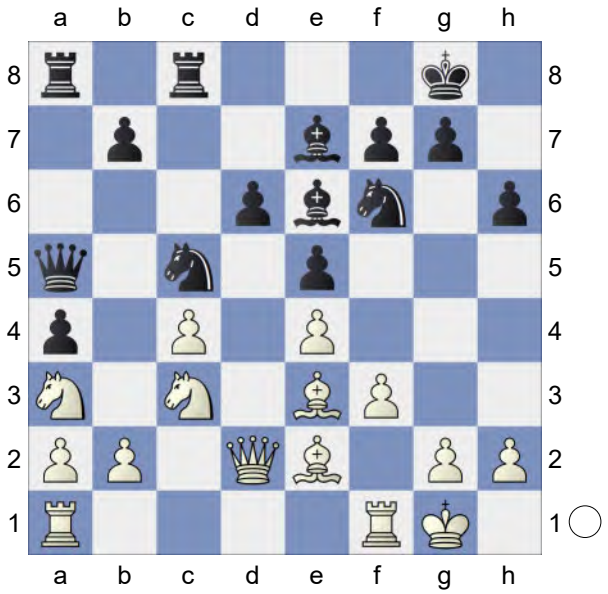


6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 a5
[7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]
8.Be3 a4 9.N3d2 Na6 0.70/19
[9...Qa5= 0.16/16]
10.Nc3 Nc5

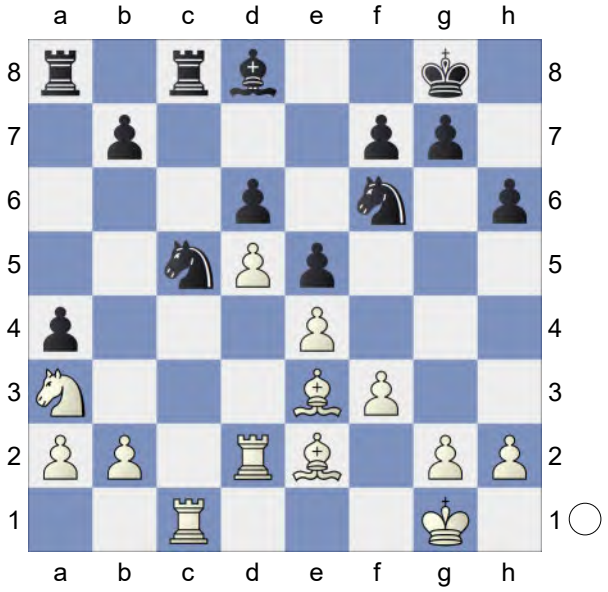


11.Be2 Be7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Ndb1 Qa5 14.Qd2 Rfc8 15.Na3 h6

(Diagram)

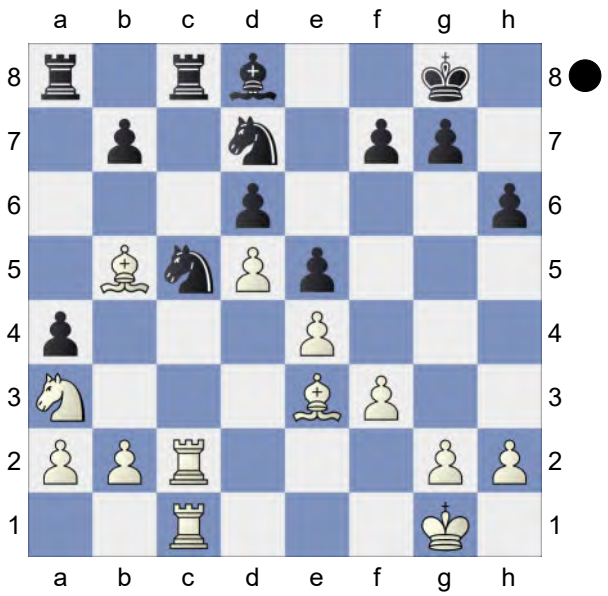


16.Rfd1 Rc6 17.Rac1 Bd8 18.Nd5 Bxd5 1.83/21
[18...Qxd2± 0.79/17 was worth a try.
19.Rxd2 *(19.Bxd2 Bd7±)* 19...Ncd7]
19.cxd5 Qxd2 20.Rxd2 Rcc8

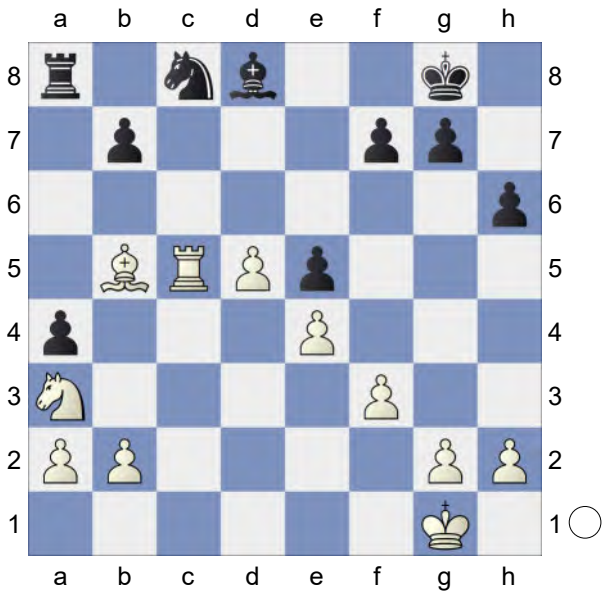


21.Rdc2 Nfd7 22.Bb5

(Diagram)

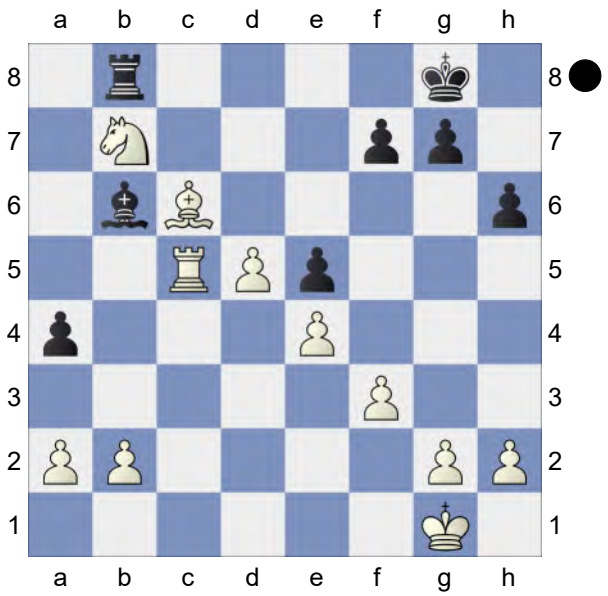


aiming for Bxd7. **22...Nb6 23.Bxc5 dxc5 24.Rxc5 Rxc5 25.Rxc5 Nc8**

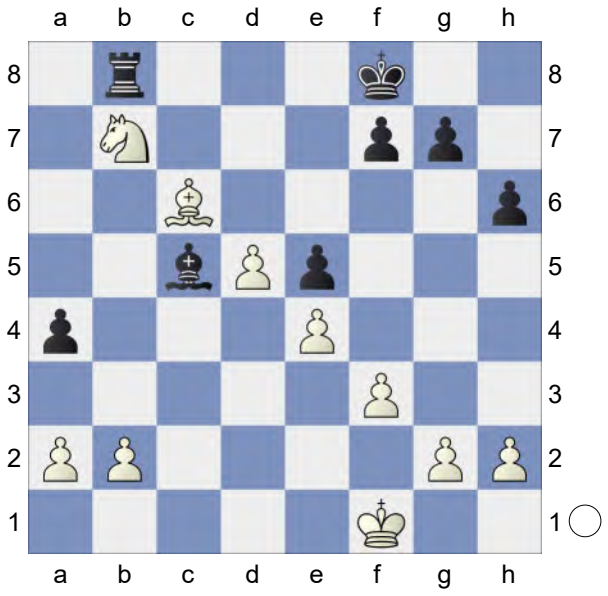


26.Nc4 1.45/21
[White should play 26.Rc4+- 1.97/20]
26...Nd6? 3.77/21 Black cannot hold the game after this.
[26...b6± 1.45/21 27.Bc6 *(27.Rc6 Na7=)* 27...Rb8]
27.Nxd6+- Bb6 28.Nxb7 Rb8 29.Bc6

(Diagram)

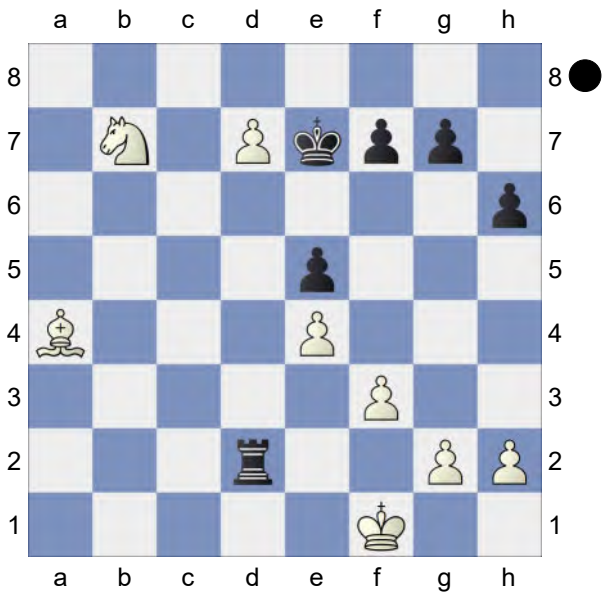


Hoping for Kf1. **29...Kf8?** 5.92/22
[29...Rxb7 3.20/23 30.Bxb7 Bxc5+ 31.Kf1 Kf8]
30.Kf1 White is clearly winning.
[Weaker is 30.b4 axb3 31.axb3 Rxb7±]
30...Bxc5



31.Nxc5 And now Nd7+ would win.
31...Rxb2 32.d6 Rxa2 33.d7 Ke7 34.Nb7 Rd2 35.Bxa4

(Diagram)

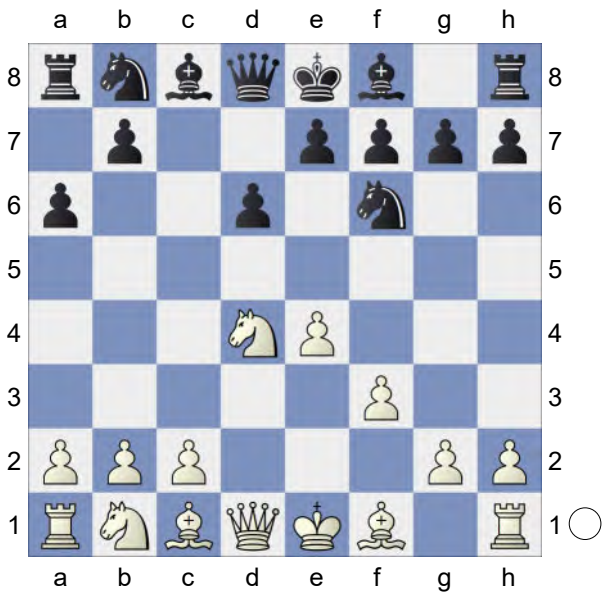


Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.42
1-0

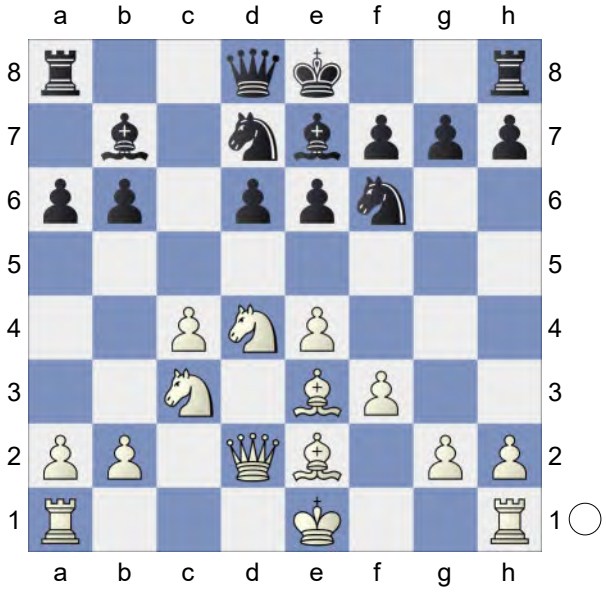
65 **B54**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2926**
■ **Ebobochess** **2843**
Blitz 29.03.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6

(Diagram)



6.c4 b6 7.Nc3 e6 8.Be3 Bb7
White is slightly better. **9.Be2 Nbd7**
10.Qd2 Be7 0.71/16
[10...Rc8± 0.34/15]



11.0-0 0.39/15
[11.g4± 0.71/16]
11...h5N
[11...Rc8 12.Rac1 Qc7 13.a3 *(13.Rfd1 Qb8 14.Bf1 0-0 15.a3 Rfe8 16.b4 Bd8 17.Kh1 Bc7 18.Bg1 d5 19.cxd5 Bf4 20.Be3 Bxe3 21.Qxe3 exd5 22.Nf5 dxe4 23.Qg5*

g6 24.fxe4 Qe5 25.Nh6+ Kf8 26.Qd2 Kg7 27.Be2 Rxc3 Chapter-Games Game 3 (33)) 13...Qb8 14.b4 0-0 15.Nb3 Bd8 16.Kh1 Bc7 17.Bg1 Kh8 18.Nd4 Rg8 19.Rb1 Qa8 20.Be3 h6 21.b5 a5 22.Rfd1 g5 23.Nc6 Rg7 24.h4 gxh4 25.Bxh6 Rh7 26.e5 Chjumachenko,A (2220)-Beshukov,S (2435) Krasnodar 1997 CI1-130 [Chjumachenko,A] (38)]

[11...0-0 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Bf8 14.Bf1 Rc8 15.Qf2 Qc7 16.b4 Qb8 17.a3 h6 18.Nb3 Bc6 19.Bd4 Red8 20.Kh1 Ne8 21.Rb1 Be7 22.a4 Bf6 23.a5 Bxd4 24.Qxd4 Ba8 25.Rd2 Qc7 26.axb6 Chapter-Games Game 13 (49)]

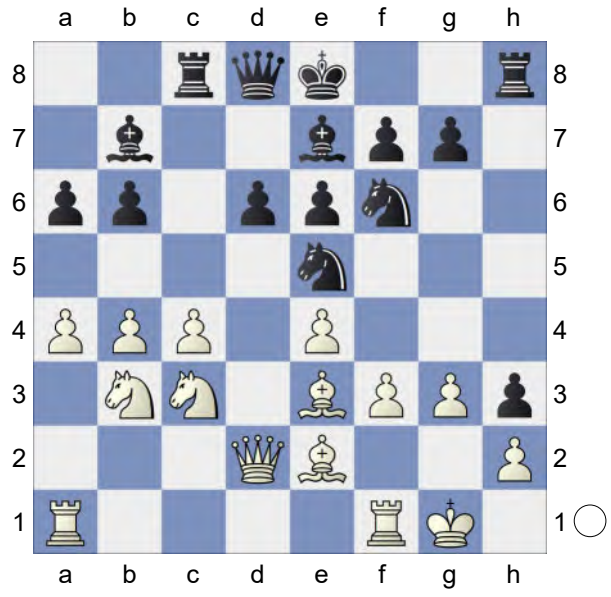
12.a4 h4 13.b4 h3 14.g3 0.18/16

[14.g4± 0.53/15 feels stronger.]

14...Rc8= 15.Nb3 -0.14/16

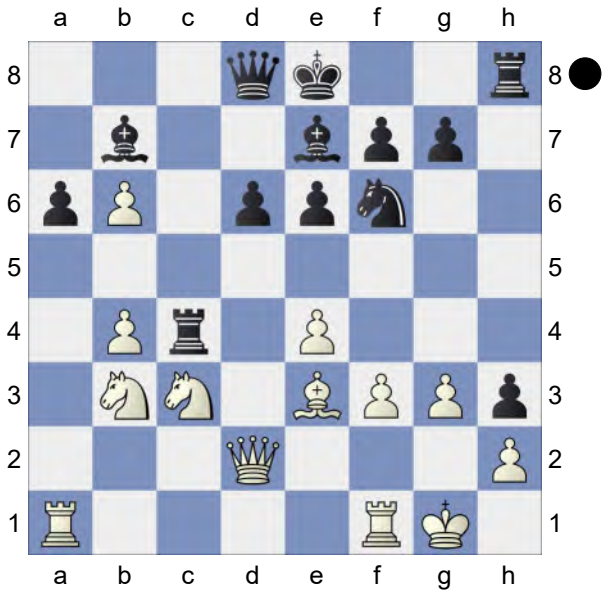
[15.a5± 0.32/14 was preferrable.]

15...Ne5



16.a5 Nxc4 17.Bxc4 Rxc4 18.axb6

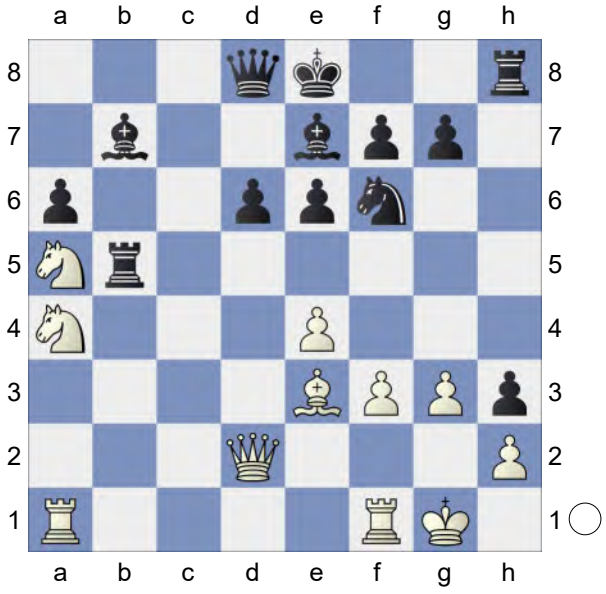
(Diagram)



And now Na5 would win. **18...Rxb4 19.Na5 Rxb6 20.Na4?** -1.95/19 Pair of Knights! This move loses the game for White.

[20.Bxb6= -0.01/17 and White stays safe. Qxb6+ 21.Qf2 Qxf2+ 22.Kxf2]

20...Rb5-+

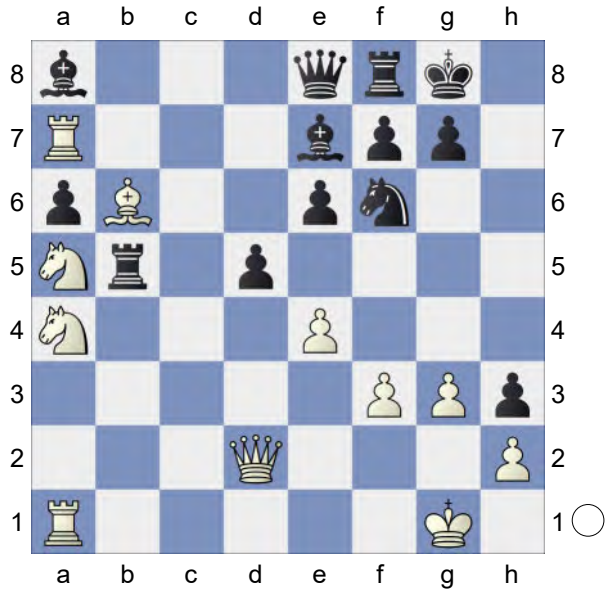


21.Rfb1 Ba8 -1.50/18

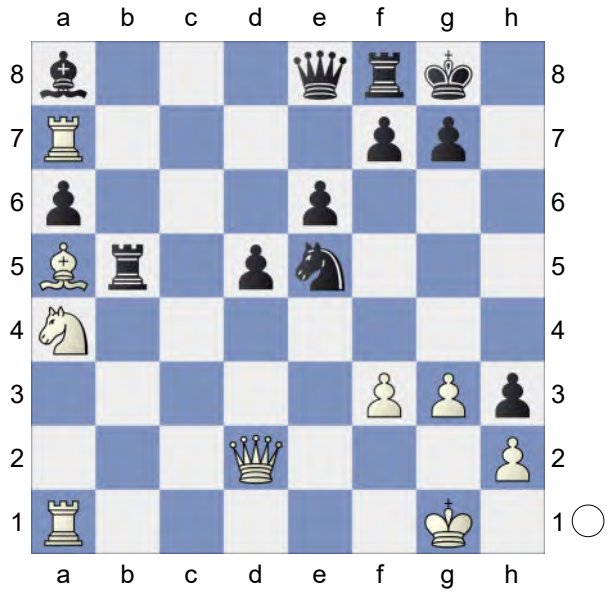
[And not 21...Rxa5 22.Bb6 Rd5 23.exd5=]

[Black should play 21...Qxa5-+ -1.92/18 22.Qxa5 Rxa5 23.Rxb7 Bd8]

22.Bb6 -2.86/18
[22.Rxb5∓ -1.50/18 axb5 23.Nb6]
22...Qd7 23.Rc1 0-0 24.Rc7 Qe8 25.Ra7 d5



Black is clearly winning. **26.e5 Nd7 27.Bd4 Bb4 28.Bc3** -6.81/19
[⌓28.Qd1 -4.63/15 Bxa5 29.Rxa6]
28...Bxa5 29.Bxa5 Nxe5

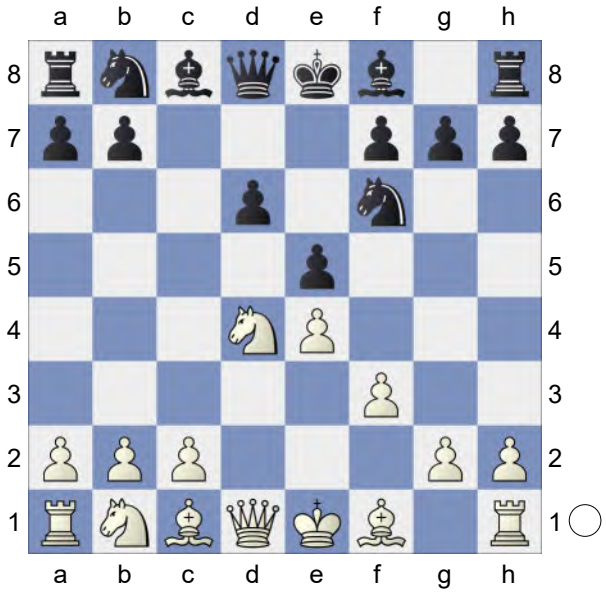


Weighted Error Value: White=0.62/Black=0.15 (very precise)
0-1

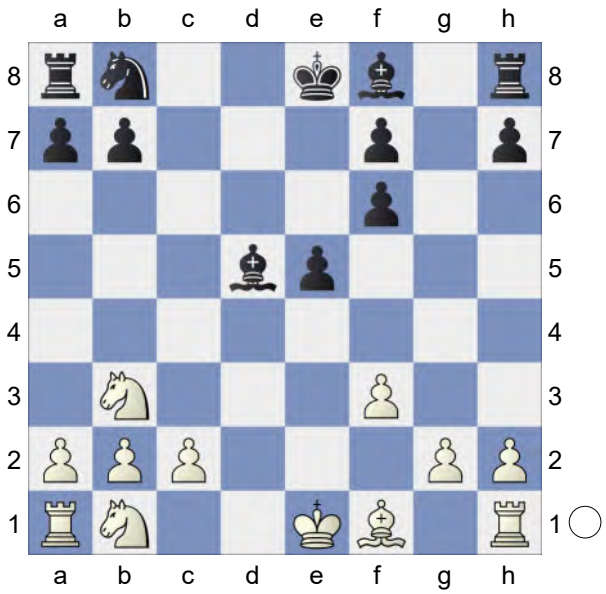
66 **B54**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2925**
■ **Avs2000** **2821**
Blitz 21.05.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244

1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

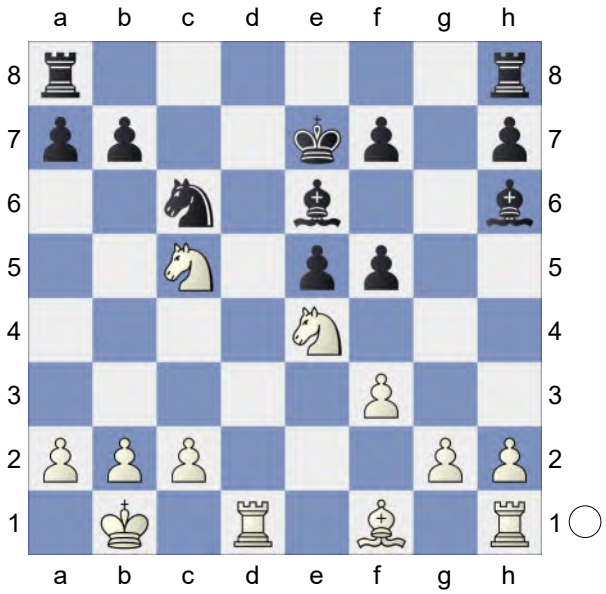


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Bxd5

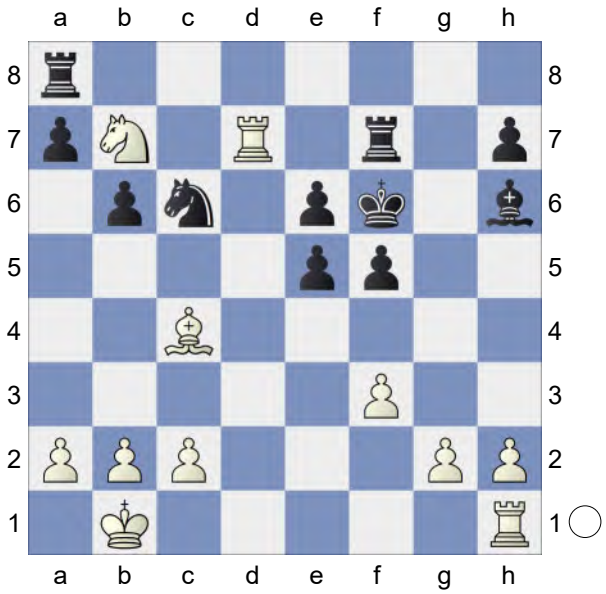


11.Nc3 Be6 12.0-0-0 Nc6 13.Ne4 Bh6+ 14.Kb1 White has an edge.
14...Ke7 15.Nbc5 f5

(Diagram)

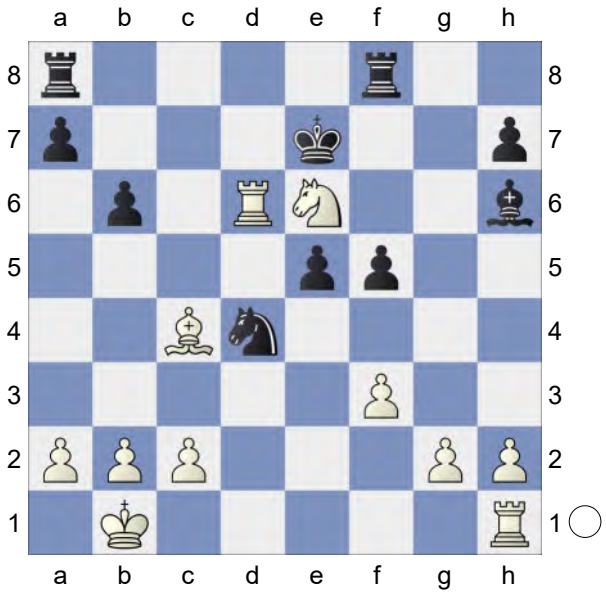


16.Nxe6 -0.42/21
[16.Ng3= -0.06/17]
16...fxe6∓ 17.Nc5 Threatens to win with Rd7+. **17...b6** 0.01/19
[17...Rad8∓ -0.35/18 18.Bc4 Rxd1+ 19.Rxd1 Rd8 20.Rxd8 Nxd8]
18.Rd7+= Kf6 19.Nb7 Rhf8 0.73/16
[19...Rag8= 0.01/18]
20.Bc4± And now Bxe6! would win.
20...Rf7



21.Rd6 &Bianco is more active. **21...Nd4**
22.Nd8 Rf8 2.41/21
[22...Re7± 1.35/18]

23.Nxe6+- Ke7



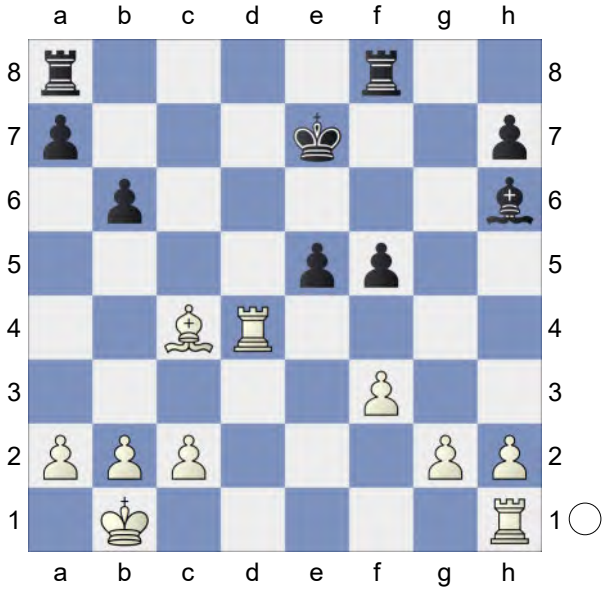
24.Rd5

[Weaker is 24.Nxf8 Kxd6 25.Nxh7 Rh8±]

24...Kxe6

[24...Nxe6? 25.Rxe5 Rf6 26.Rhe1]

25.Rxd4+ Ke7

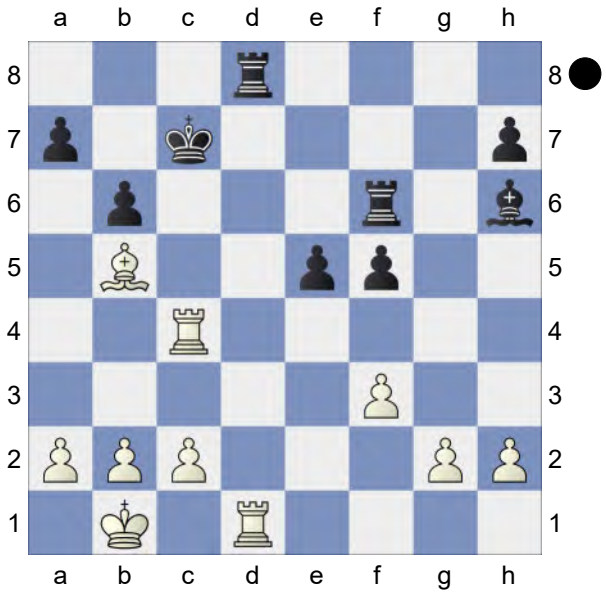


26.Rh4 Rf6 27.Re1 Kd6 28.Rd1+ Kc7 29.Bb5 Rd8? 11.84/23

[29...Rg8 2.32/17 30.Rd7+ Kb8]

30.Rc4+

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.22 (precise)

1-0

67 **B38**

□ **Drawdenied Twitch** **2924**

■ **Izel2** **2567**

Blitz 26.02.2024

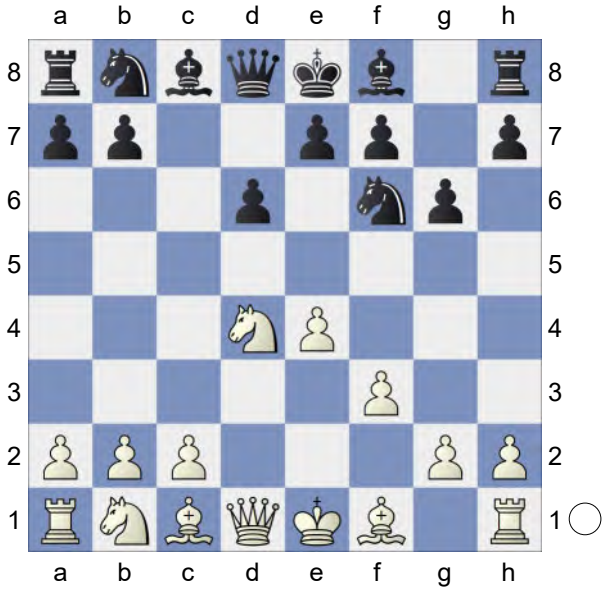
[Kitty Kat]

B38: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind with 5...Bg7 and 7...0-0

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 g6N

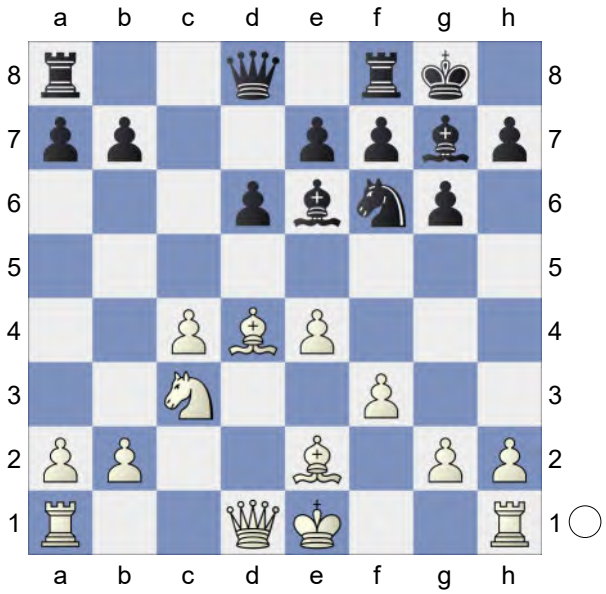
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1

Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

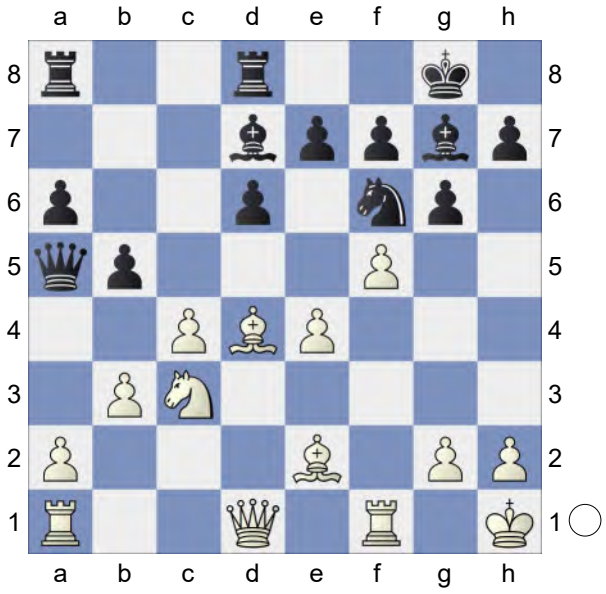


6.c4 Bg7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 Nc6 9.Be2 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Be6

(Diagram)

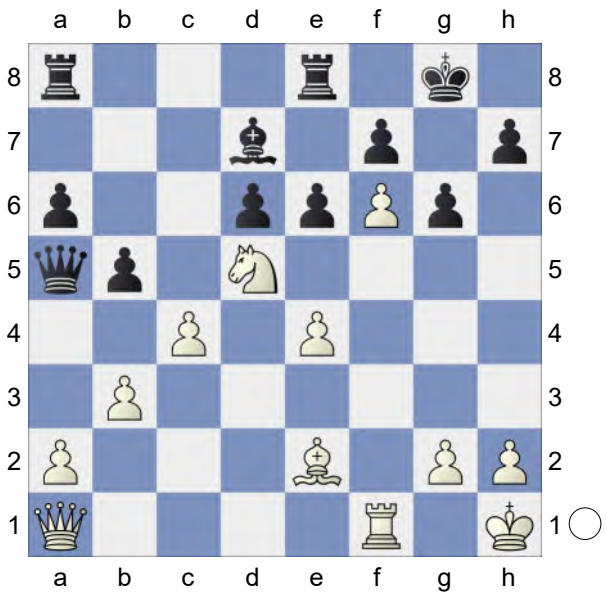


11.0-0 Qa5 12.b3 Rfd8 13.f4 a6 14.Kh1 White is slightly better. **14...b5 15.f5** aiming for b4. **15...Bd7**

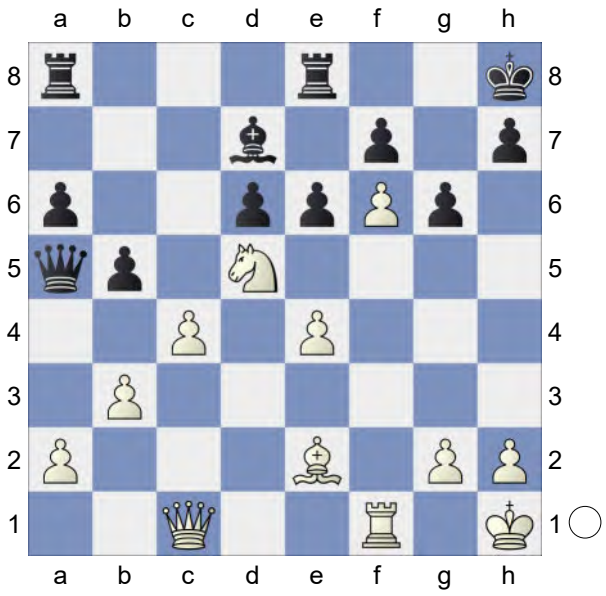


16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Nd5 Bxa1 18.Qxa1 Re8 19.f6 White has strong compensation. 0 x 0. 00209a826646dp-1022s more active pieces. The black rooks are badly placed. **19...e6**

(Diagram)

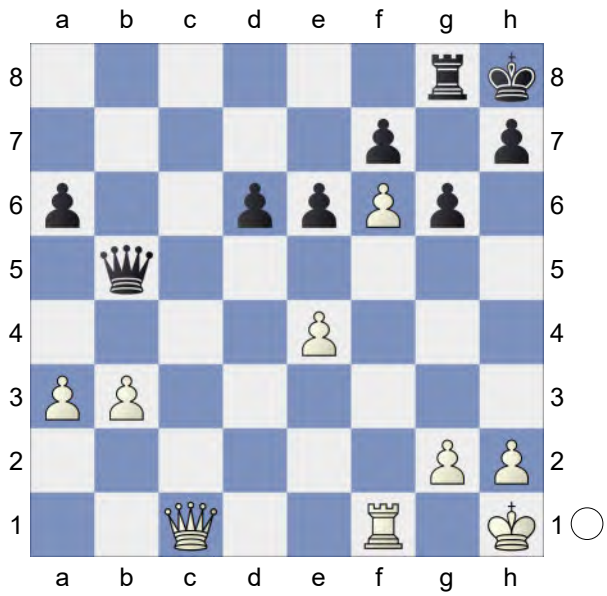


20.Qc1! -0.01/25 **Kh8!=**
[20...exd5? 21.Qh6 dxe4 22.Qg7#]

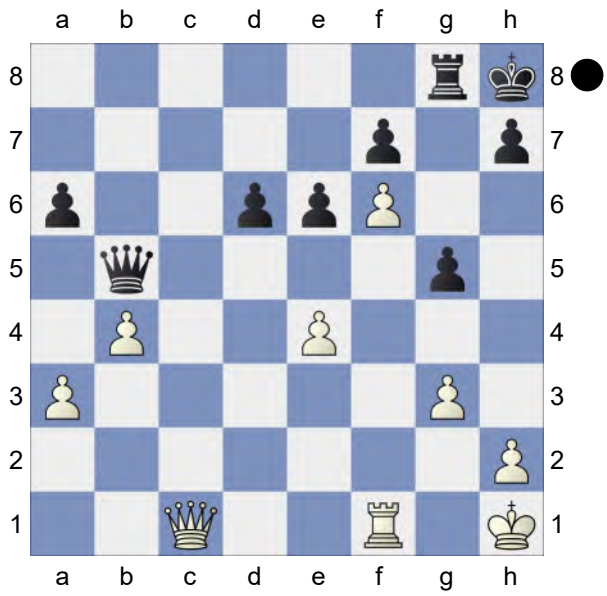


21.Ne7 Rg8 0.52/21 **22.a3± bxc4 23.Bxc4 Bb5 24.Nxg8 Rxg8 25.Bxb5** 0.04/21
[25.b4± 0.41/21 deserves consideration. Qb6 26.Bxb5 Qxb5 27.Rd1]
25...Qxb5

(Diagram)



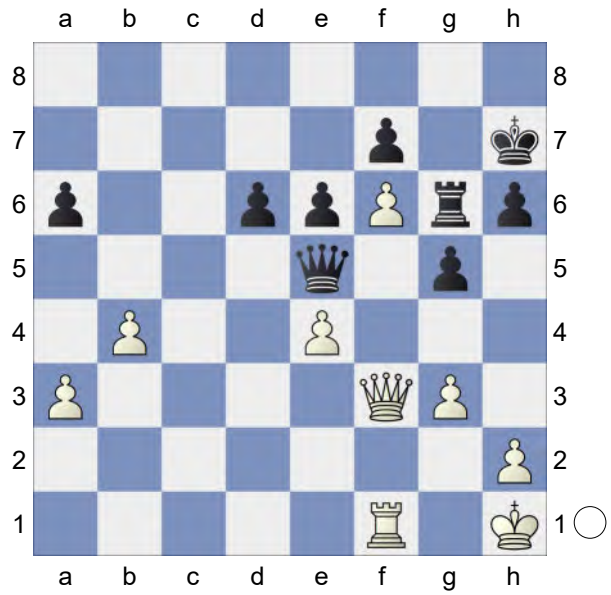
Endgame KQR-KQR **26.b4 g5** 0.44/20
[26...a5= 0.09/22]
27.g3 -0.90/20
[27.Rd1± 0.44/20 stays ahead.]



27...Qe5 -0.17/20
[27...a5!∓ -0.90/20]
28.Qc2 h6 29.Qd3 -1.54/20
[White should try 29.Kg1∓ -0.38/20]
29...Rg6 -0.22/21
[29...Rc8∓ -1.54/20 White should prevent ...Rc3. 30.a4 Rb8]
30.Qf3 -0.79/19

[30.Qxa6= -0.22/21 remains equal. Qxe4+ 31.Kg1]

30...Kh7



31.Kg2 -1.13/21

[31.Qd3∓ -0.66/19]

31...a5 -0.66/18

[31...Rg8∓ -1.13/21 32.Rf2 Rc8]

32.Rf2 -1.34/21

[32.bxa5∓ -0.66/18 Qxa5 33.Qd3]

32...axb4∓ 33.axb4 Qd4 -0.66/23

[33...Rg8∓ -1.17/21 White must now prevent ...Rb8. 34.Qd3 Rb8]

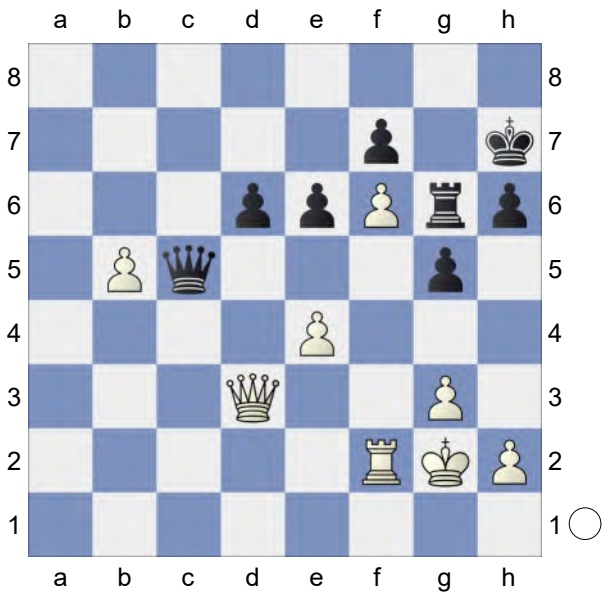
34.b5∓ Qb4 0.23/21

[34...g4∓ -0.45/21 35.Qe2 Rxf6]

35.Qd3 Qc5 0.38/20

[35...h5= 0.01/20]

(Diagram)



36.Rd2 0.01/22

[36.Rc2± 0.38/20 Qb4 37.Rd2]

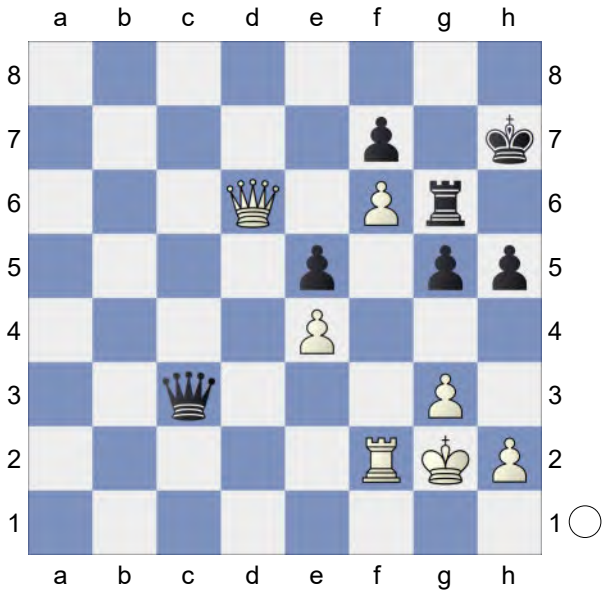
36...h5= 37.Qxd6 Qxb5 38.Qd4 -1.00/17

[38.Qe7= 0.18/22 keeps the balance. Qc6 39.Qxf7+ Kh6 40.Qf8+ Kh7 41.Kf1 Qc1+ 42.Ke2]

38...e5 0.05/23

[38...Rg8∓ -1.00/17]

39.Qd6 Qa5 40.Rf2 Qc3



41.Qd5 Qc7 42.Rf5

[42.Rf1 feels hotter. Rg8 43.Rc1 Qxc1 44.Qxf7+ Kh6 45.Qxg8 Qc2+

46.Kf1]

42...h4

[42...Qc2+ is interesting. 43.Kf3 Qc3+ 44.Kg2 Qc2+]

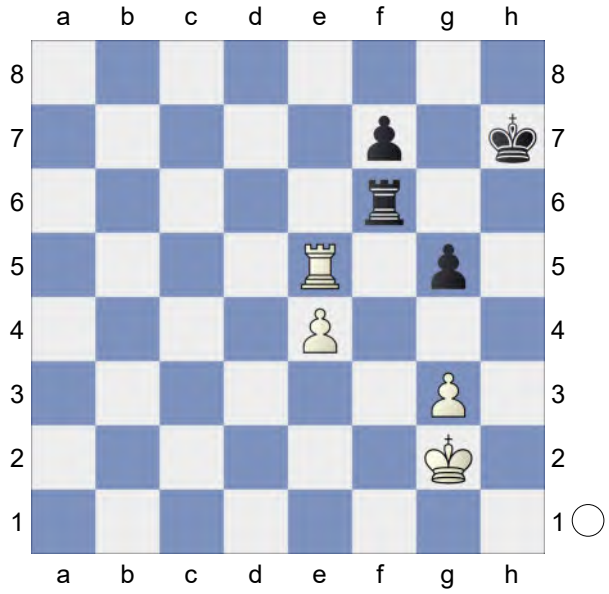
43.Qxe5

[43.Kh3 seems wilder. hxg3 44.hxg3 Kh6 45.Kg2]

43...Qxe5 0.47/20

[43...Qc2+= -0.01/22 was preferrable. 44.Rf2 h3+ 45.Kg1 Qc1+ 46.Rf1 Qe3+ 47.Rf2 *(47.Kh1? gets mated. Qe2 48.Rg1 Qf3+)* 47...Qe1+ 48.Rf1 Qe3+ 49.Rf2 *(49.Kh1?* is a self mate. *Qe2 50.Rg1 Qf3+)* 49...Qe1+ 50.Rf1 Qe3+]

44.Rxe5± hxg3 45.hxg3 Rxf6

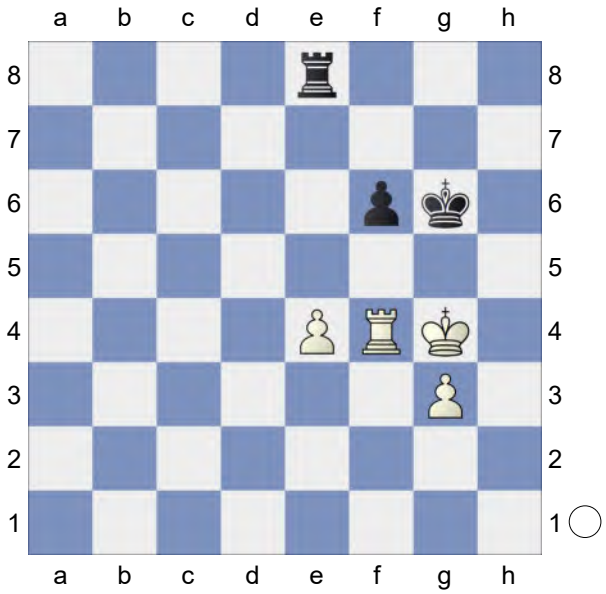


46.Rxg5= KR-KR **46...Re6 47.Rf5 Kg6 48.Rf4 f6 49.Kf3 Re5 50.Kg4** 0.00/27

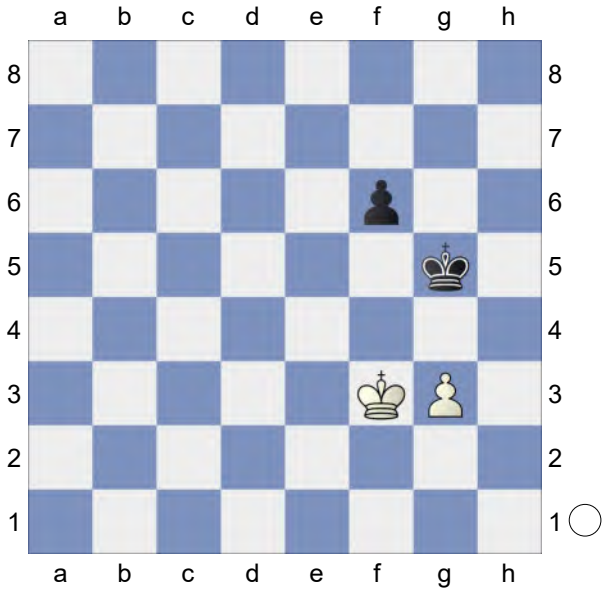
[50.Rg4+± 0.47/27 feels stronger. Kf7 51.Kf4]

50...Re8

(Diagram)

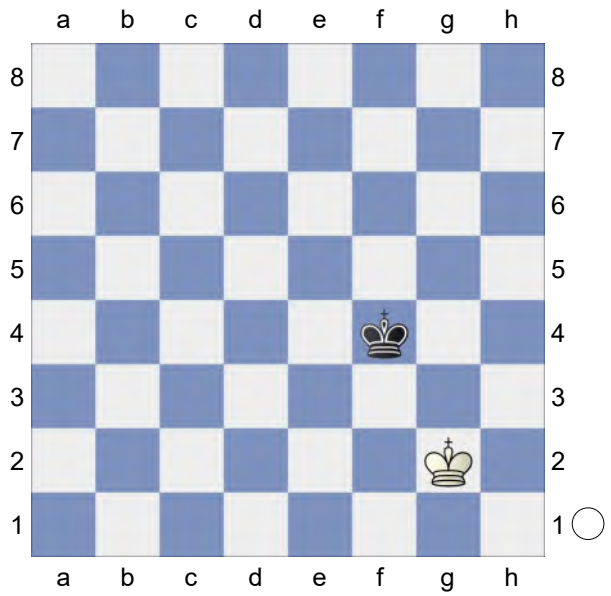


The position is equal. **51.Kh3 Kg5 52.Kg2 Re5! 53.Rf5+ Rxf5 54.exf5 Kxf5** KP-KP **55.Kf3 Kg5**



56.Kg2 Kg4 57.Kf2 f5 58.Kg2 f4 59.gxf4 Kxf4

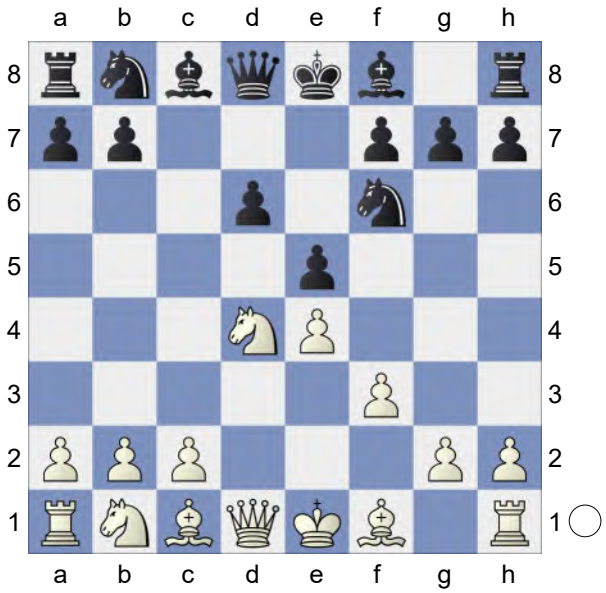
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.24 (precise)
½-½

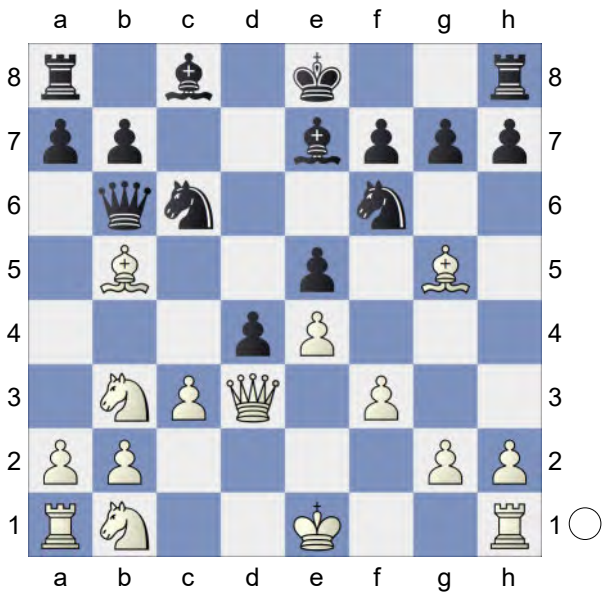
68 **B54**
□ **Kacparov** **2924**
■ **Chess Ark** **2727**
Blitz 15.03.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

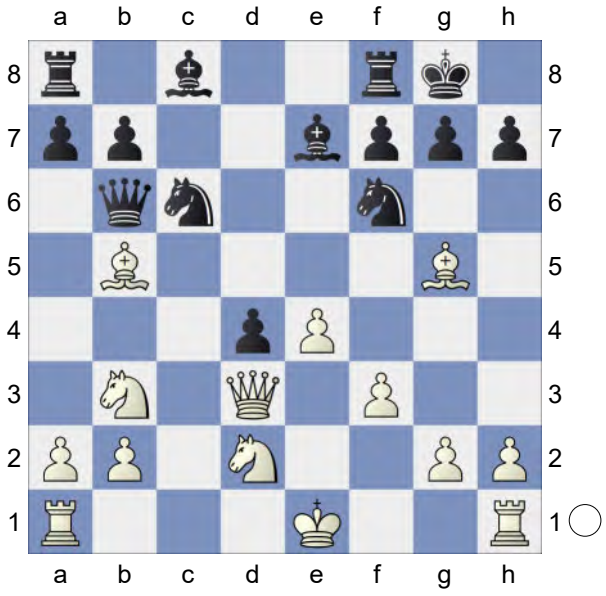


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.Bb5 The position is equal. **9...Qb6 10.Qd3 Be7**

(Diagram)

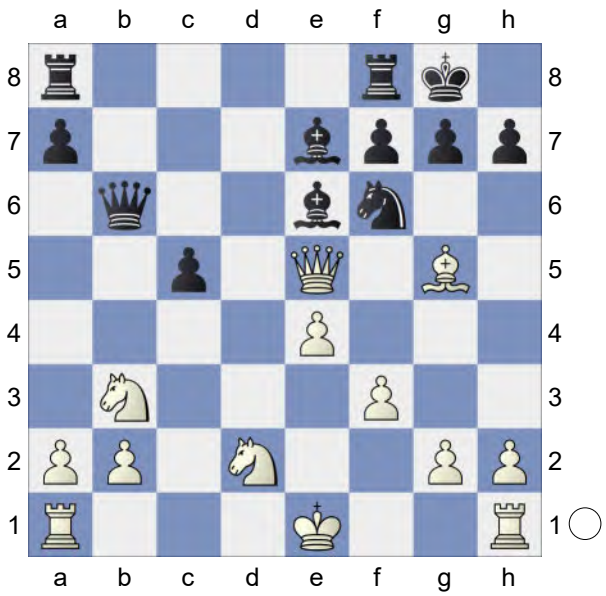


11.cxd4 exd4 12.N1d2 0-0

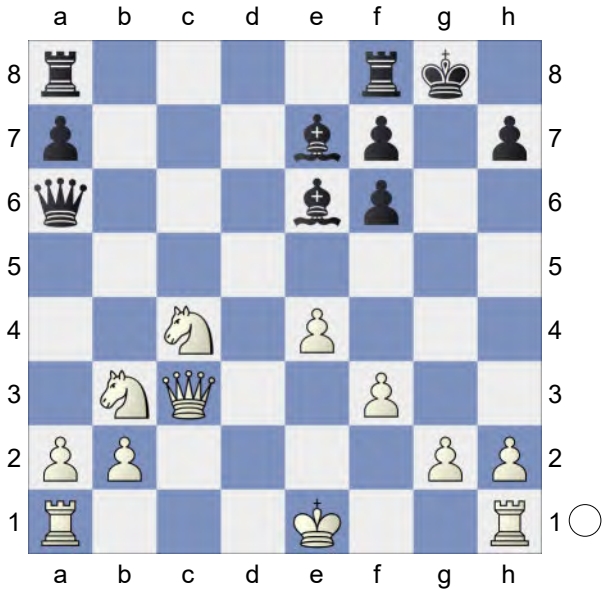


And now ...Nb4 would win. **13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Qxd4 c5 15.Qe5** -0.65/20
[15.Qc3= -0.18/19]
15...Be6!∓

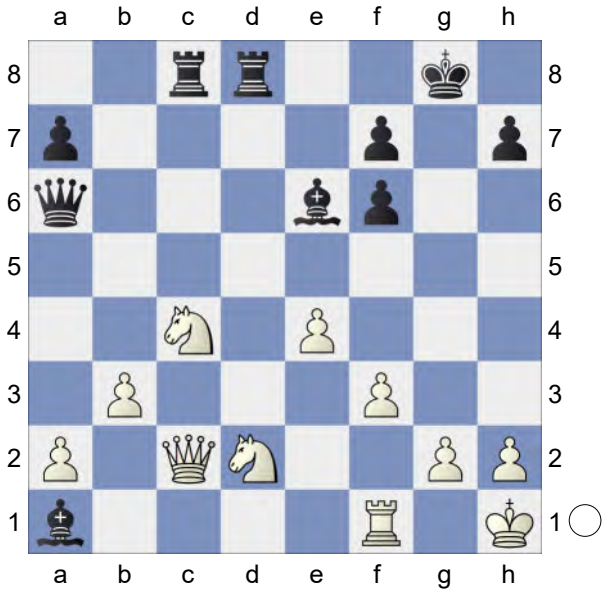
(Diagram)



16.Bxf6 -1.75/21
[Better is 16.Qc3∓ -0.58/18]
16...gxf6 -1.21/23
[16...Bxf6-+ -1.75/21 17.Qxc5 Rfc8 18.Qxb6 axb6]
17.Qc3∓ c4 18.Nxc4 Qb5 -0.33/19
[18...Bxc4∓ -1.27/23 19.Qxc4 Rac8]
19.Na3!∓ Qb6⇄ Black has compensation. Black puts up resistance
[19...Qa6!? 20.Nc5 Qb6=]
20.Nc4 Qa6 -0.19/21
[20...Bxc4∓ -1.15/21 21.Qxc4 Rac8]



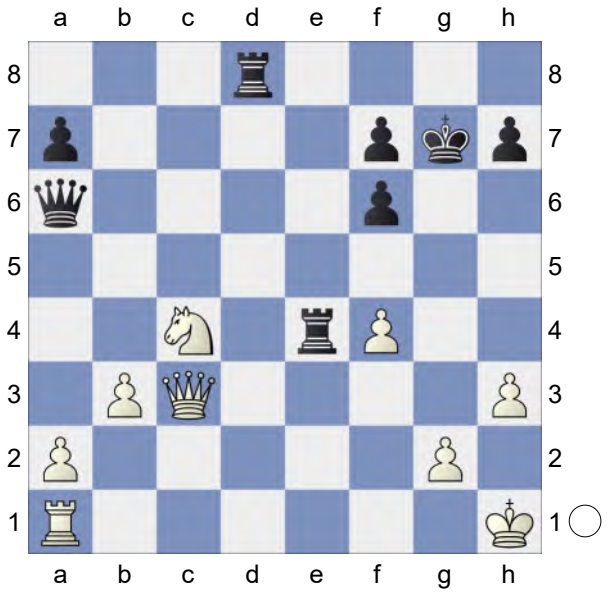
21.Nbd2= Rac8 22.b3 Rfd8 23.0-0 Bc5+ 24.Kh1 Bd4 25.Qc2 Bxa1



26.Rxa1 Rd4 27.Qc3 Rcd8 28.h3 Kg7 29.f4? -2.01/21

[29.Qe3= -0.23/18]

29...Bxc4 30.Nxc4 Rxe4



31.Qg3+ Kh8 32.Qf3 -2.03/22

Prevents Re2.

[32.Qh4∓ -1.54/21 was called for.]

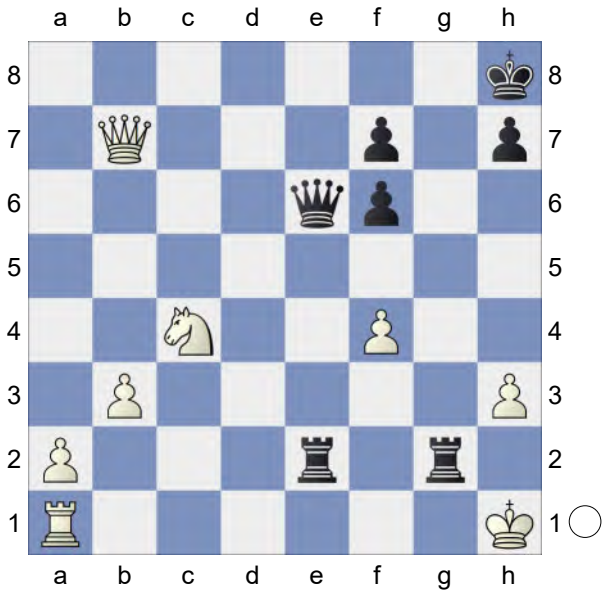
32...Qe6-+ 33.Qf2 -2.78/22

[33.Rf1 -1.91/20 might work better.]

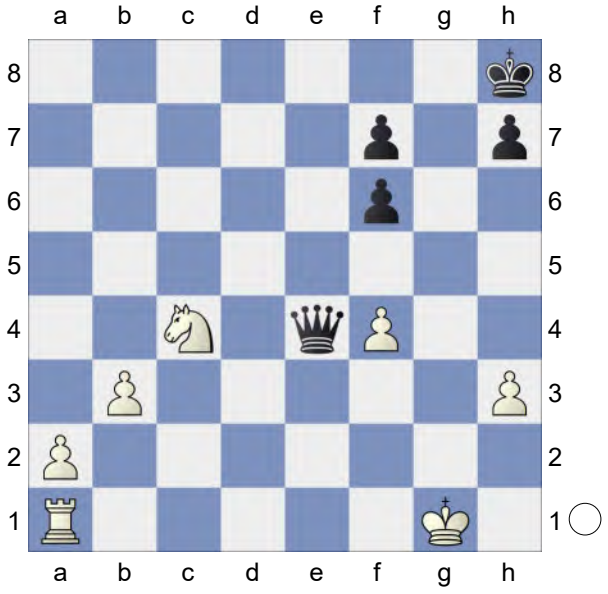
33...Re2 34.Qxa7 -7.10/26

[34.Qf3 -2.72/21]

34...Rg8 35.Qb7 Rgxg2



36.Qxg2 Rxg2 37.Kxg2 Endgame KQ-KRN **37...Qe2+ 38.Kg1 Qd3 39.Kh2 Qc2+ 40.Kg1 Qe4**

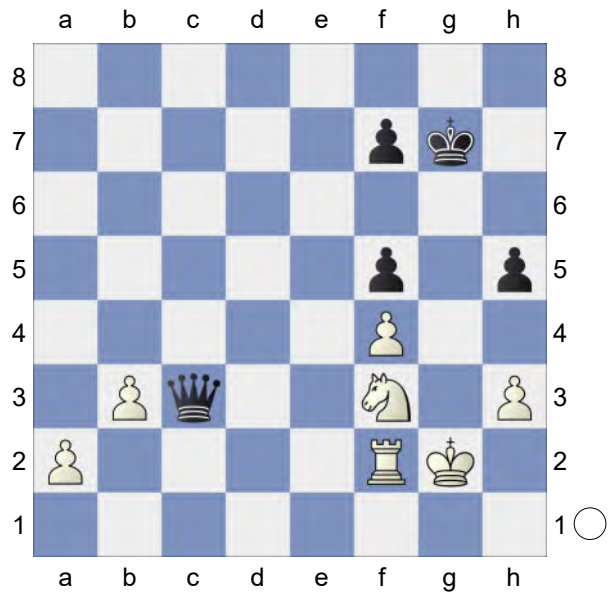


Against Re1. aiming for ...Qd4+. **41.Rf1 Qd4+ 42.Rf2 Qc3 43.Kg2 f5** -0.60/21

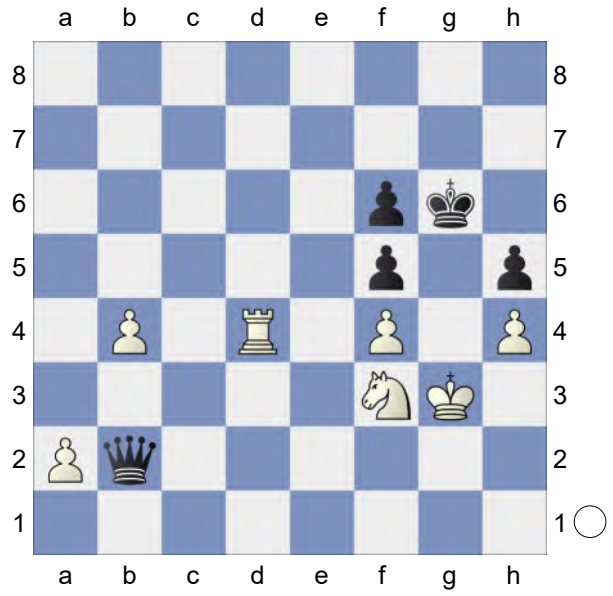
[43...h5∓ -1.59/23 Threatens to win with ...h4. 44.f5 Kg7]

44.Ne5!∓ Kg7 45.Nf3 h5

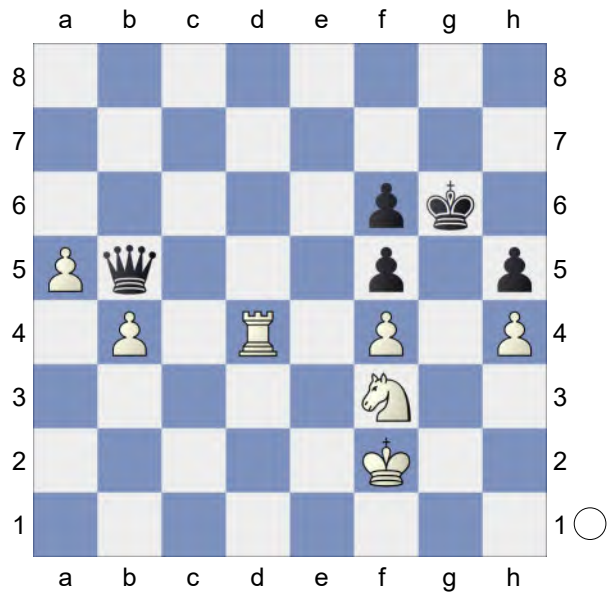
(Diagram)



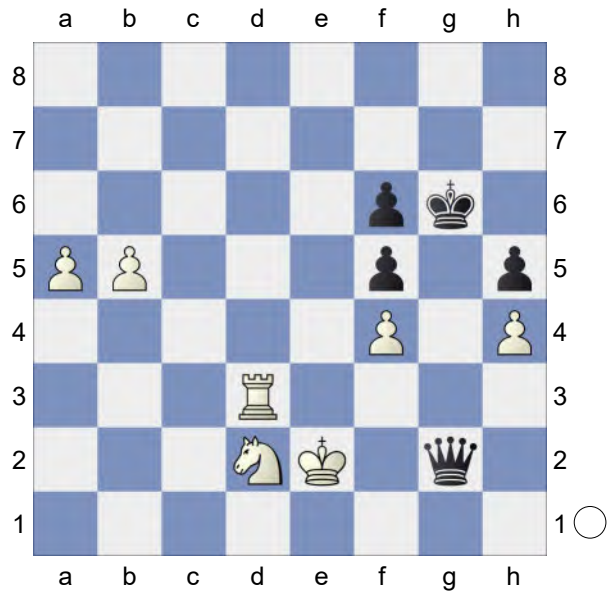
46.Kg3 f6 47.h4 Qa1 48.Rd2 Kg6 49.b4 -1.16/25
[49.Rc2∓ -0.46/24]
49...Qc1 -0.27/23
[49...Qc3∓ -1.16/25 50.Rd6 Kf7]
50.Rd4 -1.38/23
[50.b5= -0.27/23 keeps the balance.]
50...Qb2 -0.01/23
[50...Qa3∓ -1.38/23 51.b5 Qxa2]



51.a4= Qa3 52.a5 Qa4 53.Rc4 Qb5 54.Rd4 Kf7 55.Kf2 Kg6
(Diagram)

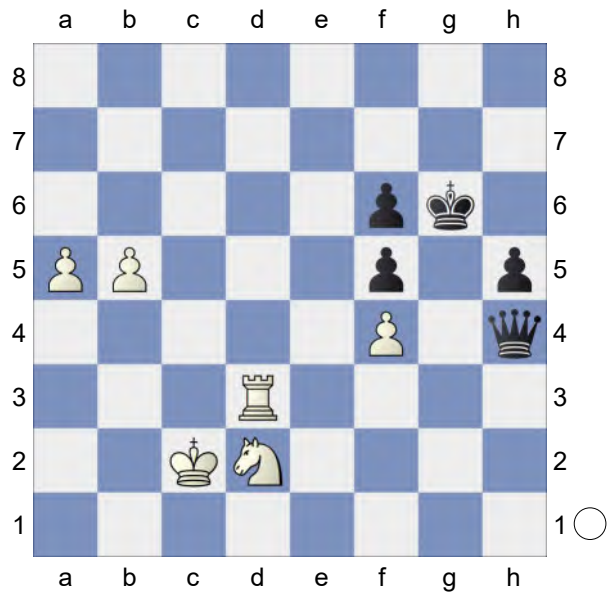


56.Ke3 Qa4 57.Nd2 Qa3+ 58.Ke2 Qa1 59.Rd3 Qh1 60.b5 Qg2+

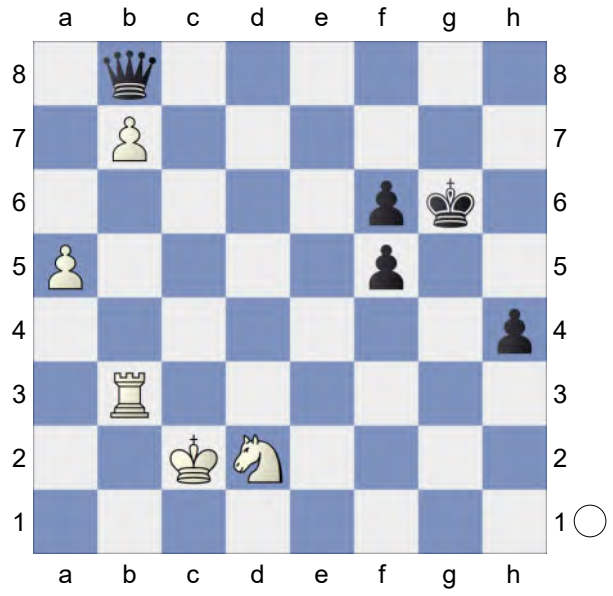


61.Kd1 Strongly threatening Rb3.
61...Qh1+ 0.38/24
[61...Qg1+= -0.01/20 62.Ke2 Qh2+ 63.Ke3 Qg1+ 64.Ke2 Qh2+ 65.Ke3 Qg1+ 66.Ke2]
62.Kc2± b6 is the strong threat.
62...Qxh4? 5.18/23
[Black should try 62...Qa1± 0.62/21]

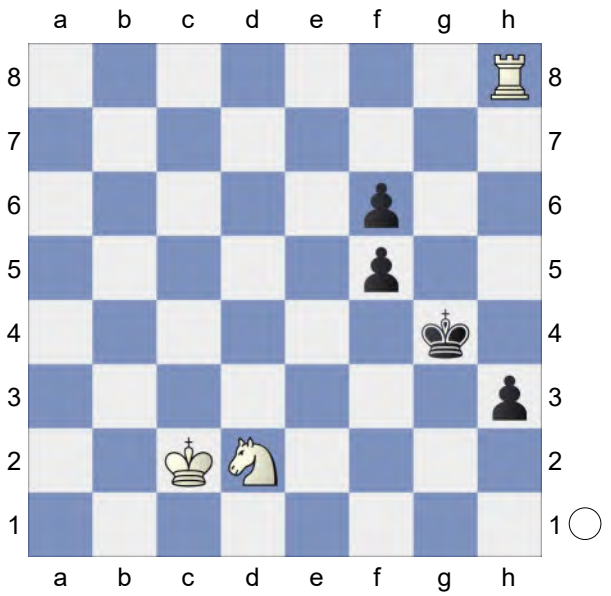
(Diagram)



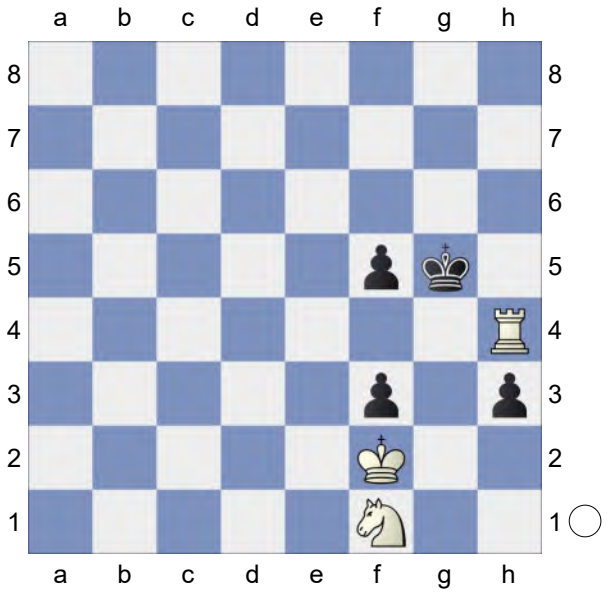
63.Rb3? 0.98/22
[63.b6!+- 5.18/23 and the rest is easy.]
63...Qxf4? 5.71/22
[63...Qh1± 0.98/22 is more resistant.]
64.b6+- h4 65.b7 Qb8



66.a6 h3 67.a7? 0.01/24
[67.Rxh3+- 6.78/21 Qe8 68.Rb3 Qc6+ 69.Kb2]
67...Qxa7?? 8.24/21
[67...Qc7+= 0.01/24 68.Kb1 h2]
68.b8Q Qxb8 69.Rxb8 White wants to mate with Kd3. **69...Kg5 70.Rh8 Kg4**

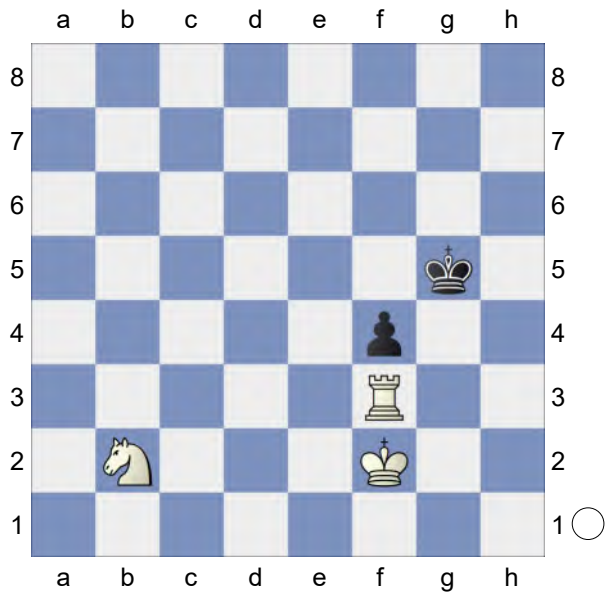


71.Nf1 10.52/24
[⌓71.Kd1 #20/23 Kg3 72.Ke2 Kg4 73.Kf2 f4 74.Ne4 Kf5 75.Kf3 Ke6 76.Rh6]
71...f4 72.Kd2 f5 73.Ke2 f3+ 74.Kf2 Kf4 75.Rh4+ Kg5

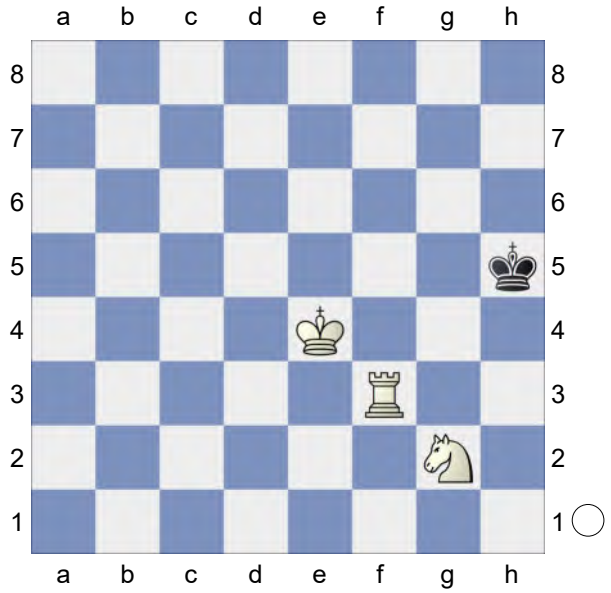


76.Rxh3 f4 77.Rxf3 Kg4 78.Nd2 Kf5 79.Nc4 Kg4 80.Nb2 Kg5

(Diagram)



81.Nd3 Kf5 82.Nxf4 Kg4 83.Ng2 Kg5 84.Ke3 Kg4 85.Ke4 Kh5

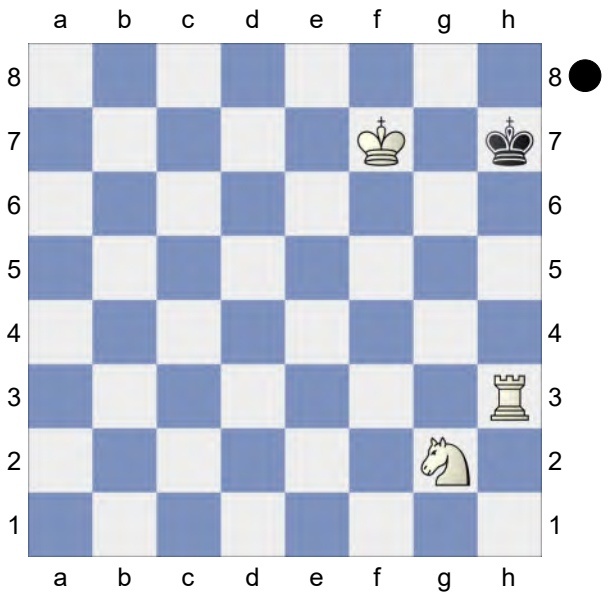


86.Kf5 8.44/5

[⌓86.Rg3 #5/12 Kh6 87.Kf5 Kh7 88.Kf6 Kh8 89.Kf7 Kh7 90.Rh3#]

86...Kh6 87.Rg3 White mates. **87...Kh7 88.Kf6 Kh8 89.Kf7 Kh7 90.Rh3#**

(Diagram)



White used his chance.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.31

1-0

69 **B54**

□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2922**

■ **Anonymous64206D** **2804**

Blitz 29.03.2022

[Kitty Kat]

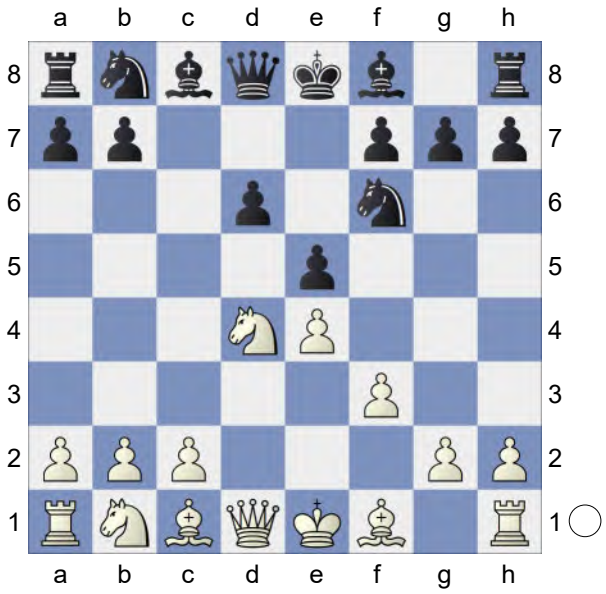
Blitz 3min

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

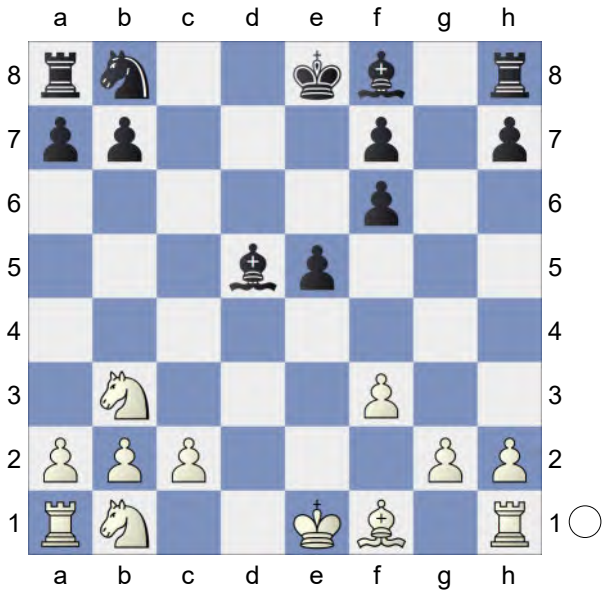
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/

Ullrich,B]) 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)) 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

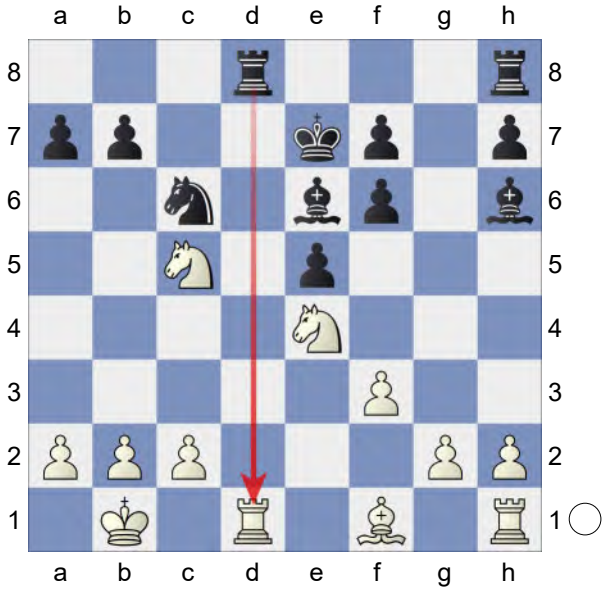


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Bxd5

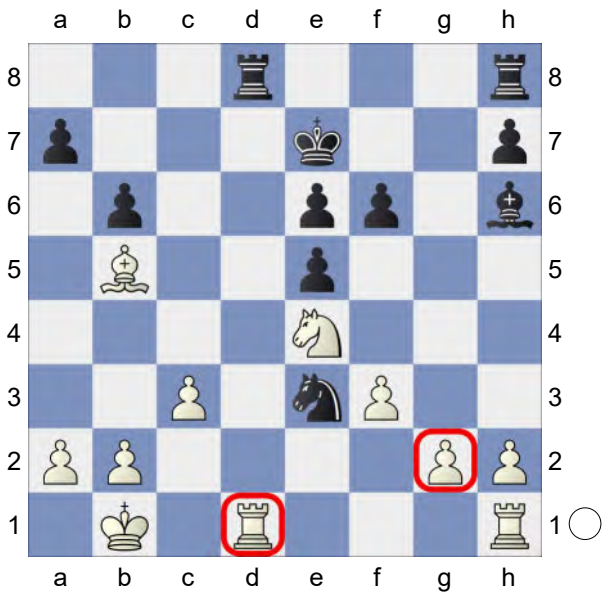
(Diagram)



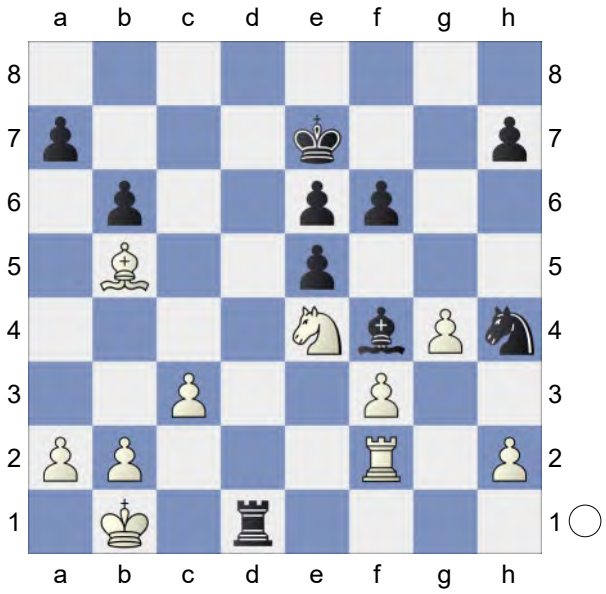
11.Nc3 Be6 12.0-0-0 Nc6 Against Na5 **13.Ne4 Ke7 14.Nbc5** -0.29/18
[14.Kb1 0.18/17 should be considered.]
14...Bh6+ 15.Kb1 Rad8



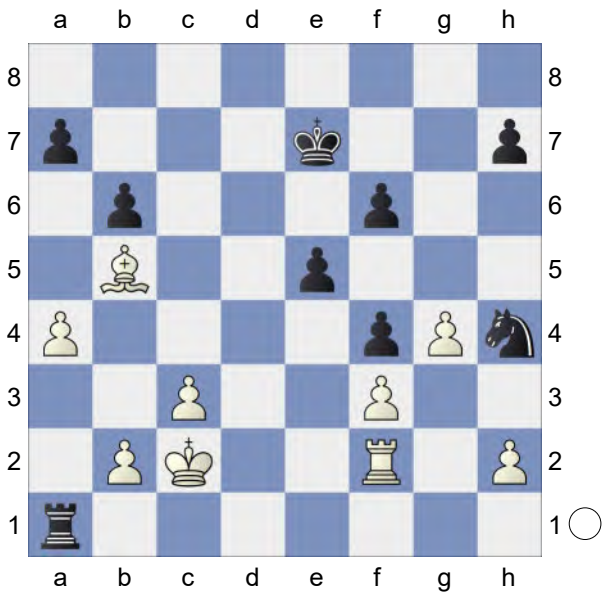
16.Bb5 Nd4⇄ Black is fighting back. Dancing on a razor blade. **17.Bd3 b6 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.c3** -1.14/19
[19.Ng3!= 0.15/19]
19...Nf5!∓ Strongly threatening ...Ne3. **20.Bb5** -1.53/20
[⌓20.Nf2 -1.06/19]
20...Ne3



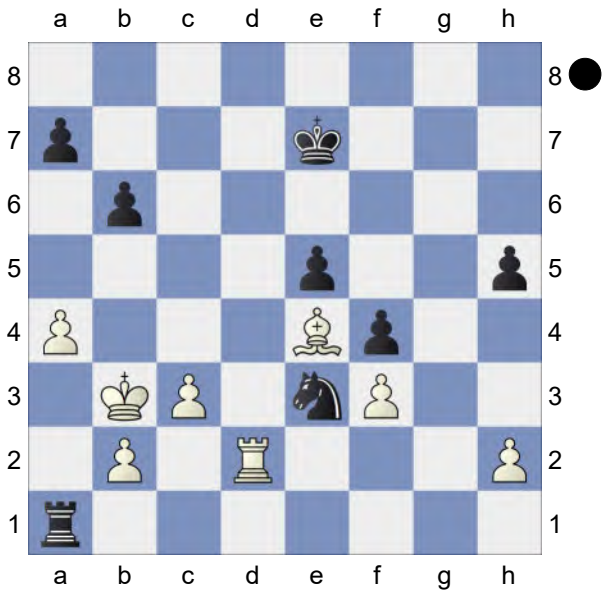
21.Rxd8 Rxd8 22.g4 Bf4 23.Re1 Ng2 -0.88/21
[⌓23...f5 -1.54/21 24.gxf5 exf5]
24.Re2 -1.51/22
[White should play 24.Rg1 -0.88/21 Ne3 25.Re1]
24...Nh4 25.Rf2 Rd1+



26.Kc2 Rh1 -0.74/20 &Nero is more active.
[⌓26...Rg1 -1.38/20 27.Nd2 f5]
27.Ng3 Rg1 28.Ne2 Ra1 And now ... Be3 would win. **29.Nxf4 exf4∓** Endgame KRB-KRN **30.a4 e5**

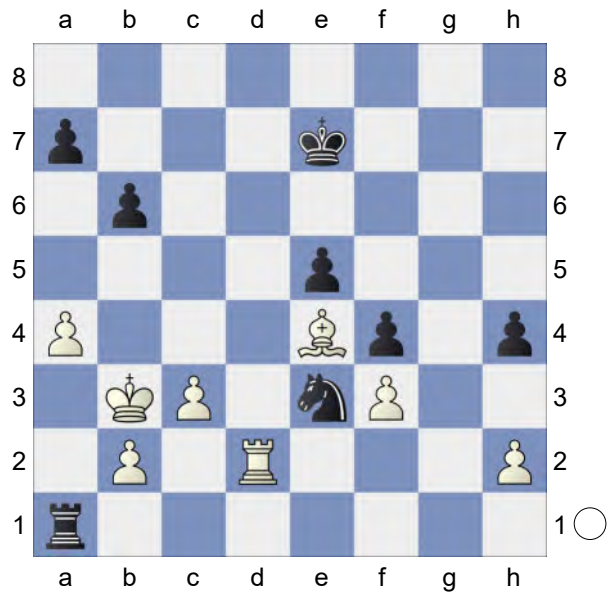


31.Bc6 f5 32.gxf5 Nxf5 33.Be4 Ne3+ 34.Kb3 h5 35.Rd2 -0.89/20
[35.Kb4= -0.26/22]

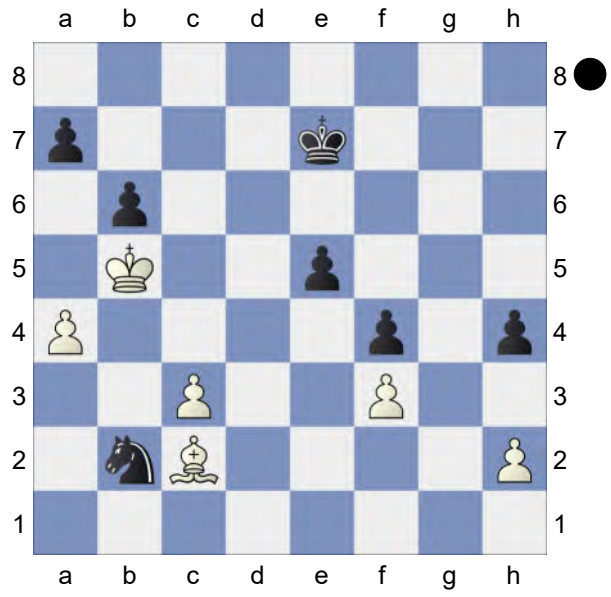


35...h4 -0.26/20
[Better is 35...a5!∓ -0.89/20]

(Diagram)

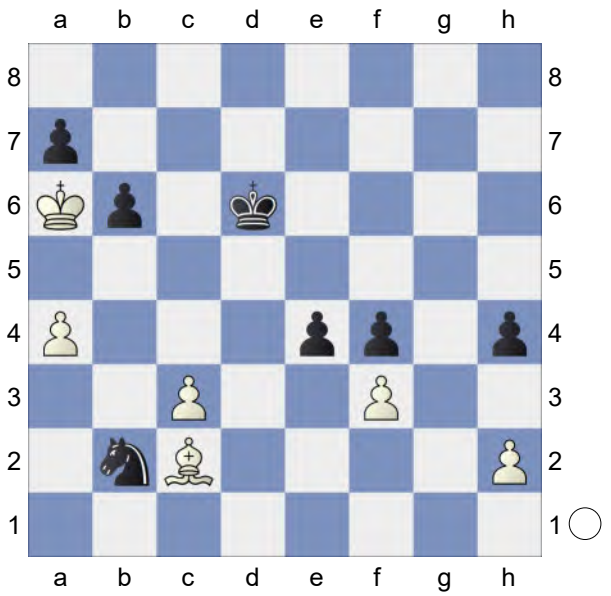


36.Kb4= Rd1 37.Rxd1 -0.60/23
[37.Rd3= -0.15/21]
37...Nxd1 KB-KN **38.Kb5 Nxb2**
Hoping for ...Nd1. **39.Bc2**

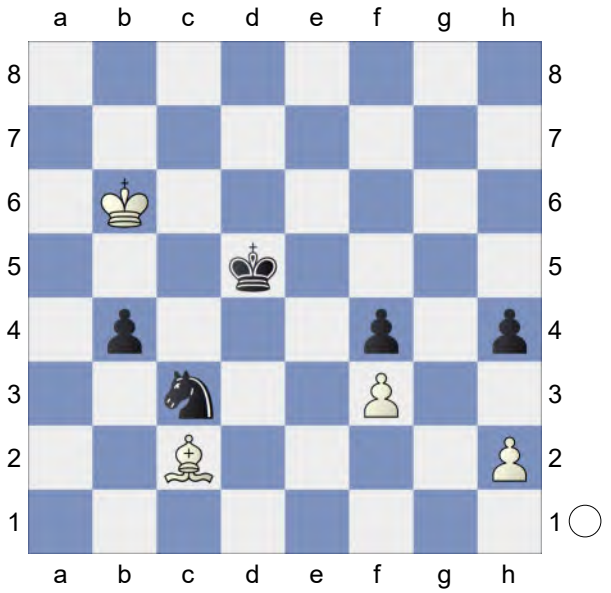


Against Nd1 **39...Kd6** -0.14/23
[39...a5!∓ -0.92/22]
40.Ka6? -12.69/24 Now White is beyond hope.
[40.Kb4= -0.14/23]
40...e4-+

(Diagram)

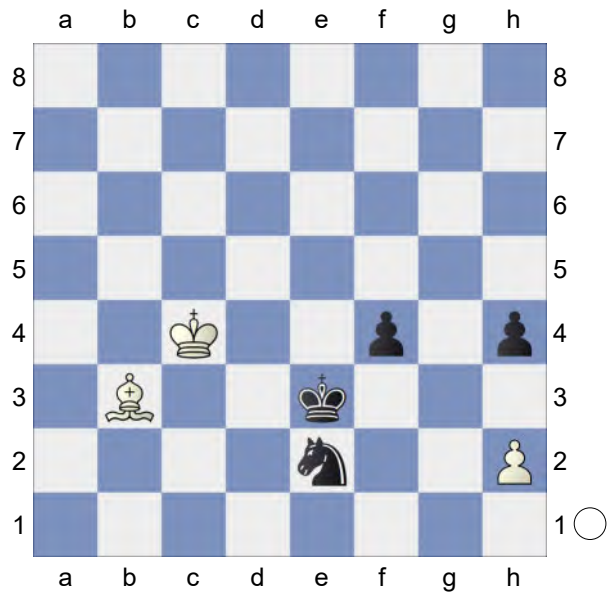


Black is clearly winning. **41.Bxe4 Nxa4 42.Kxa7 Nxc3 43.Bd3 b5 44.Kb6 b4** -7.09/24
[⌓44...Kd5 -14.24/26 45.Bf5 Kd4]
45.Bc2 Kd5



46.Bb3+ Kd4 47.Kc6 Ke3 48.Kc5 Kxf3 aiming for ...Kg2. **49.Kxb4 Ne2** White must now prevent ...Kg2. **50.Kc4 Ke3**

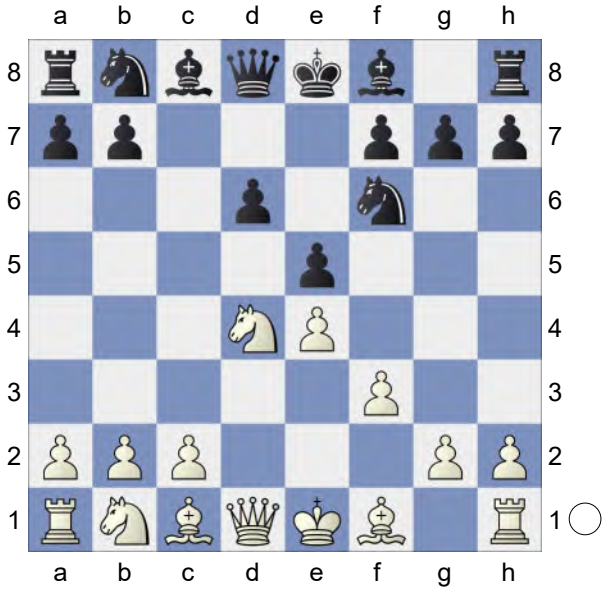
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.75/ Black=0.28 (precise)
0-1

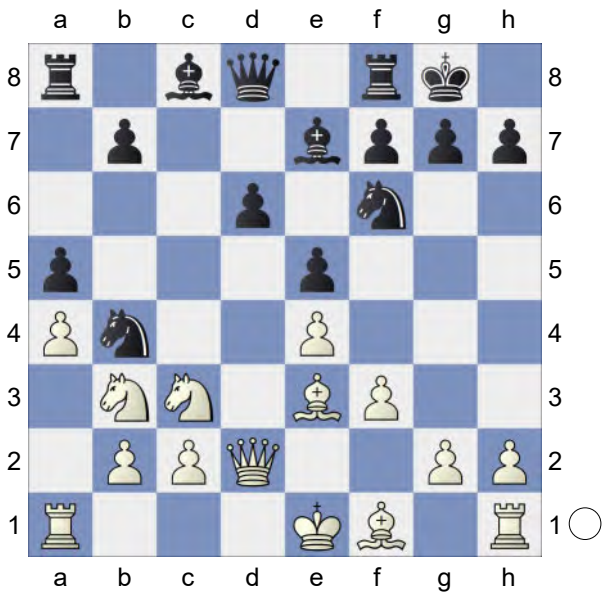
70 **B54**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2920**
■ **Casuallychess** **2706**
Blitz 14.05.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

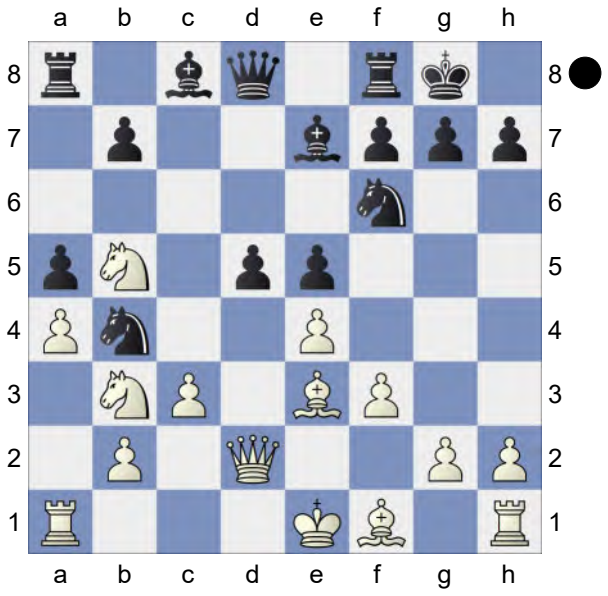


6.Nb3 a5 7.a4 Nc6 8.Nc3 Against d5 **8...Be7** The position is equal. **9.Be3 0-0 10.Qd2 Nb4**

(Diagram)

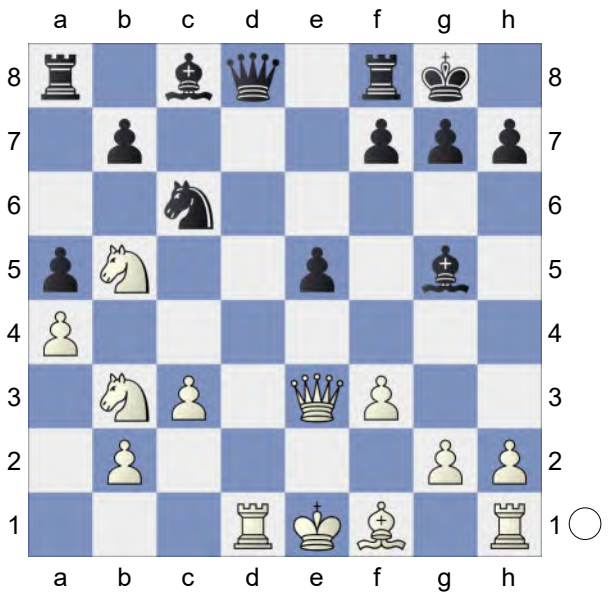


11.Nb5 -0.65/19
[11.0-0-0= -0.10/17]
11...d5 -0.28/18
[11...Be6∓ -0.65/19 12.c4 d5 13.cxd5 Nfxd5 14.exd5 Qxd5]
12.c3=



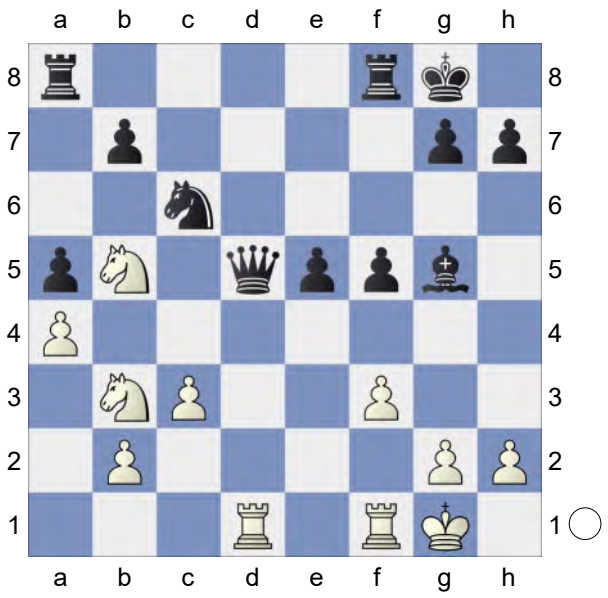
Nc6 0.31/19
[12...d4!= -0.28/18 13.cxd4 Be6]
13.exd5 -0.27/18
[13.0-0-0± 0.31/19 Be6 14.Nc5]
13...Nxd5 14.Rd1 Nxe3 15.Qxe3 Bg5

(Diagram)

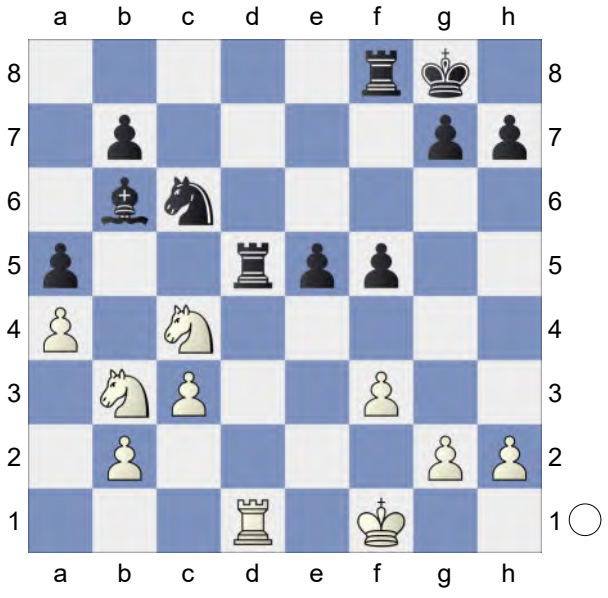


16.Qe4 -0.22/18
[⌓16.Rxd8 0.14/20 Bxe3 17.Rxf8+ Kxf8 18.Nd6]
16...Qe7
[16...Qf6!? 17.h4 *(17.Bd3 Qh6=)* 17...Bf4=]
17.Bc4 Be6 0.53/19
[Black should play 17...Rd8= 0.00/17]
18.0-0 -0.11/17
[18.Bxe6± 0.53/19 Qxe6 19.Nc5]
18...f5 1.35/20
[18...Rfd8= -0.11/17 remains equal.]
19.Bxe6+± Qxe6 20.Qd5 0.01/19
&Bianco is more active.
[20.Nc5± 0.79/21 Qh6 21.Qc4+ Kh8 22.Rd6 Be3+ 23.Kh1]
20...Qxd5

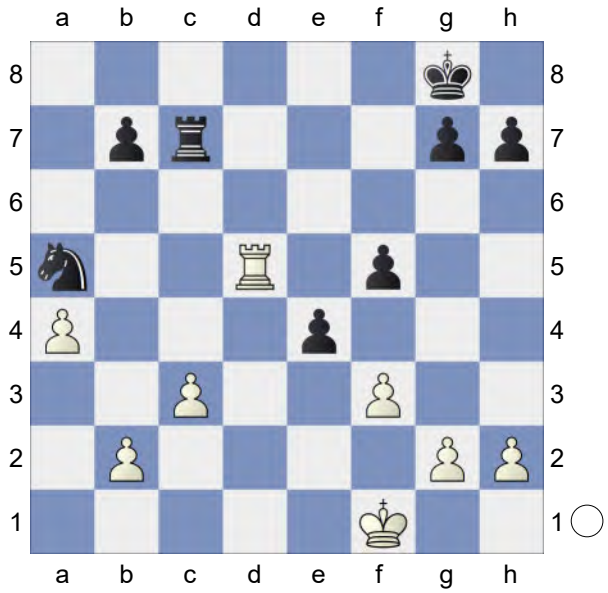
(Diagram)



21.Rxd5 Rad8 22.Rfd1 Be3+ 0.75/21
[22...e4= 0.16/19]
23.Kf1 Bb6 1.21/22
[Better is 23...Rxd5 0.82/18 24.Rxd5 e4]
24.Nd6 Rd7 1.49/21
[⌓24...e4 0.94/20]
25.Nc4↑ Keeping Black busy. Pair of Knights! **25...Rxd5**

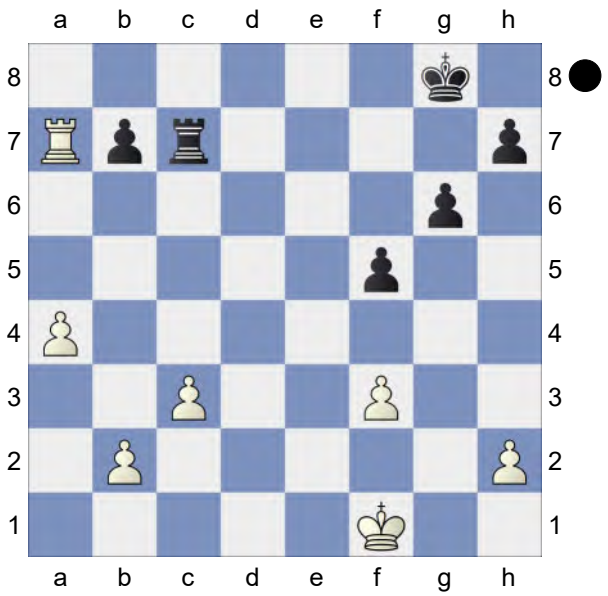


26.Rxd5 Bc7 27.Nc5 e4 2.42/22
[27...Rd8± 1.36/20 is a better defense. 28.Ne3 f4]
28.Ne6+-
[28.Nxb7?! exf3 29.gxf3 *(29.Nbxa5 Nxa5 30.Nxa5 fxg2+ 31.Kxg2 Ra8±)* 29...Rb8]
[28.fxe4?! fxe4+ 29.Ke2 Bxh2]
28...Rf7 29.Nxc7 Rxc7 30.Nxa5
Black must now prevent Rc5.
[Resist 30.Rxf5?! Ne7 31.Re5 Rxc4±]
30...Nxa5



31.Rxa5 exf3 32.gxf3 Endgame KR-KR
[Don't take 32.Rxf5 fxg2+ 33.Kxg2 g6±]
32...g6 33.Ra7

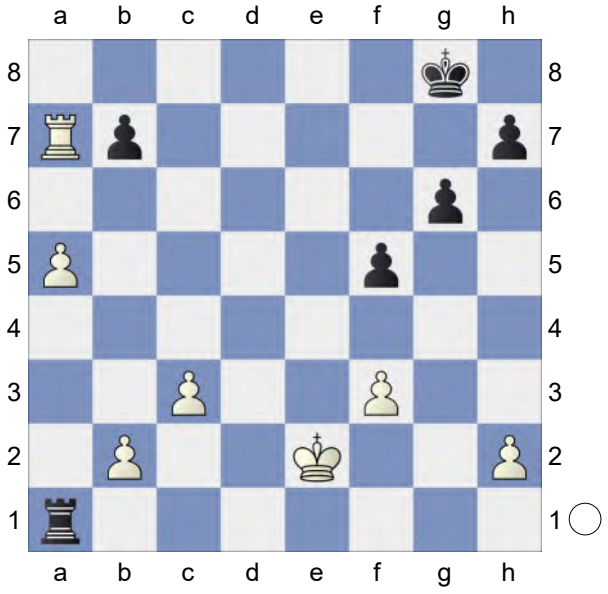
(Diagram)



Threatens to win with a5. **33...Rd7?** 6.14/21

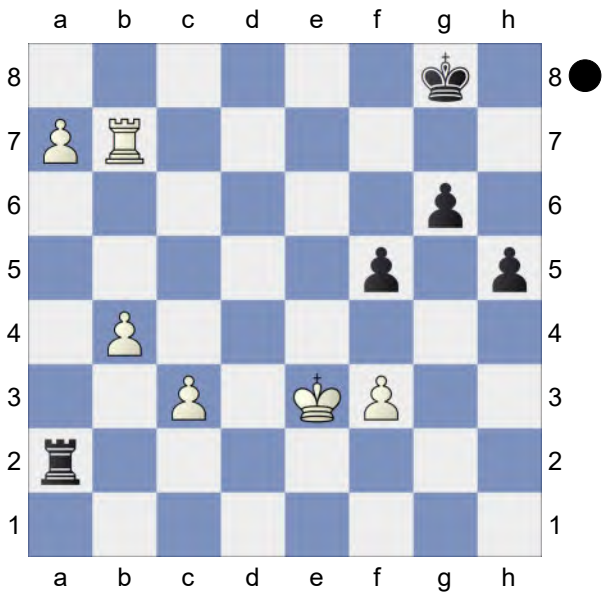
[33...g5 2.08/19 34.a5 Rc5]

34.a5 White is clearly winning. **34...Rd1+ 35.Ke2 Ra1**



36.b4 Ra2+ 37.Ke3 Rxh2 38.Rxb7 h5 39.a6 Ra2 40.a7

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.45

1-0

71 **B54**

□ **Nikitosikbot** **2920**

■ **Kqrbnpkqrbnp** **2927**

Rapid 01.11.2023

[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

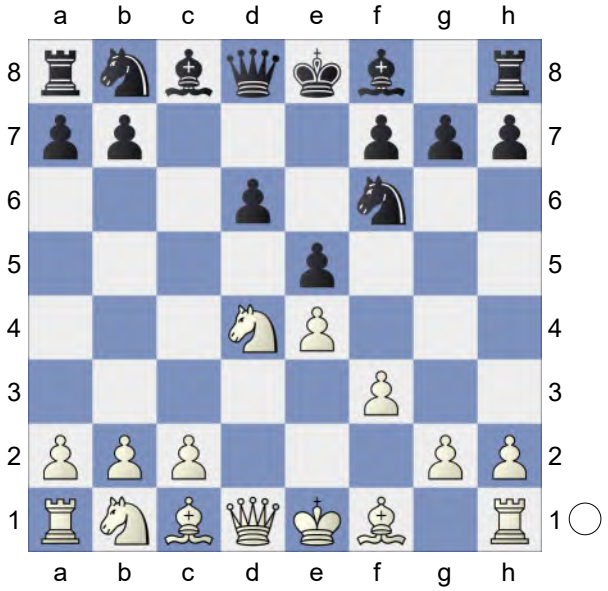
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4*

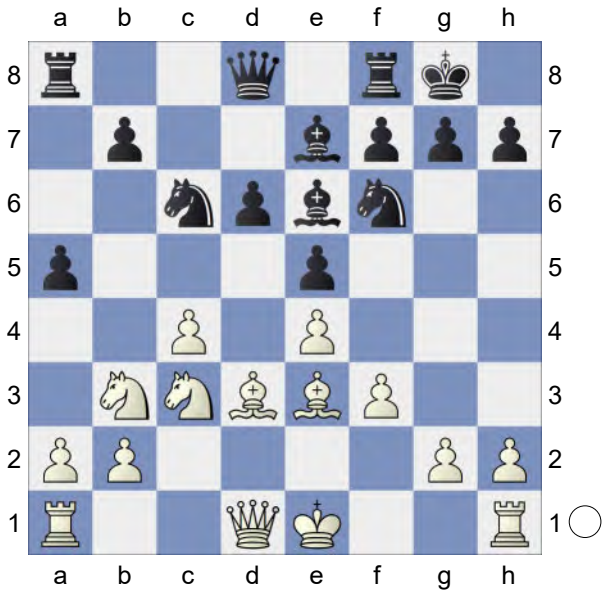
16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

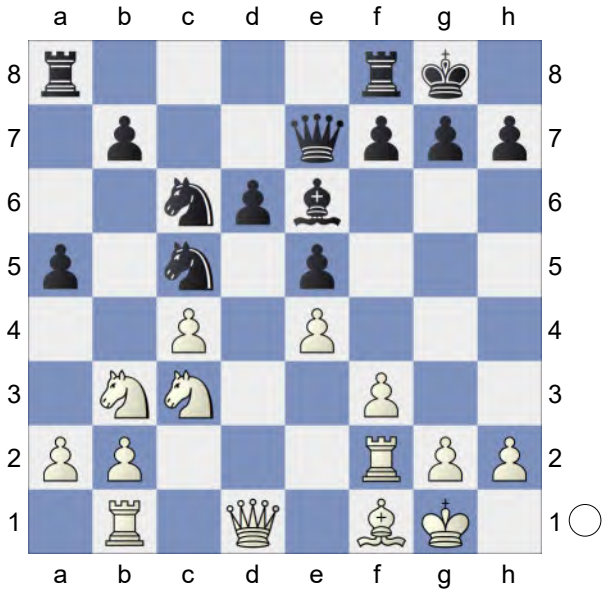


6.Nb3 Be7 7.c4 Nc6 8.Bd3 Be6 The position is equal. **9.Nc3 0-0 10.Be3** [10.0-0 with more complications. Nh5 11.g3 a5 12.f4] **10...a5**

(Diagram)

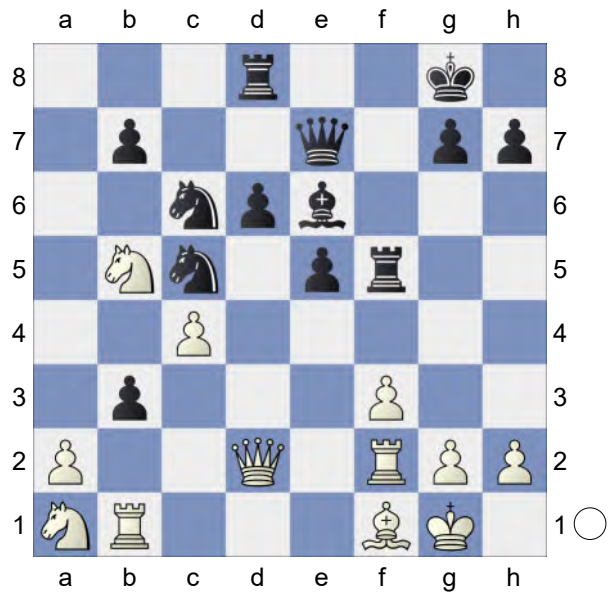


11.0-0 Nd7 12.Rb1 Bg5 13.Bxg5 Qxg5 14.Rf2 Nc5 15.Bf1 Qe7

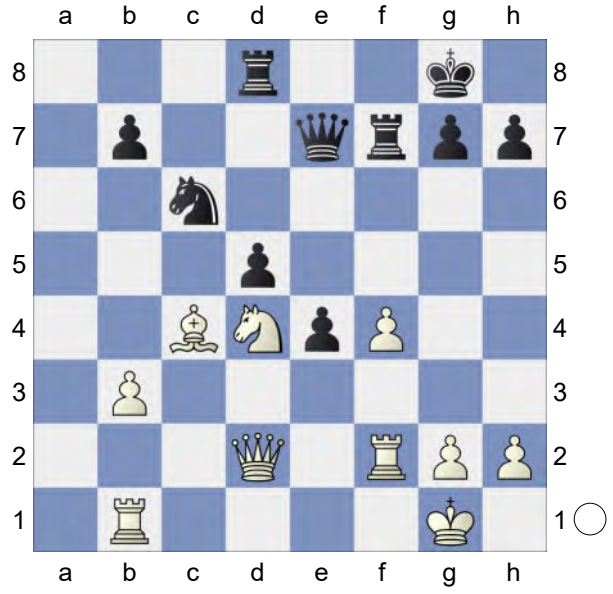


16.Nb5 a4 17.Na1 Rad8 18.Qd2 f5 19.exf5 Rxf5 20.b4 axb3

(Diagram)

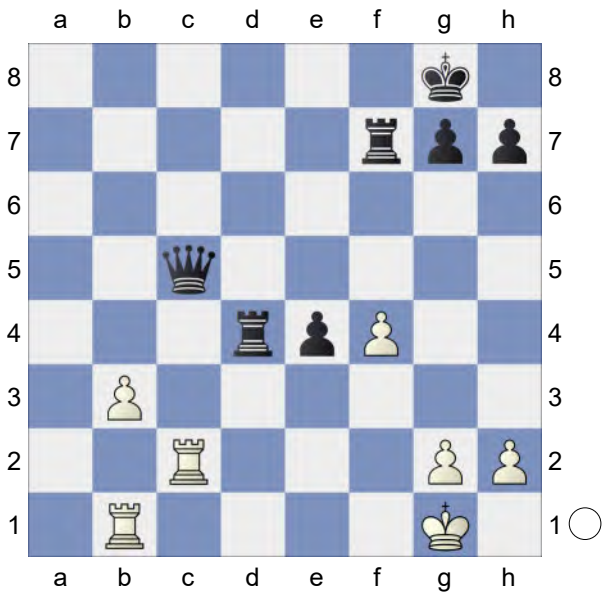


21.Nxb3 e4 22.f4 Against Re5
22...Nxb3 23.axb3 Bxc4! 24.Bxc4+
[Avoid the trap 24.bxc4? e3 25.Qe2 exf2+ 26.Qxf2 Qe4-+]
24...d5 25.Nd4! Rf7

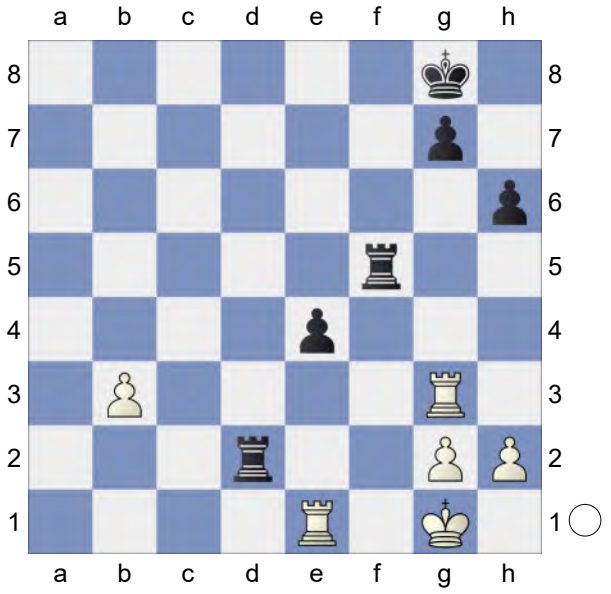


White must now prevent ...e3. **26.Nxc6 bxc6 27.Qc2** Threatens to win with Bf1.
27...dxc4
[27...e3 is interesting. 28.Re2 dxc4 29.Qxc4 Qf6]
28.Qxc4 c5 29.Rc2 Rd4 30.Qxc5 Qxc5

(Diagram)

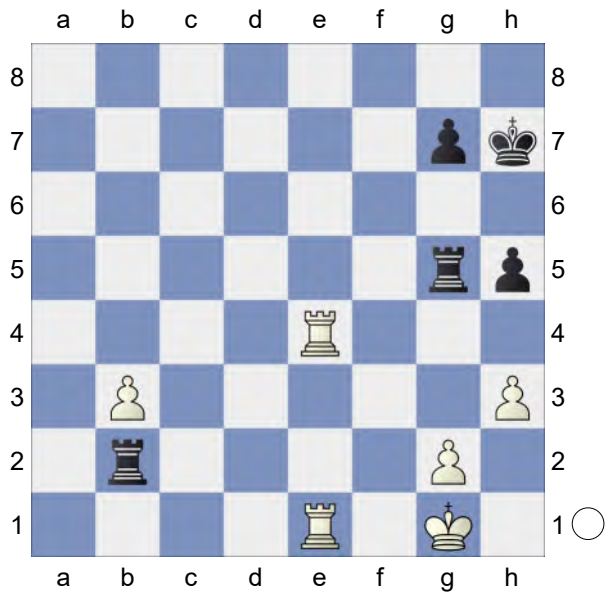


31.Rxc5 Rxf4= Endgame KRR-KRR
32.Re1 Rd2 33.Re5 Rff2 34.Rg5 h6 35.Rg3 Rf5

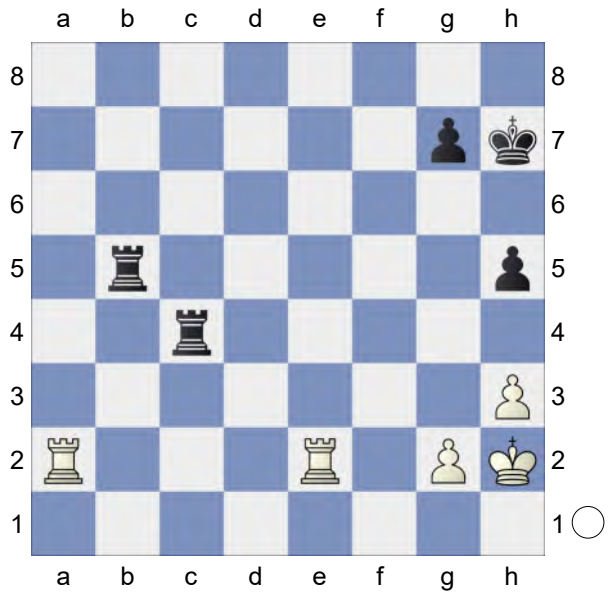


36.Rg4 h5 37.Rg3 Rb2 38.h3 Re5 39.Rge3 Kh7 40.Rxe4 Rg5

(Diagram)

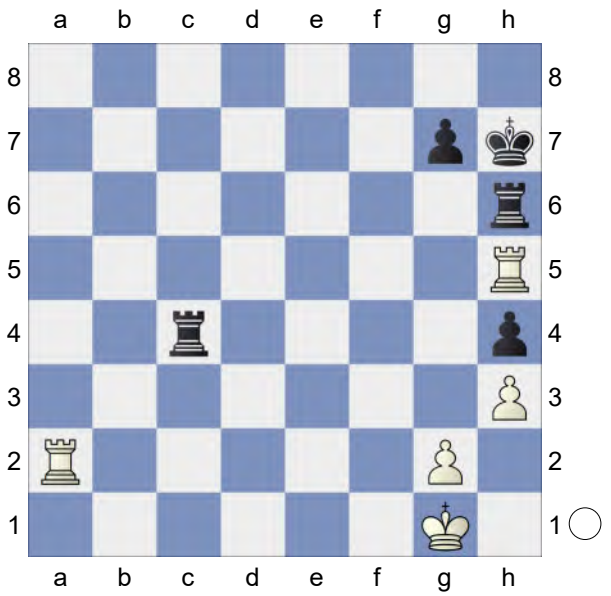


41.R1e2 Rxb3 42.Kh2 Rbb5 43.R4e3 Rg6 44.Ra2 Rc6 45.Ree2 Rc4

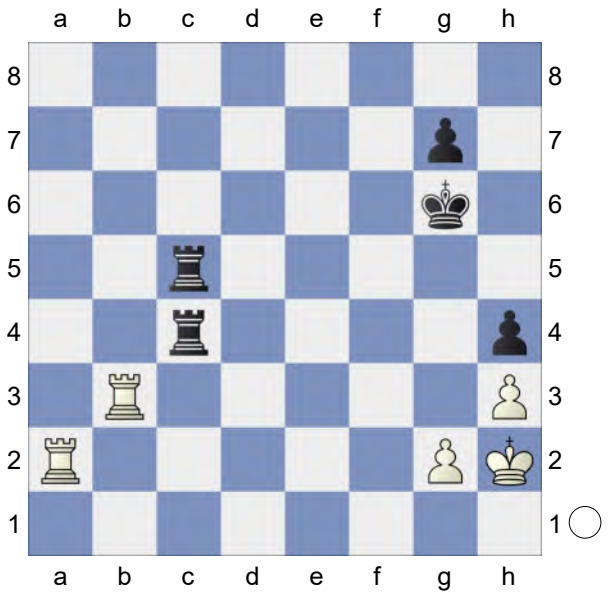


46.Reb2 Rbc5 47.Kg1 Rc6 48.Re2 Rg6 49.Re5 h4 50.Rh5+ Rh6

(Diagram)

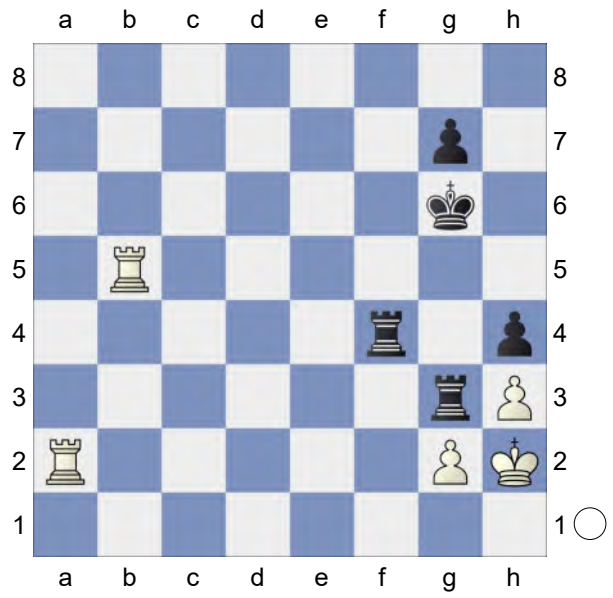


51.Rf5 Rg6 52.Rh5+ Rh6 53.Rb5 Rhc6 54.Kh2 R6c5 55.Rb3 Kg6

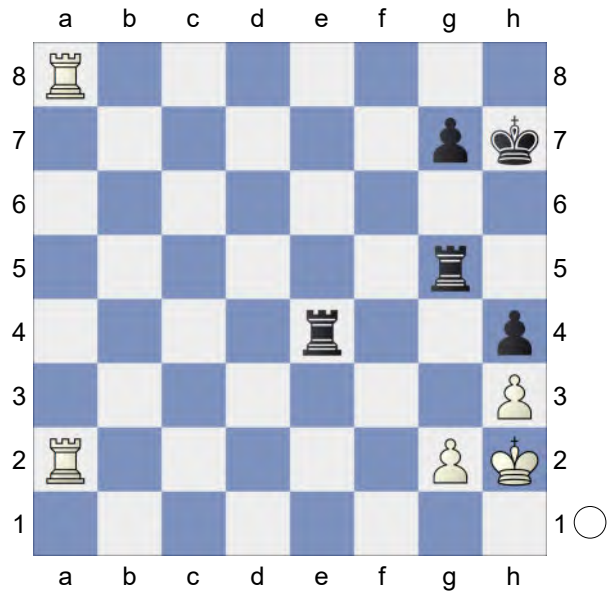


56.Ra7 Black should prevent Rbb7. **56...Rg5 57.Ra6+ Kh7 58.Rb2** Inhibits Rc2. **58...Rf4 59.Raa2 Rg3 60.Rb5 Kg6**

(Diagram)

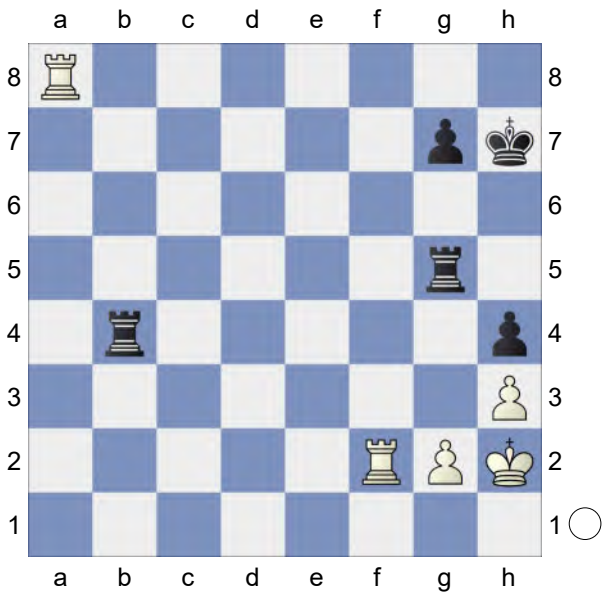


61.Rba5 Re4 62.Ra6+ Kh7 63.R6a5 Kg6 64.Ra6+ Kh7 65.Ra8 Rg5

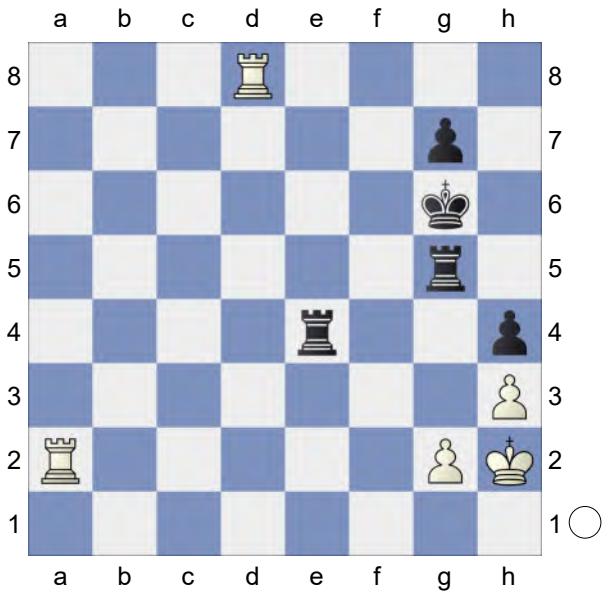


66.Rf8 Rb4 67.Rc8 Kg6 68.Re2 Kh7 69.Rf2 Rg3 70.Ra8 Rg5

(Diagram)

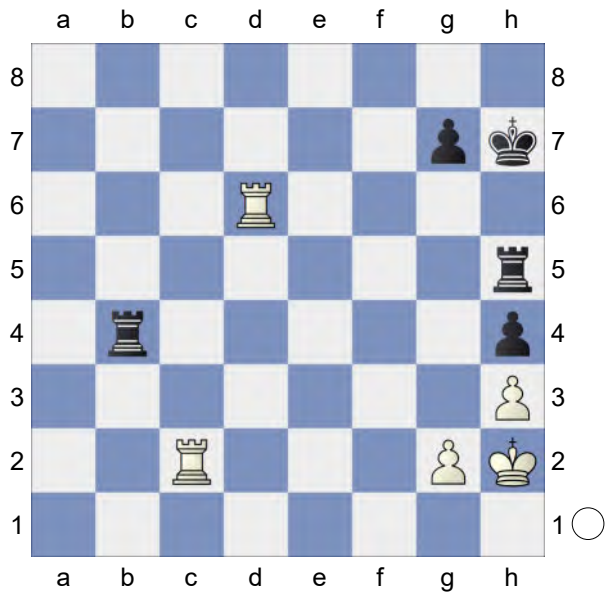


71.Ra6 Re4 72.Ra1 Rg6 73.Rd1 Rg3 74.Rd8 Kg6 75.Ra2 Rg5

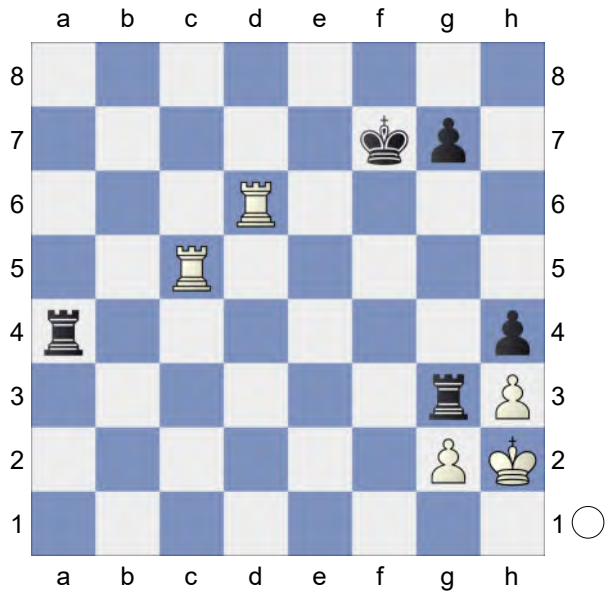


76.Rd6+ Kf7 77.Rdd2 Kg8 78.Rd8+ Kh7 79.Rd6 Rb4 80.Rc2 Rh5

(Diagram)

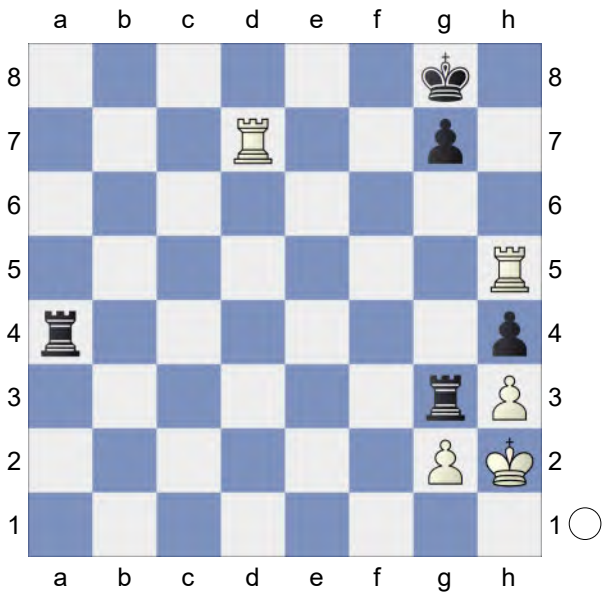


81.Rd8 Rg5 82.Rd6 Ra4 83.Rdd2 Rg3 84.Rc5 Kg6 85.Rd6+ Kf7

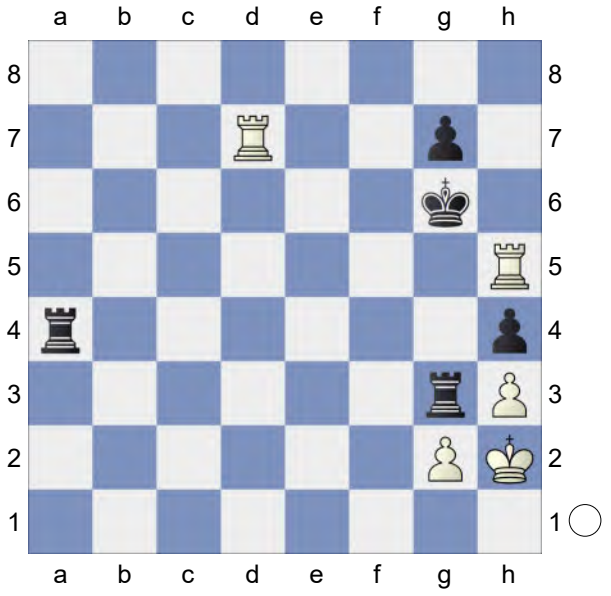


aiming for ...Ra2. **86.Rd7+ Kg8 87.Rd2** Against Ra2 **87...Kh7 88.Rh5+ Kg8 89.Rd8+ Kf7 90.Rd7+ Kg8**

(Diagram)

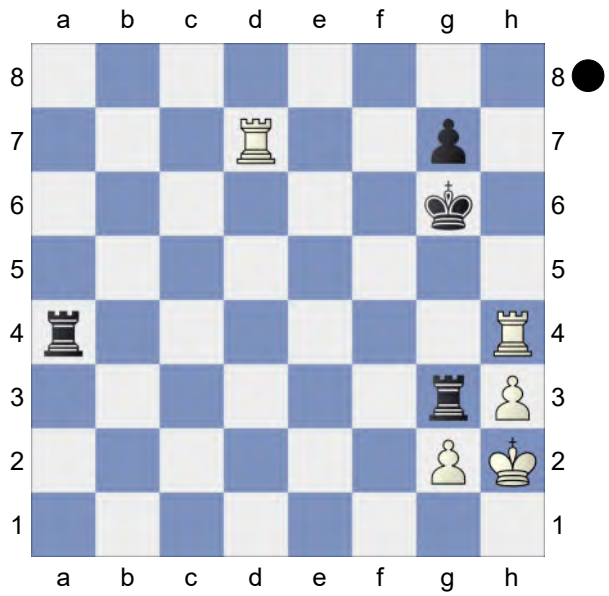


91.Rd8+ Kf7 92.Rd7+ Kg6

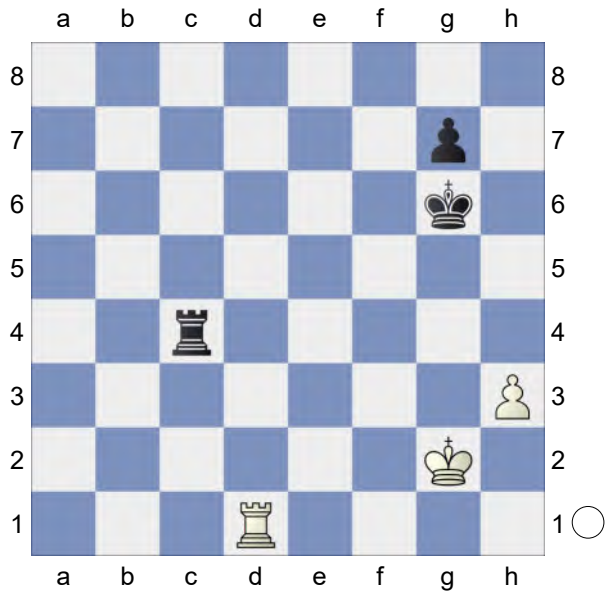


93.Rxh4!

(Diagram)

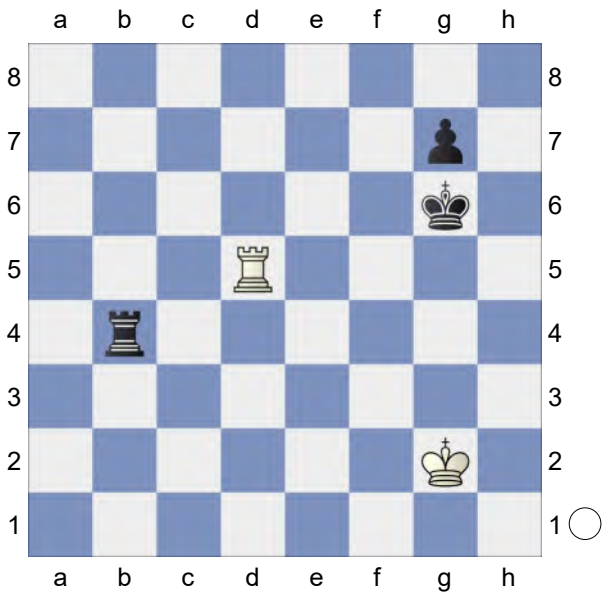


Rxg2+! 94.Kxg2 Rxh4 KR-KR **95.Rd1 Rc4**

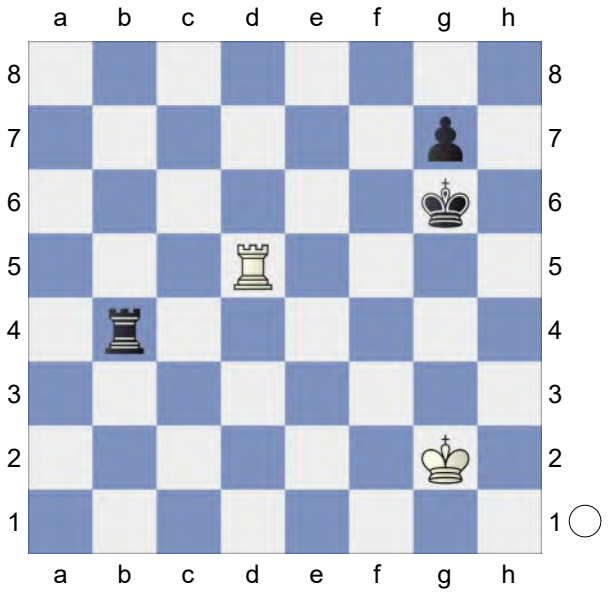


96.h4 -0.33/26
[96.Kg3= -0.01/26]
96...Rb4 -0.01/26
[96...Rxh4∓ -0.33/26 97.Rd3 Rc4]
97.h5+ -0.33/27
[97.Kg3= -0.01/26]
97...Kxh5∓ 98.Rd5+ Kg6 99.Rd6+ Kf5 100.Rd5+ Kg6 0.01/29
[100...Kg4∓ -0.32/28]

(Diagram)



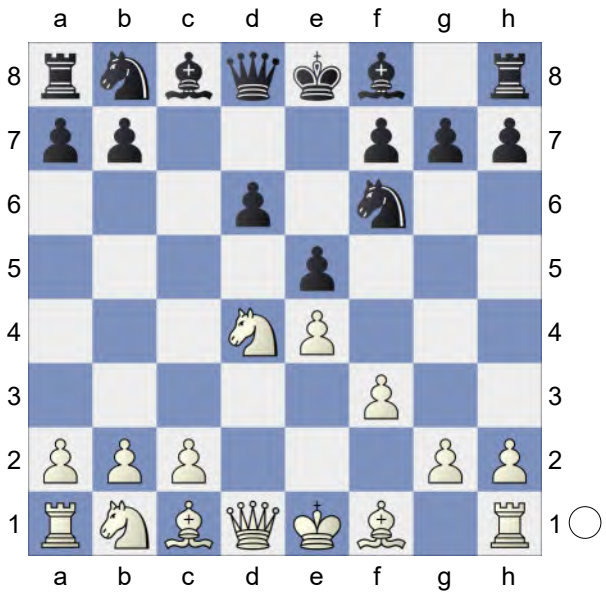
101.Rd6+!= Kg5 102.Rd5+ Kg6 -0.01/45
[102...Kh4∓ -0.35/28 deserves consideration.]



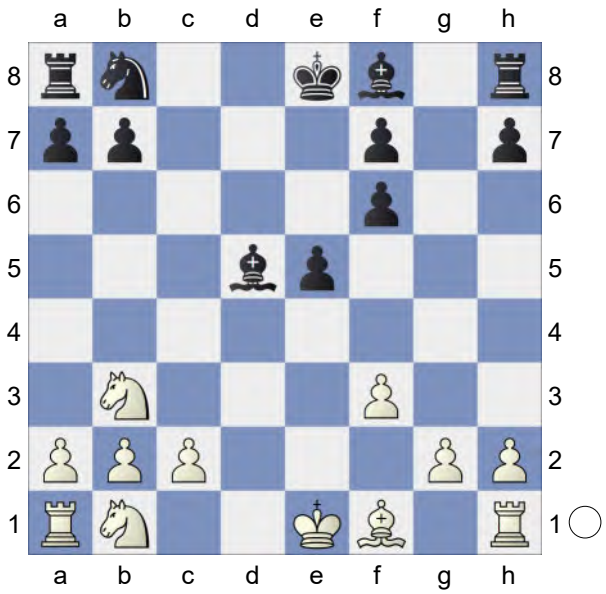
Weighted Error Value: White=0.01 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)
½-½

72 **B54**
□ **Lu,Shanglei** **2917**
■ **Lonelyzeng** **2774**
Blitz 30.03.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

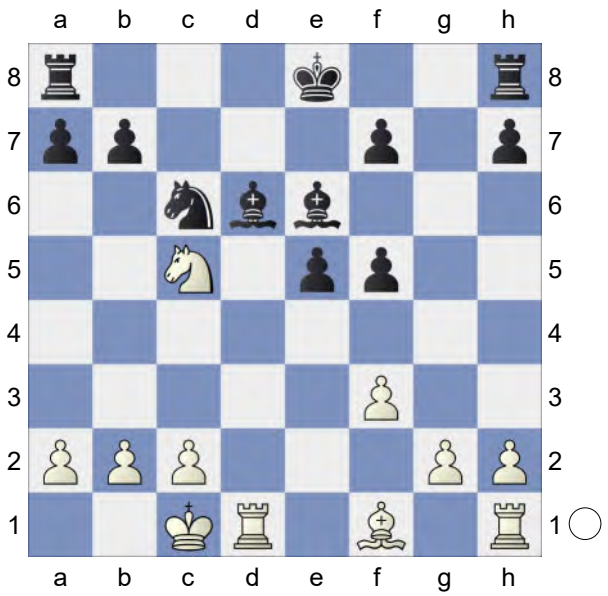


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Bxd5



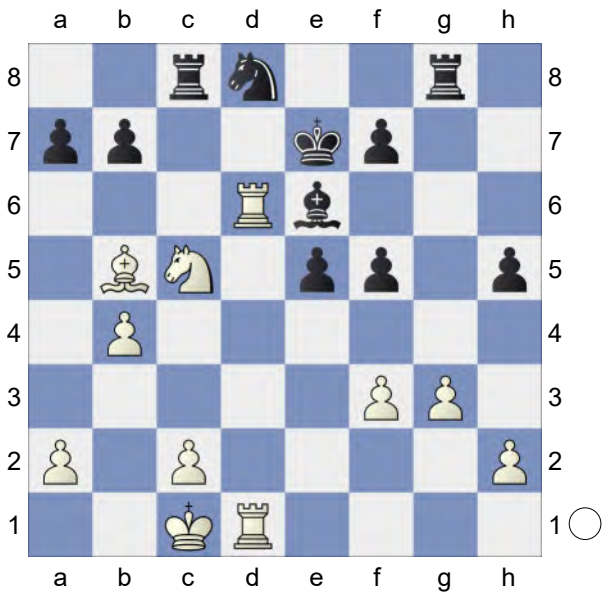
11.Nc3 Be6 12.0-0-0 Nc6 Prevents Na5. **13.Ne4 Be7 14.Nbc5** The position is equal. **14...f5 15.Nd6+ Bxd6**

(Diagram)

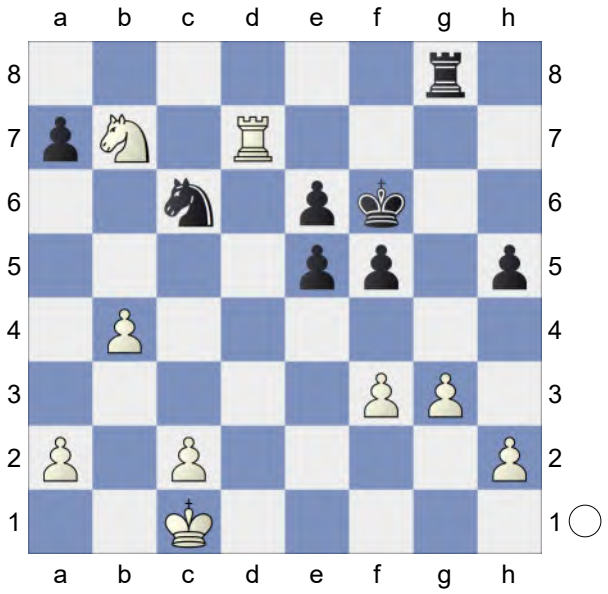


16.Rxd6 Nd8 1.04/21
[16...Ke7= 0.25/21 17.Nxb7 Rhc8]
17.Bb5+ 0.64/20
[17.Nxe6± 1.04/21 Nxe6 18.Rd5]
17...Ke7!± 18.Rhd1 Rc8 19.b4 0.77/18 0x0.00209a826646dp-1022s more active pieces. The black rooks are badly placed.
[⌓19.Nxe6 1.14/19 fxe6 20.Rd7+ Kf6 21.g3]
19...Rg8 20.g3 h5 1.34/20
[Black should try 20...b6 0.92/21 21.Nxe6 Nxe6]

(Diagram)

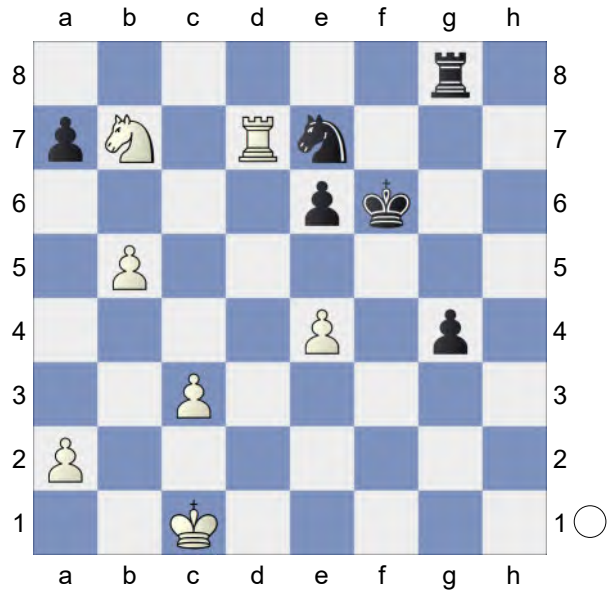


21.Bd7!± Rc7 22.Bxe6! fxe6 23.Rd7+! Rxd7 24.Rxd7+ Endgame KRN-KRN
[24.Nxd7 Nf7 25.Nc5 Nd6∓]
24...Kf6 1.94/22
[24...Ke8± 1.43/26]
25.Nxb7+- Nc6

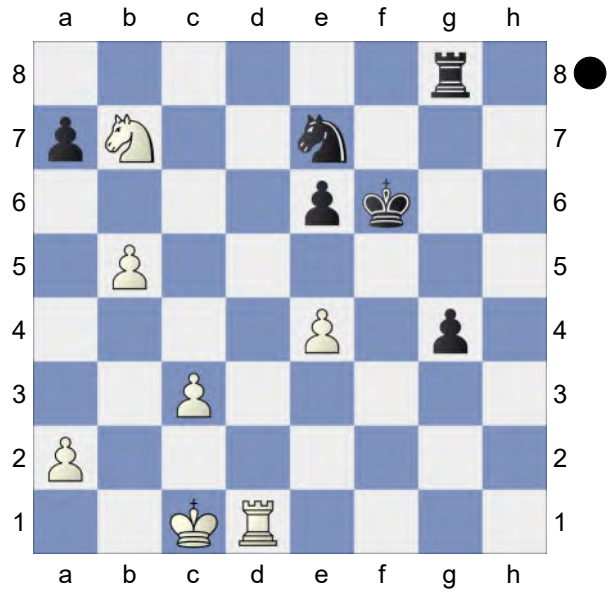


26.c3 h4 27.b5!
[27.gxh4 e4 28.fxe4 f4±]
27...hxg3 28.hxg3 Ne7 29.g4 -0.01/23
[29.Nd6+- 2.22/21]
29...e4 30.fxe4 -1.12/23
[30.g5+= -0.01/23 remains equal. Rxg5 31.fxe4 fxe4 32.Nd6]

30...fxg4∓

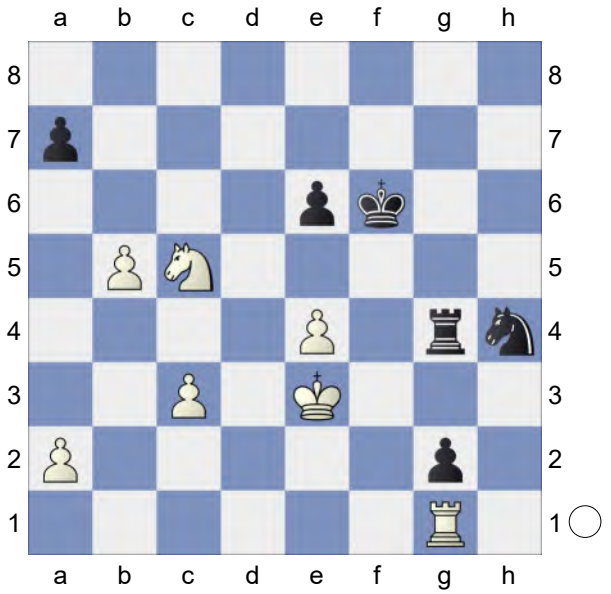


And now ...g3 would win. **31.Rd1**
[Don't play 31.e5+ Kxe5 32.Nc5 *(32.Rxe7 g3-+)* 32...g3! 33.Nd3+ *(33.Rxe7? g2-+)* 33...Ke4-+]



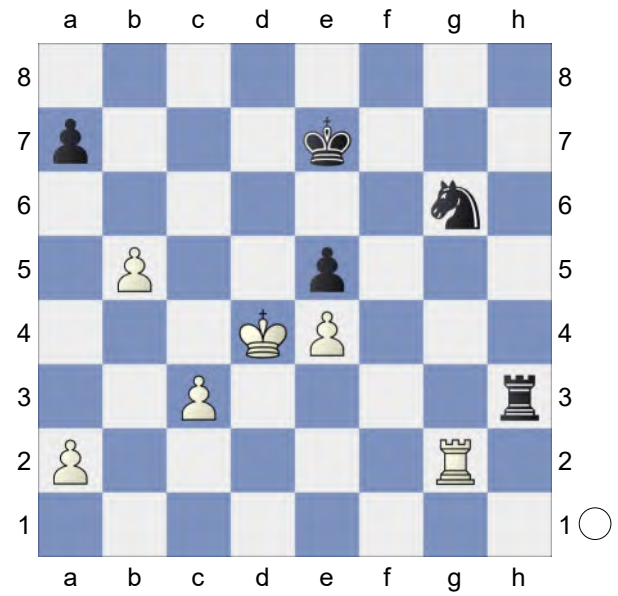
31...g3 -0.50/23
[Black should play 31...Ng6!∓ -1.09/23 White must now prevent ...g3. 32.Kd2 g3]
32.Rg1∓ Rg4 Black has compensation. **33.Nc5 Ng6 34.Kd2 Nh4** Strongly threatening ...Nf3+. **35.Ke3** Inhibits Nf3.

35...g2

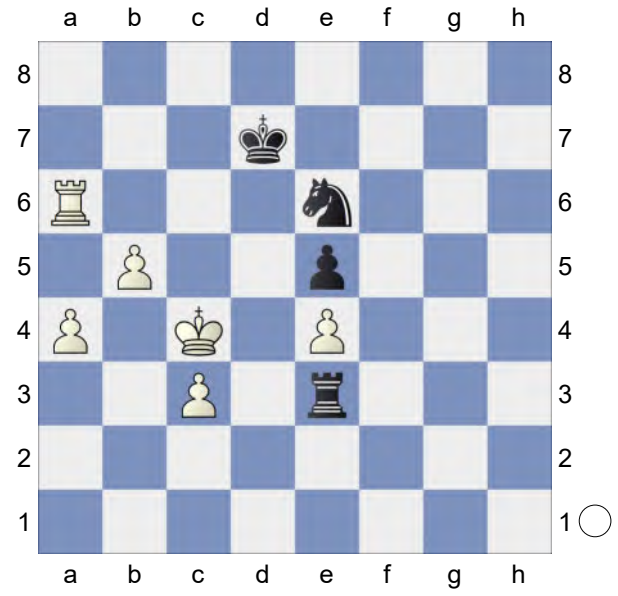


36.Nd7+? -1.84/23
[36.Nd3!= 0.01/22 and White stays safe.]
36...Ke7 -0.89/21
[36...Kg5-+ -1.84/23 Hoping for ... Rg3+. 37.Nc5 Rg3+ 38.Kf2 Rxc3 39.Nxe6+ Kg4]
37.Ne5∓ Rg3+ 38.Kd4 -1.80/22
[38.Kf4∓ -0.73/22 was called for. Rh3 39.Nc6+ Kd6 40.Nd4 *(40.Nxa7? e5+ 41.Kg4 Rh1-+)*]
38...Rh3 39.Ng6+ Nxg6 40.Rxg2 KRN-KR **40...e5+**

(Diagram)

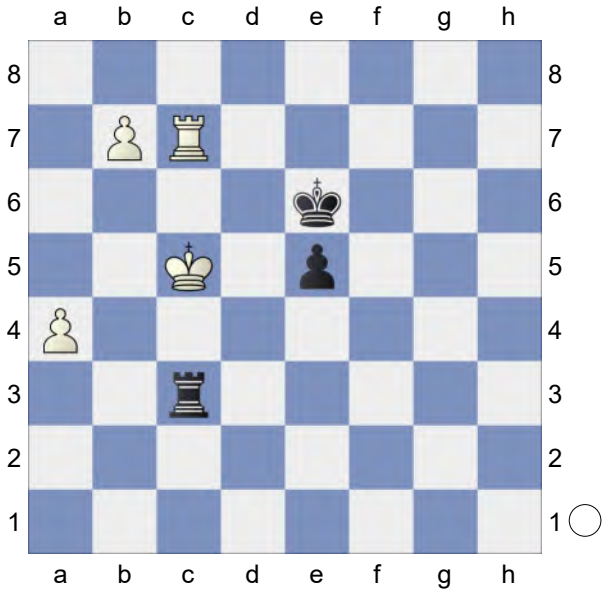


41.Kc4 Nf4 -0.01/24
[Better is 41...Kf7∓ -1.32/21 aiming for ...Nf4. 42.Rd2 Ke7]
42.Rg7+= Kd6 43.Rxa7 Ne6 44.Ra6+ Kd7 45.a4 Re3 1.24/22
[45...Ng5± 0.33/21]

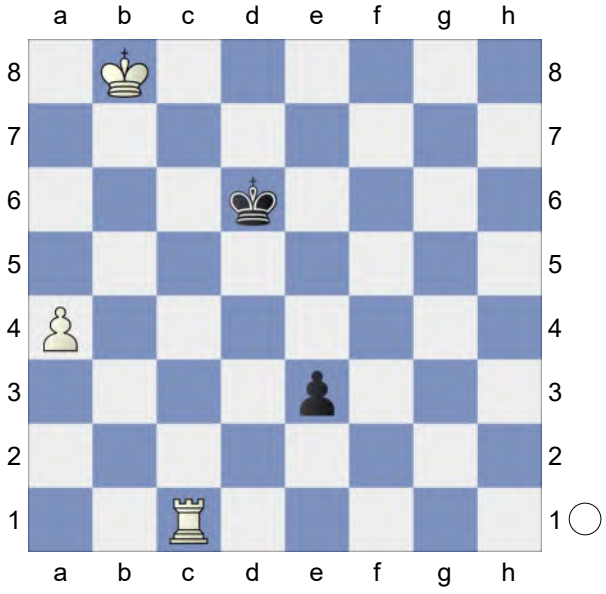


46.Ra7+ 0.01/19
[46.a5± 1.24/22 Rxe6! is the strong threat. Nc7 47.Rf6]
46...Nc7 5.27/25
[46...Kd6= 0.01/19 and Black is okay. 47.Ra6+ Kd7]

47.b6+- Pin **47...Rxe4+ 48.Kc5 Re3 49.Rxc7+** KR-KR **49...Ke6 50.b7 Rxc3+**

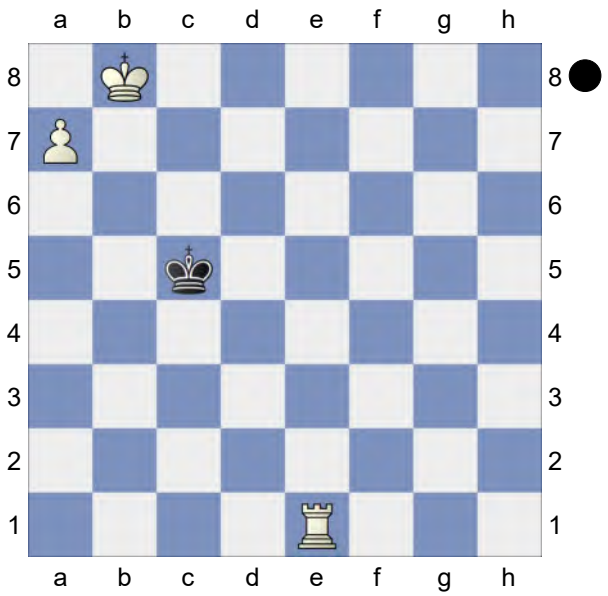


51.Kb6 Rb3+ 52.Ka7 Kd6 53.b8Q White mates. **53...Rxb8 54.Kxb8** KR-KP **54...e4 55.Rc1 e3**



56.a5 e2 57.a6 e1Q 58.Rxe1 Kc5 59.a7

(Diagram)

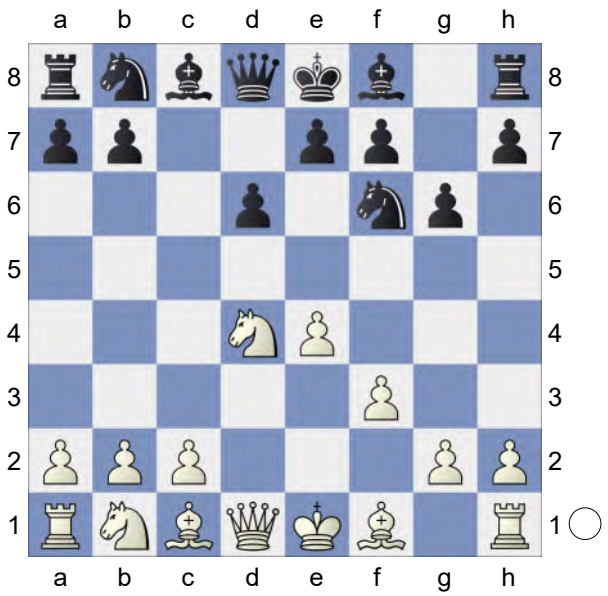


Both players deserved the win here.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.31/ Black=0.48
1-0

73 **B76**
☐ **Ooopscheck** **2917**
■ **Bigmaster24** **2627**
Blitz 03.08.2023
[Kitty Kat]

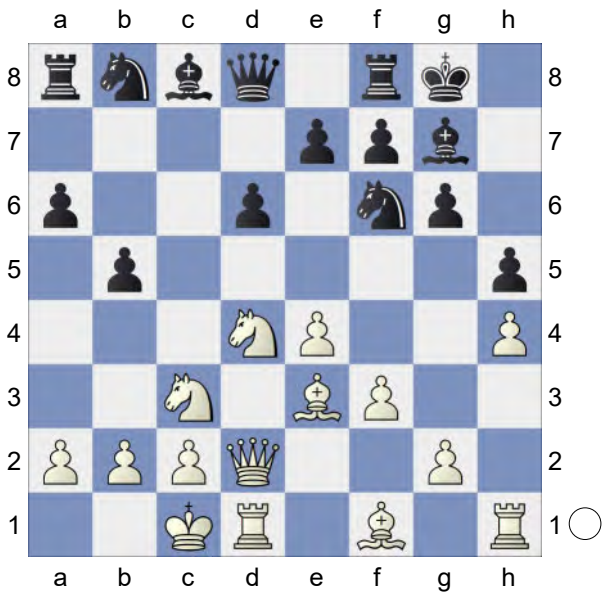
B76: Sicilian Dragon: Yugoslav Attack, 9 g4 and 9 0-0-0
1.d4 d6 2.e4 Nf6 3.f3 c5 4.Ne2 cxd4 5.Nxd4 g6

(Diagram)



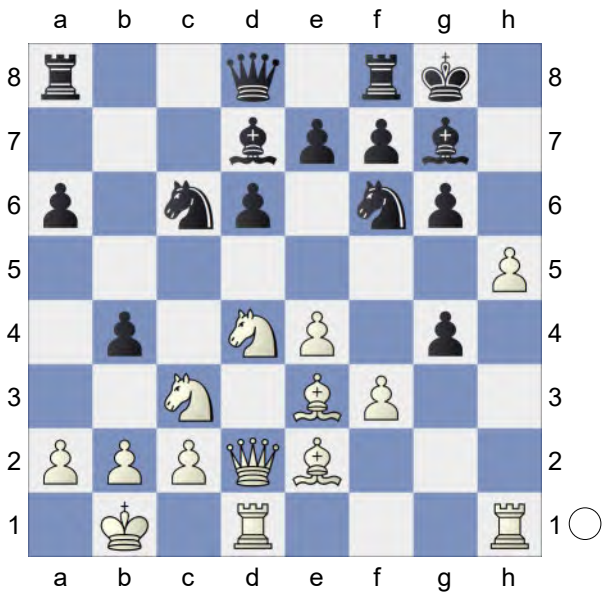
6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2 a6 9.h4 0.30/18
[9.0-0-0± 0.61/18 b5 10.Bh6 *(10.h4 b4 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.exd5 Qa5 13.Bc4 Qc7 14.Qxb4 a5 15.Nb5 Qd7 16.Qd2 Ba6 17.a4 Rc8 18.Qd3 Bxb5 19.Bxb5 Qc7 20.c3 Nd7 21.Bd4 Ne5 22.Qe2 Bh6+ 23.Kb1 Rab8 24.g4 Nc4* Samojlov,S (2409)-Xe4 D7 (2304) Hersonissos 101/39 2015 200 Traps In The Opening [Blazsik,Z] 1-0 (31)*)* 10...Bxh6 11.Qxh6 e5 12.Nb3 b4 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.Rxd5 Be6 15.Rd1 a5 16.h4 Qc7 17.h5 Ra7 18.f4 a4 19.f5 axb3 20.axb3 Bxb3 21.Bd3 Bxc2 22.Kd2 Bxd3 23.Kxd3 d5 24.exd5 Perunovic,M (2526)-Velimirovic,D (2452) Zlatibor SCG 2006 [Chris Ward] 0-1 (40)]
9...h5 10.0-0-0 b5

(Diagram)

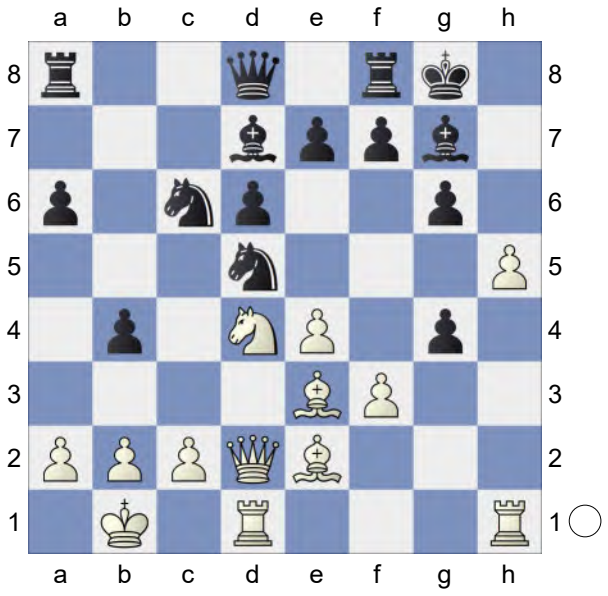


11.Kb1N &Bianco is more active. White is better.
[11.Bg5 Nh7 12.Bh6 Qb6 13.Nd5 Qd8 14.g4 hxg4 15.h5 Bxh6 16.Qxh6 g5 17.e5 f6 18.Bd3 Rf7 19.e6 Rg7 20.Nf5 Qf8 21.Nfxe7+ Rxe7 22.Bxh7+ Rxh7 23.Nxf6+ Qxf6 24.Qxf6 1-0 (24) Husek,Z-Herrchen,R Oropesa del Mar 1998 200 Traps In The Opening [IainMackintosh]]
11...Bd7 1.06/20
[11...Bb7± 0.70/18]
12.Be2 Nc6 13.g4 hxg4 14.h5 b4 1.86/20
[14...gxh5? 15.Bh6 Ne8 16.Nxc6 Bxc6 17.Rxh5+-]
[Better is 14...Nxh5± 0.67/19 15.Nxc6 Bxc6]

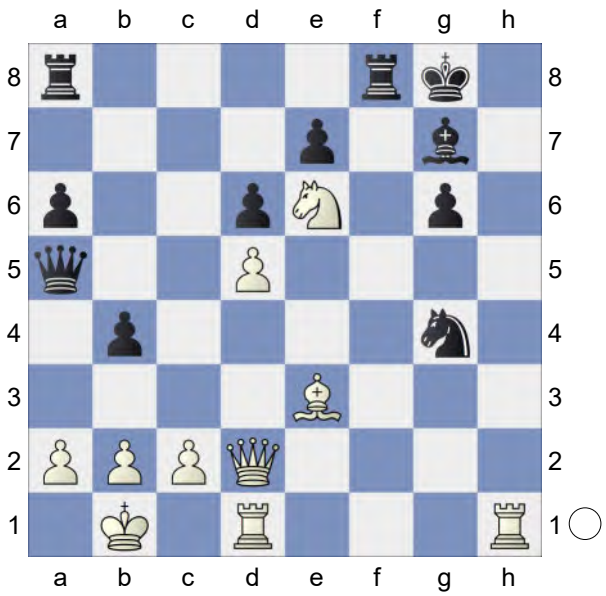
(Diagram)



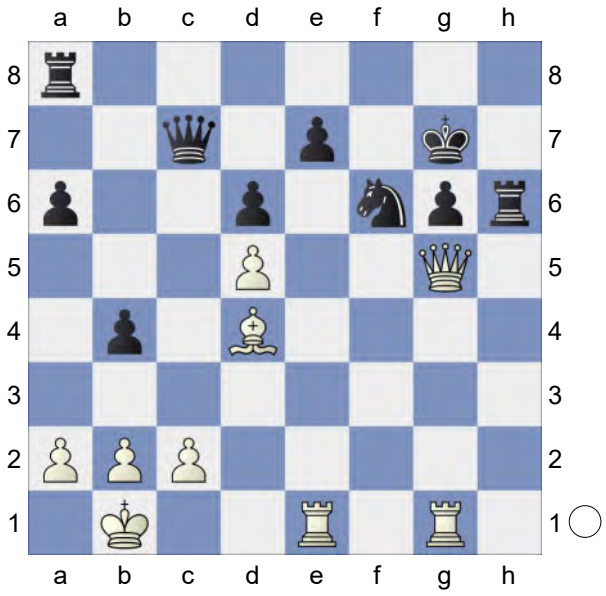
15.Nd5!+- Strongly threatening h6.
15...Nxd5 2.29/23
[15...gxh5? 16.Nxc6 Bxc6 17.Nxf6+ exf6 18.Rxh5+-]
[15...Nxh5± 1.21/19 16.Nxc6 Bxc6]



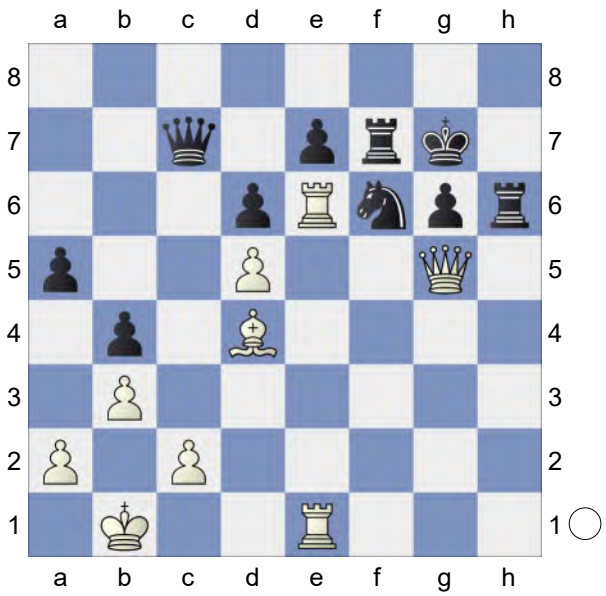
16.exd5 Ne5 3.27/20
[⌓16...Nxd4 2.11/20 17.Bxd4 Bxd4]
17.fxg4 Deflection **17...Bxg4?** 5.79/23
[17...a5 2.69/19 is tougher. 18.h6 Bf6]
18.Bxg4 Nxg4 19.hxg6 fxg6 20.Ne6 Qa5



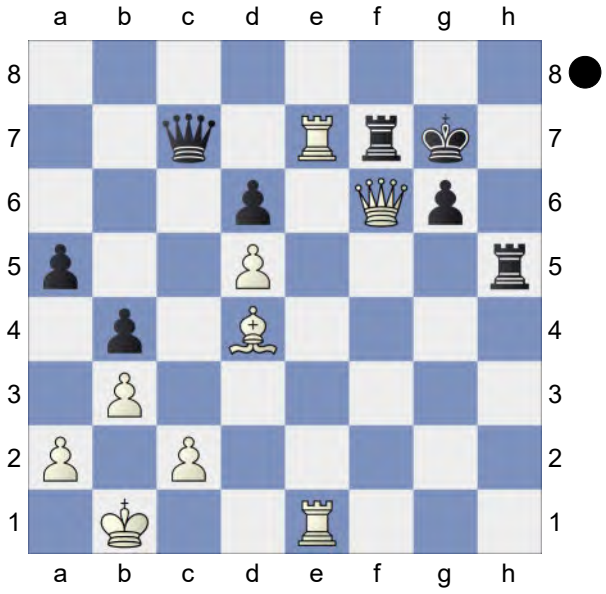
21.Nxg7 Ne6 is the strong threat.
21...Kxg7 22.Bd4+ Nf6 23.Rde1 Qc7 24.Qg5 23.31/22
[⌓24.Qh6+ #9/20 Kf7 25.Bxf6 Ke8 26.Qg7 Ra7 27.Rh8 Qxc2+ 28.Kxc2 b3+ 29.Kd3 Kd8 30.Qxf8+ Kc7 31.Qd8+ Kb7 32.Rxe7#]
24...Rh8 25.Rhg1 5.97/21
[⌓25.Reg1 #11/19 Rhg8 26.Bxf6+ Kf8 27.Rh7 Ke8 28.Rxe7+ Qxe7 29.Bxe7 Rg7 30.Bxd6]
25...Rh6



26.Re6 Rf8 27.b3 a5 28.Rge1 Rf7



29.Rxe7! Rh5
[29...Qxe7 30.Rxe7]
30.Qxf6+

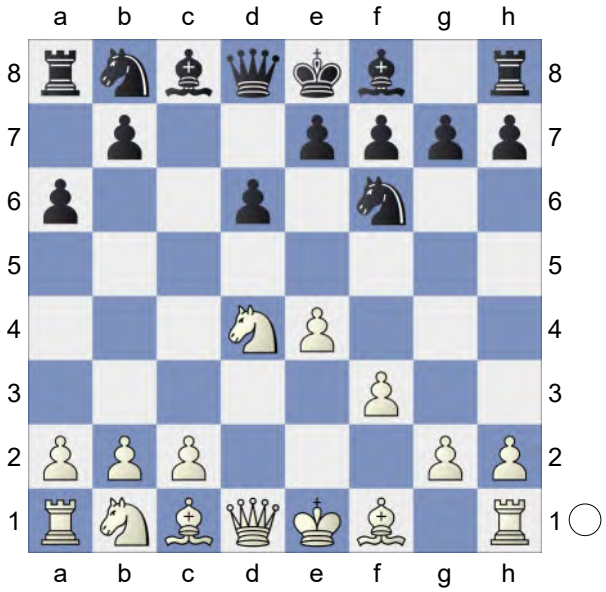


White took control after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.61/ Black=1.69
1-0

74 **B54**
□ **Saysomething12** **2915**
■ **Satoshisbrother** **2788**
Blitz 07.03.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6



6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 d5N 0.75/21

[9...Nc6= 0.22/17 keeps the balance.]

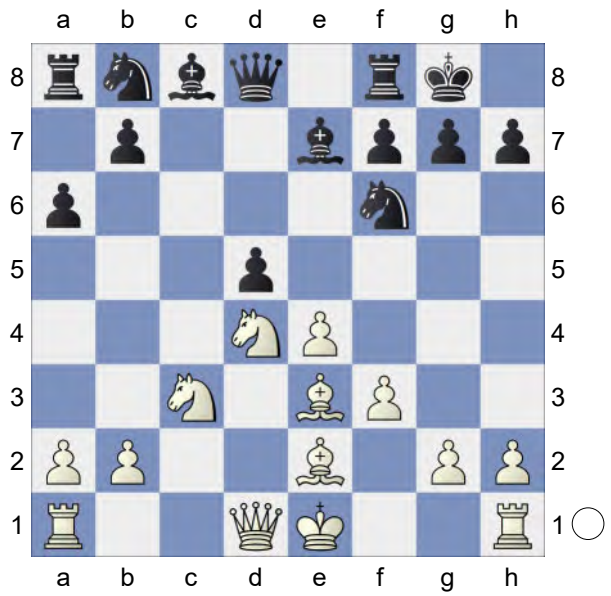
[9...b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7

A) 12.a4 Rb8 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nfd7 15.b3 Nxb6 16.Rfc1 Re8 17.Nc2 Ned7 18.Bf1 Bf6 19.Bd4 Bg5 20.Be3 Bf6 21.Bd4 Bg5 22.Be3 Be7 23.Bd4 h5 24.Qf2 Bh4 25.g3 Bf6 26.Rd1 d5 27.exd5* Flores Quillas,D (2200)-Lu,M (2442) Pereira 2022 1-0 (67)*)* 13.Rfd1 Qc7 14.Rac1 Rbc8 15.Bf1 Qb8 16.Qf2 Rfe8 17.g3 Bf8 18.b3 Nc5 19.Bh3 Ncd7 20.Rc2 Rc7 21.Nde2 Ba8 22.Rcd2 Nc5 23.Nc1 Rcc8 24.Bf4 Red8 25.b4 Nb7 26.Bf1 a5 Malakhov,V (2675)-Wang,H (2696) Chiva 2008 EXT 2017 [Primel, Dominique] ½-½ (70);

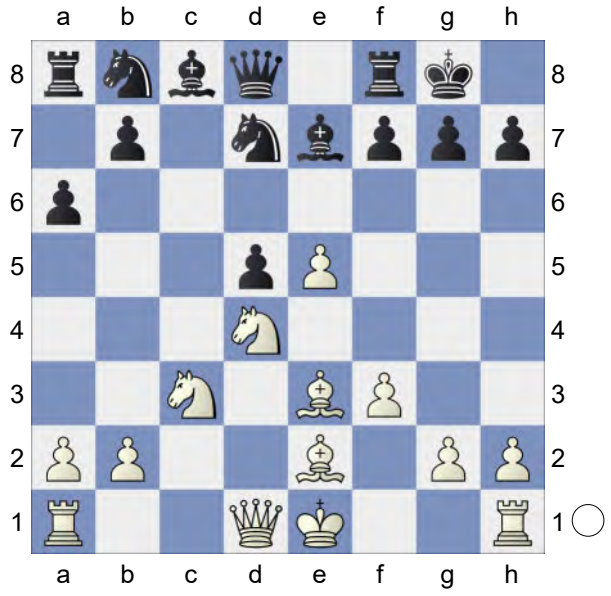
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 *(15.Nc2 Rfe8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bf4 Ne5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Qd6 Bc7 20.Qa3 Rcd8 21.b4 Bd6 22.Qb2 Nd7 23.Rd2 Qc7 24.Rcd1 Be7 25.Qb3 h5 26.Na4 h4 27.Qe3 Bc6 28.Nc3 Nb8 29.a3 Rxd2* Boruchovsky,A (2441)-Szuhanek,R (2519) Jerusalem 2013 CI1-130 [Szuhanek, Ranko] ½-½ (46) *)* 15...Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 *(16...Bc7 17.Nde2 Kh8 18.Bd4 Bc6 19.Be3 Ne5 20.b3 h6 21.Nd4 Bb7 22.Be2 Ng6 23.Qg1 Rfe8 24.Nc2 d5 25.exd5 exd5 26.Bxb6 Bf4 27.Rb1 Nh5 28.Bf1 Re5 29.Ne2 Rxe2 30.Bxe2 Qe5 31.Bd3* Bezgodov,A (2546)-Alavkin,A (2471) Saint Petersburg 92/278 2004 CI1-130 [Bezgodov, Alexei] ½-½ (40) *)* 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Ba8 21.Rb1 g5 22.Bd3 g4 23.Qf2 d5 24.exd5 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein, Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

10.cxd5 White is better. **10...exd5**

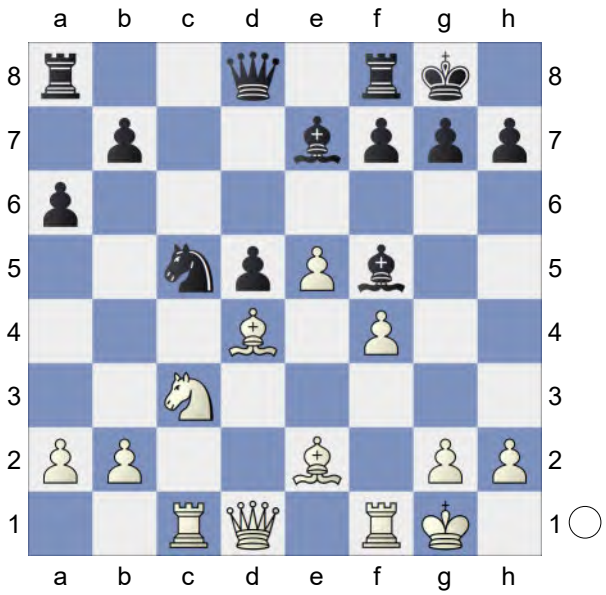
(Diagram)



11.e5 Nfd7

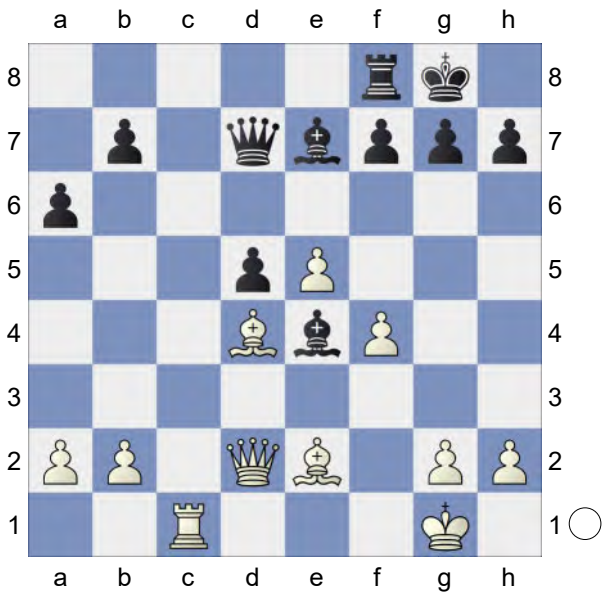


12.f4! 0x0.00209a826646dp-1022s more active pieces.
[Of course not 12.Nxd5 Qa5+ 13.Nc3 Qxe5=]
12...Nc6 1.01/19
[12...Nb6± 0.69/18]
13.0-0 0.60/17
[13.Nxd5± 1.01/19 Black must now prevent Bf3. Qa5+ 14.Nc3]
13...Nc5 1.44/21
[Black should play 13...Nb6!± 0.60/17]
14.Rc1 Nxd4 2.09/20
[14...Ne6± 1.22/19 keeps fighting.]
15.Bxd4 1.09/18
[Better is 15.Qxd4+- 2.09/20 b6 16.Nxd5]
15...Bf5

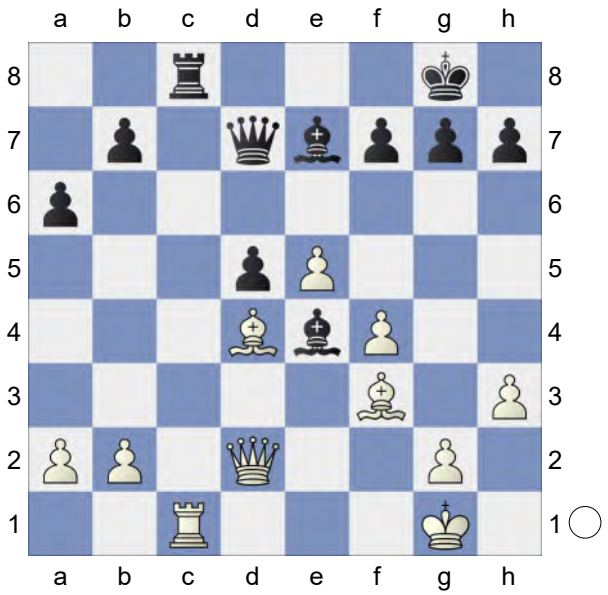


16.Qd2 0.39/20
[16.Bg4± 1.04/19 Be4 17.f5]
16...Rc8± 17.Rfd1 0.01/22
[17.Bf3± 0.48/19 might be stronger.]
17...Ne4 18.Nxe4 Bxe4 0.65/20
[⌓18...dxe4 0.31/22 19.Rxc8 Qxc8]
19.Rxc8 0.21/21
[19.Bg4± 0.65/20 Rc4 20.h3]
19...Qxc8= 20.Rc1 Qd7

(Diagram)



21.h3 Rc8 22.Bg4 Bf5 23.Bf3 Be4 24.Bg4 Bf5 25.Bf3 Be4



26.Rxc8+ Qxc8 27.Bxe4 dxe4 28.Qe3 Qc4 29.b3

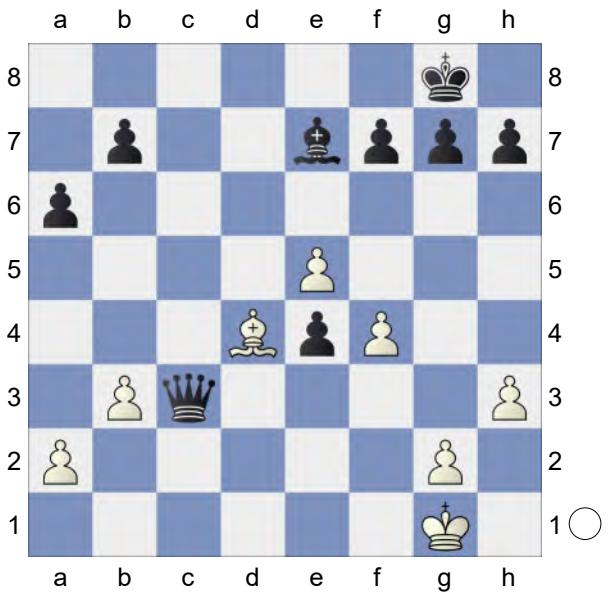
[Don't go for 29.Qxe4? Bc5 30.Kh2 Bxd4-+]

29...Qc2 0.32/20

[29...Qd5= 0.01/23]

30.Qc3± Qxc3

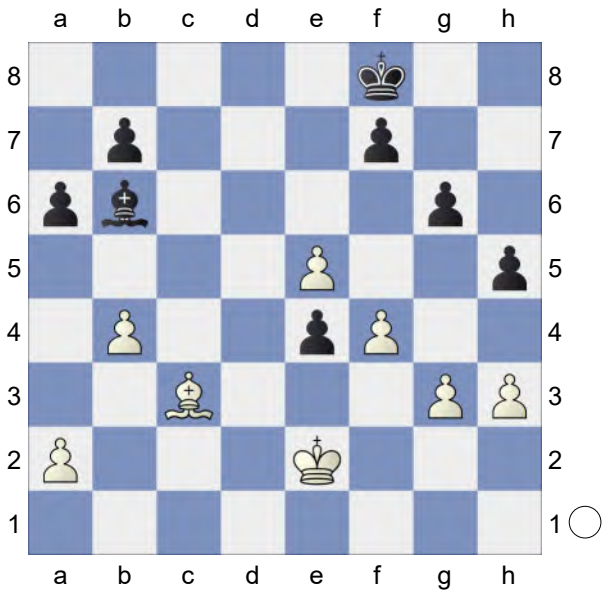
(Diagram)



31.Bxc3= Endgame KB-KB **31...Bc5+ 32.Kf1 h5** 0.11/21

[⌓32...Kf8 -0.24/22]

33.g3 g6 34.Ke2 Kf8! 35.b4 Bb6

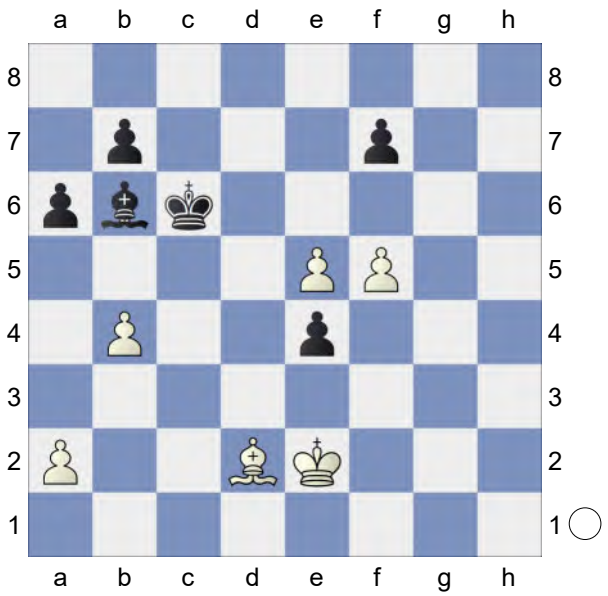


36.g4 -0.58/24

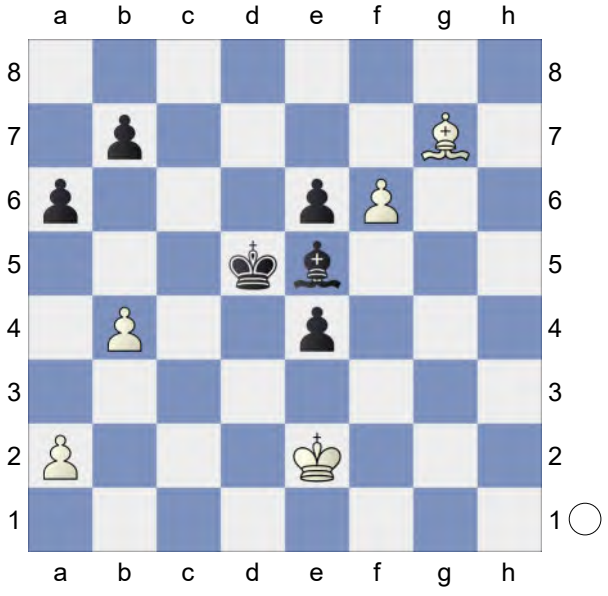
[36.Be1!= -0.01/23]

36...hxg4∓ 37.hxg4 Ke7 38.f5 gxf5 39.gxf5 Kd7 40.Bd2 Kc6

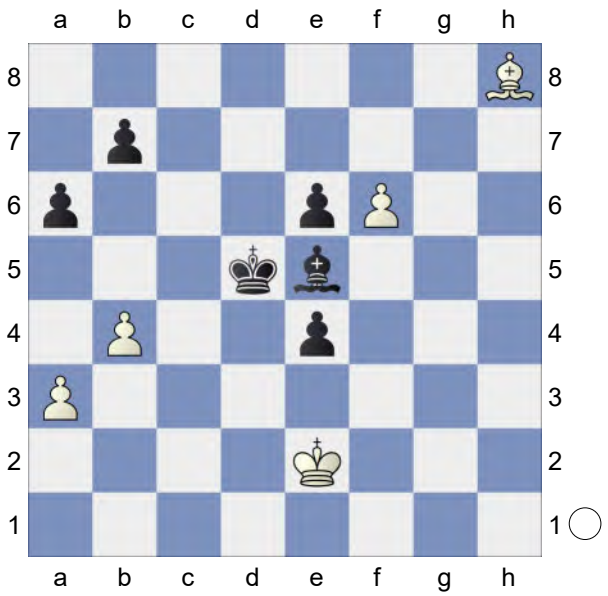
(Diagram)



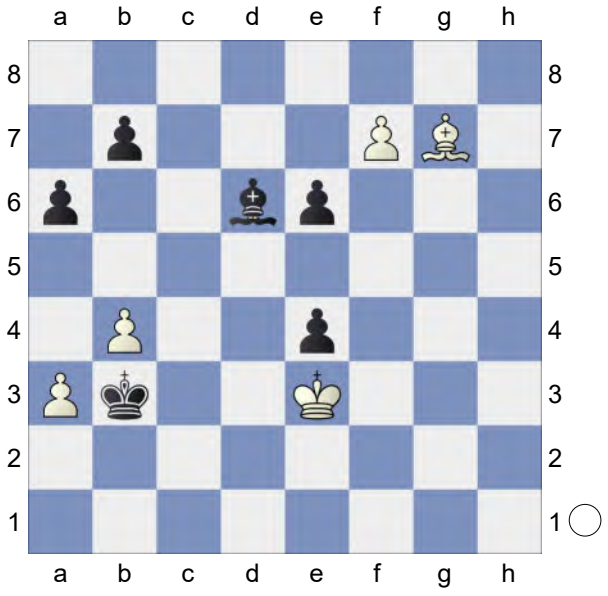
...Bd4 is the strong threat. **41.Be3** Against Bd4 **41...Bd8** White should prevent ...Kd5. **42.Bh6! Kd5 43.Bg7 Bc7 44.e6 fxe6 45.f6** aiming for f7. **45...Be5**



46.a3 Bd4 1.46/29
[46...Bb2= -0.01/25 remains equal.]
47.Bh8± Threatens to win with f7. White has strong compensation. **47...Be5?** 4.29/28
[47...Bxf6± 1.60/31 was worth a try. 48.Bxf6 Kc4]

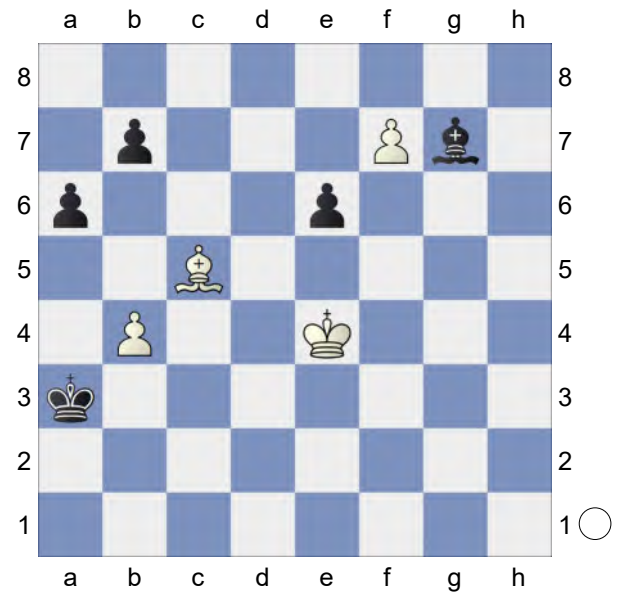


48.f7!+- Bxe5 would kill now. **48...Bd6 49.Bg7** Against Bf8 **49...Kc4 50.Ke3 Kb3**

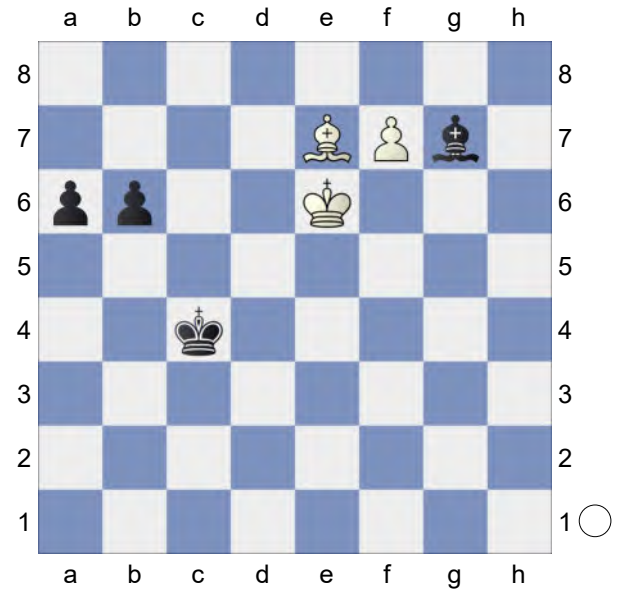


51.Bd4 Bf8 52.Bc5 Bg7 53.Kxe4 Kxa3 54.Bd4? 0.00/26
[White should try 54.Kf4+- 10.45/24]
54...Bf8= 55.Bc5 Bg7

(Diagram)

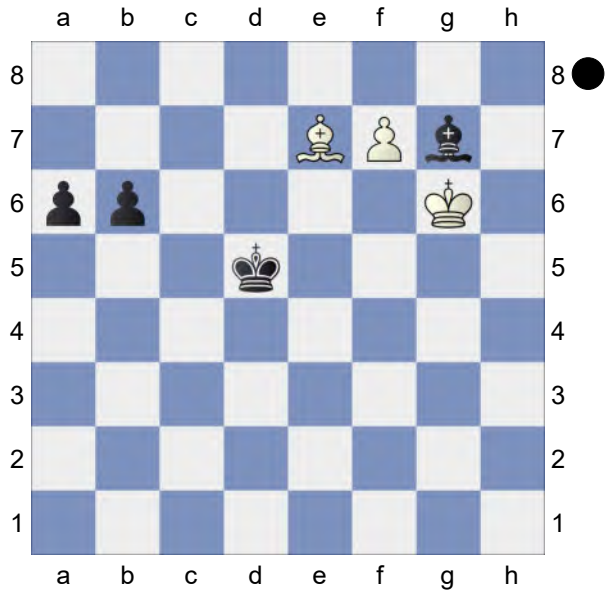


56.Bd4? -0.01/25
[56.Bd6+- 9.87/22]
56...Bf8 57.Ke5
[Weaker is 57.Bc5 Bg7+-]
57...Kxb4 58.Kxe6 Kc4 59.Bf6 b6 60.Be7 Bg7 12.08/26
[60...Bh6= 0.10/23]



61.Bf6? 0.01/27
[Only move: 61.Kf5+- 12.08/26 Threatening mate with Kg6. a5 62.Kg6]
61...Bf8 62.Be7 Bg7 63.Kf5 Kd5

64.Kg6



Weighted Error Value: White=0.46/ Black=0.24 (precise)
1-0

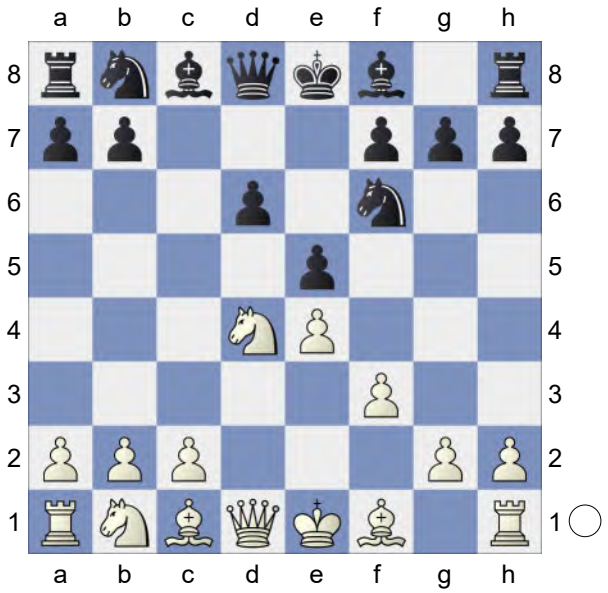
75	**B54**
☐ **Flamingbishop**	**2915**
■ **Cheese Boo**	**2689**
Blitz	15.12.2023

[Kitty Kat]

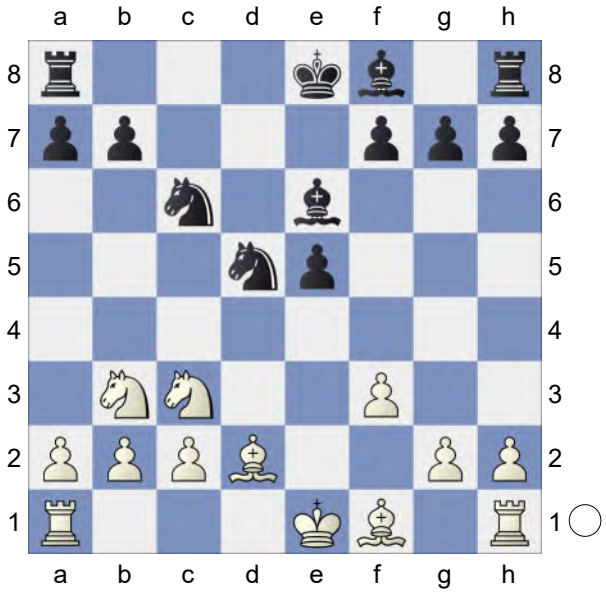
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5*

Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

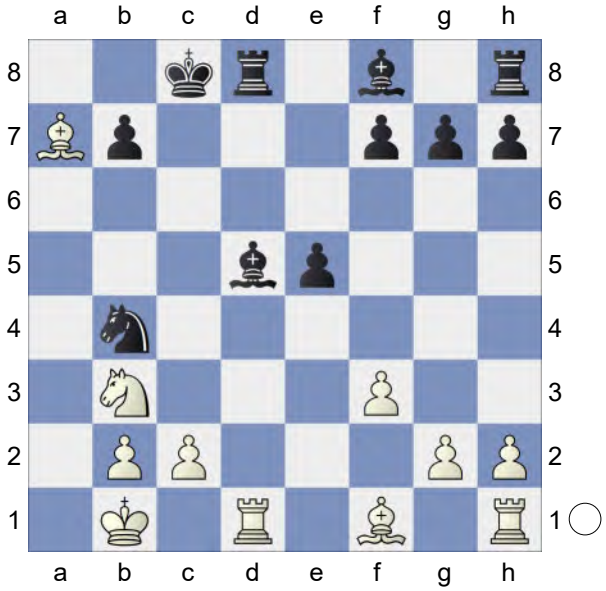
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 d5 7.exd5 -0.15/19
[⩲7.Bg5 0.16/17]
7...Qxd5
[7...Nxd5 keeps more tension. 8.Bb5+ Nc6 9.Bd2 Bf5]
8.Qxd5 Nxd5 9.Bd2 The position is equal. **9...Nc6 10.Nc3 Be6**

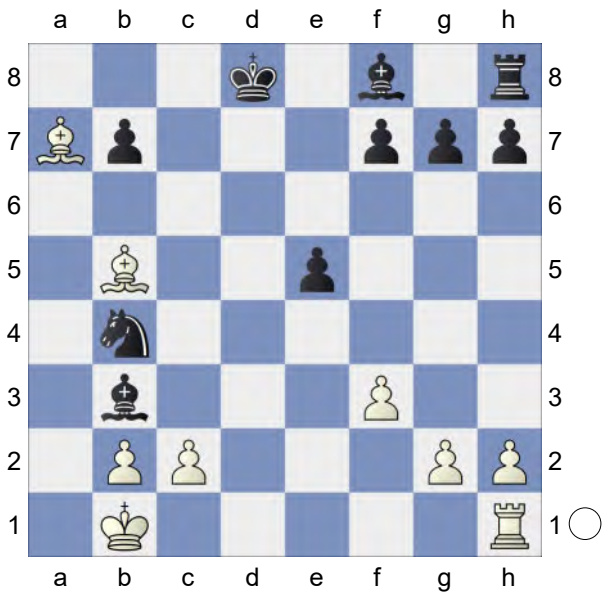


11.Nxd5 Bxd5 12.0-0-0 0-0-0 13.Be3 Nb4 14.Bxa7 aiming for a3. **14...Nxa2+ 15.Kb1** Hoping for Bb6. **15...Nb4**

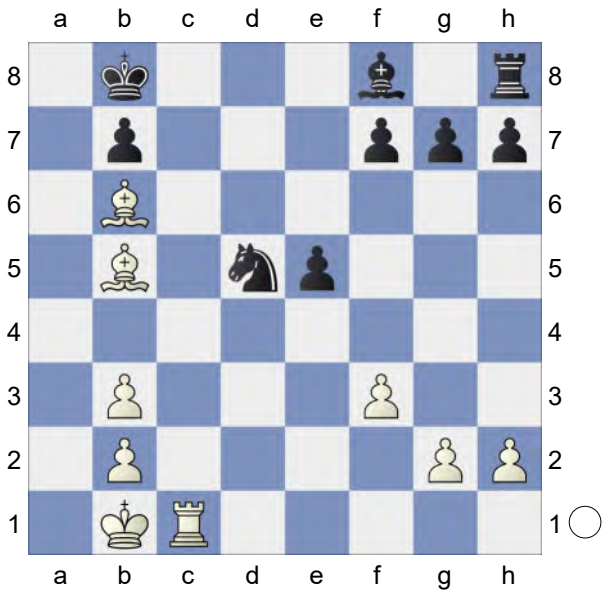


16.Bb5 Bxb3 1.05/22
[16...Be7= 0.19/18]
17.Rxd8+ Kxd8

(Diagram)

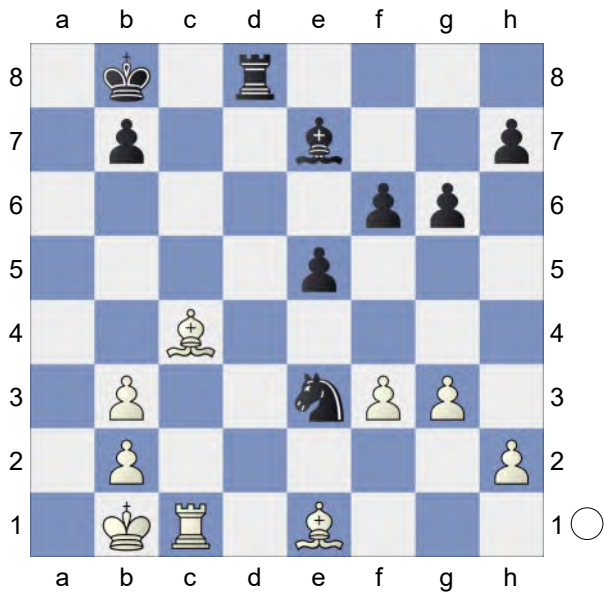


18.Bb6+! Kc8 19.cxb3 Nd5 20.Rc1+ 0.28/23
[20.Ba7± 1.00/21]
20...Kb8=

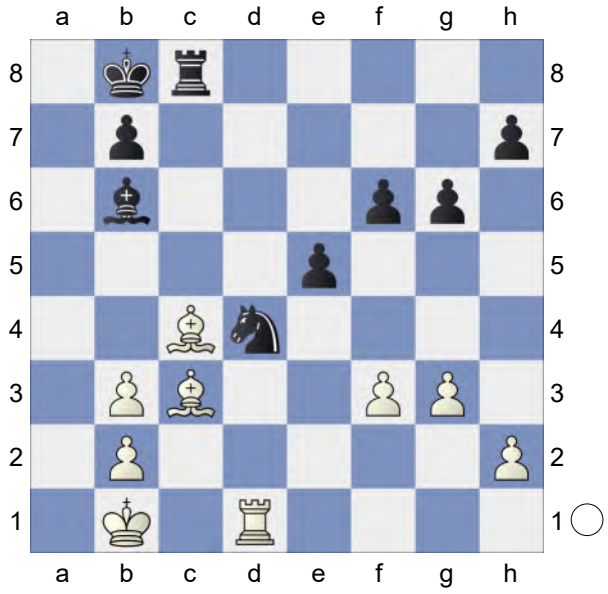


21.Bf2 Rd1 is the strong threat.
21...Be7! 22.Bd3 Rd8 23.g3
[Much weaker is 23.Bxh7 g6 24.Re1 Nf6 25.Bxg6 *(25.Rxe5 Bd6∓)* 25...fxg6 26.Rxe5 Nd5∓]
23...g6 24.Bc4 f6 25.Be1 Ne3 0.26/21
[25...Bc5 -0.06/19 feels stronger.]

(Diagram)

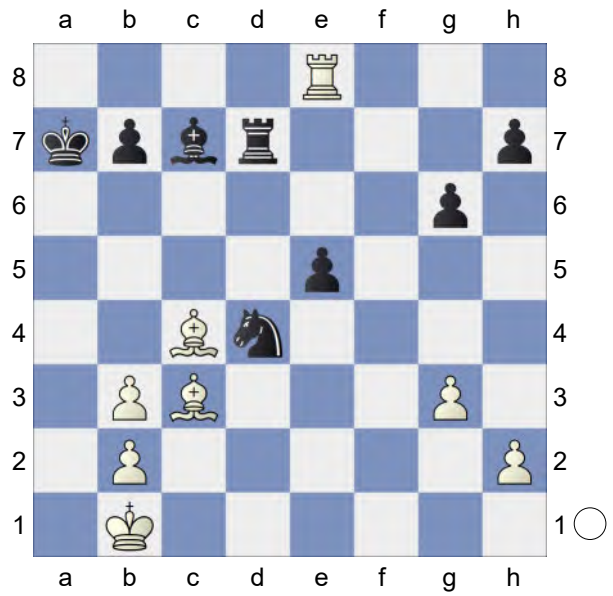


26.Be2 Nf5 27.Ba5 Black must now prevent Bc7+. **27...Rc8** 0.33/20 Inhibits Bc7+.
[27...Rd5= 0.01/22 28.Bb6 Bd8]
28.Rd1 -0.01/21
[28.Bb6± 0.33/20]
28...Nd4 29.Bc4 Bd8 0.50/22
[29...Bc5= -0.01/20]
30.Bc3!± Bb6



31.f4 Rd8 32.fxe5 fxe5 33.Rf1 Rd7 34.Rf8+ Ka7 35.Re8 Bc7

(Diagram)



36.b4 Kb6 37.Ka2 Bd6 38.Bd3 -0.03/20

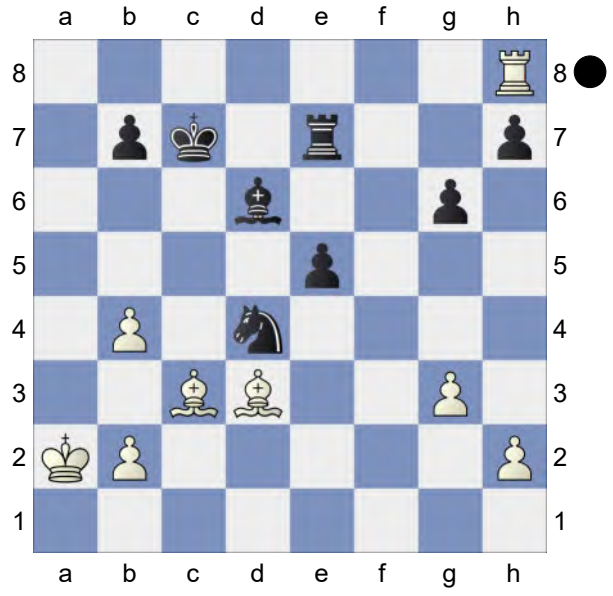
[38.Ra8± 0.46/19 is superior.]

38...Re7 0.33/21

[38...Nc6!= -0.03/20]

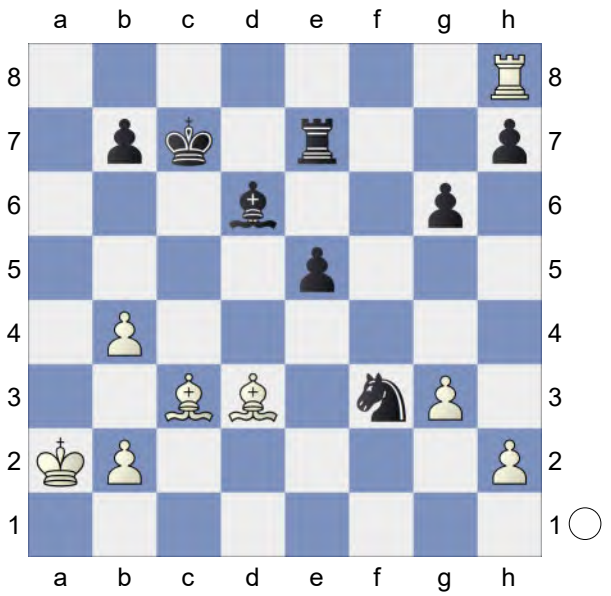
39.Rd8 Kc7 40.Rh8 -0.44/22

[40.Ra8= -0.01/21 should be considered.]



40...Nf3 -0.04/21

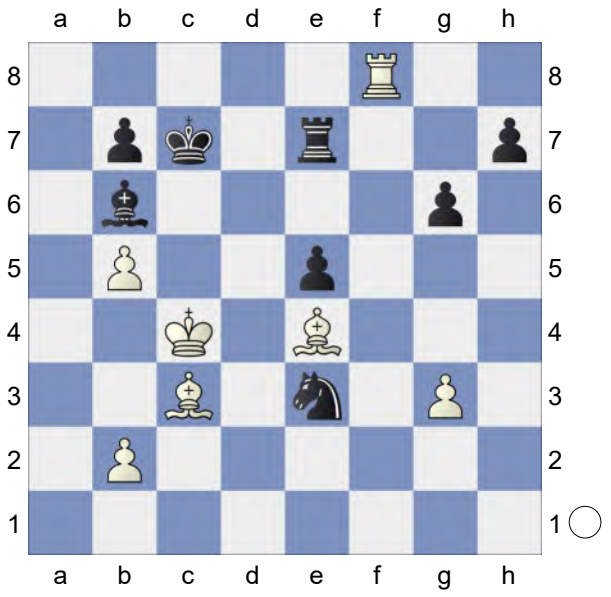
[40...e4!∓ -0.44/22 deserves consideration. 41.Bc4 Be5]



41.Be4= Nxh2 42.b5 Bc5 43.Kb3 Ng4 44.Kc4 -0.16/21

[44.Rf8∓ -0.50/20 was preferrable.]

44...Bb6 45.Rf8 Ne3+



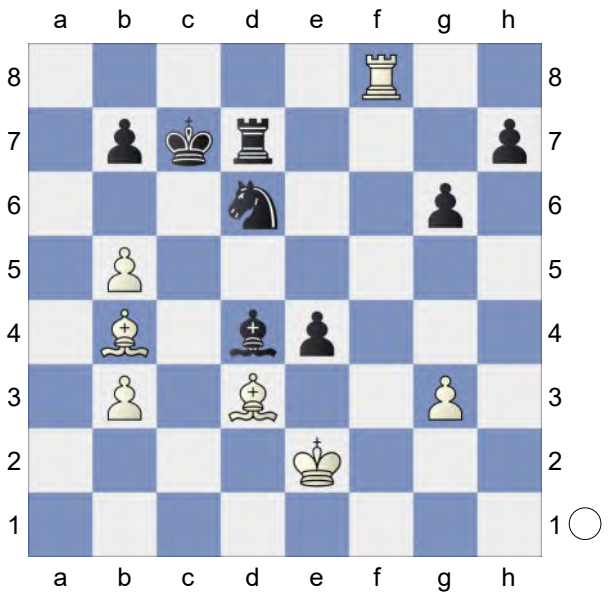
46.Kd3 Rd7+ 47.Ke2 Nc4 48.b3 Bd4? 1.52/21 **49.Bb4?** -0.62/20

This bishop pair is nice.

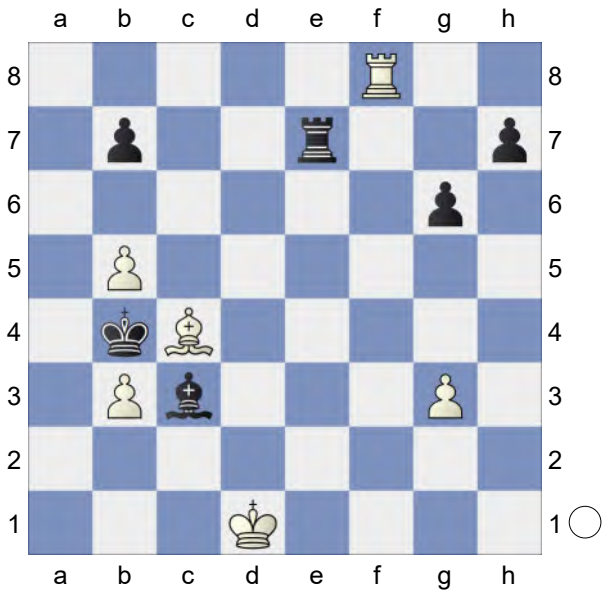
[49.bxc4± 1.52/21 Bxc3 50.c5]

49...Nd6∓ 50.Bd3 e4

(Diagram)

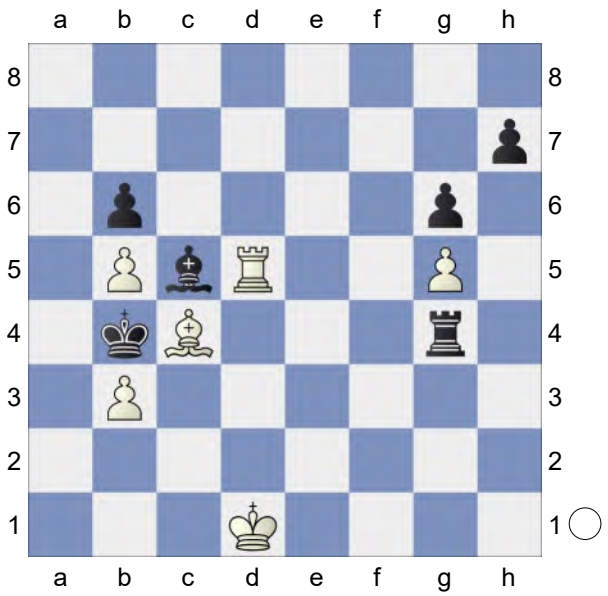


51.Bxd6+ Remove Defender **51...Kxd6 52.Bxe4** Endgame KRB-KRB **52...Kc5 53.Bd3 Re7+ 54.Kd1 Kb4 55.Bc4 Bc3**

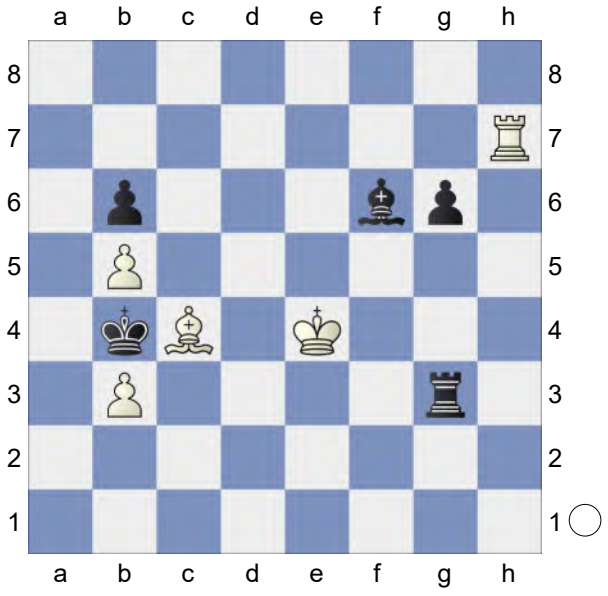


56.Rf3 Bd4 -0.01/18
[56...Be5∓ -0.44/19]
57.Rd3 -0.54/20
[57.Rf8!= -0.01/18]
57...Bc5 58.g4 b6 59.Rd5 Re4 60.g5 Rg4

(Diagram)

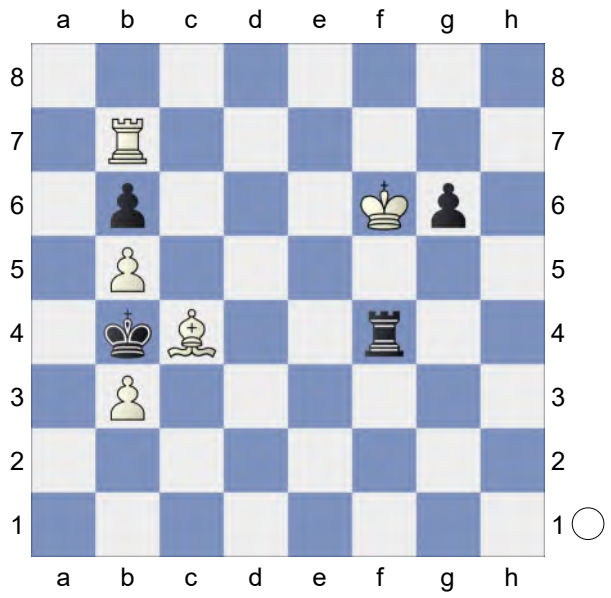


61.Kc2 Be3 62.Rd7 Bxg5 Threatens to win with ...h5. **63.Rxh7 Rg2+ 64.Kd3 Rg3+ 65.Ke4 Bf6**

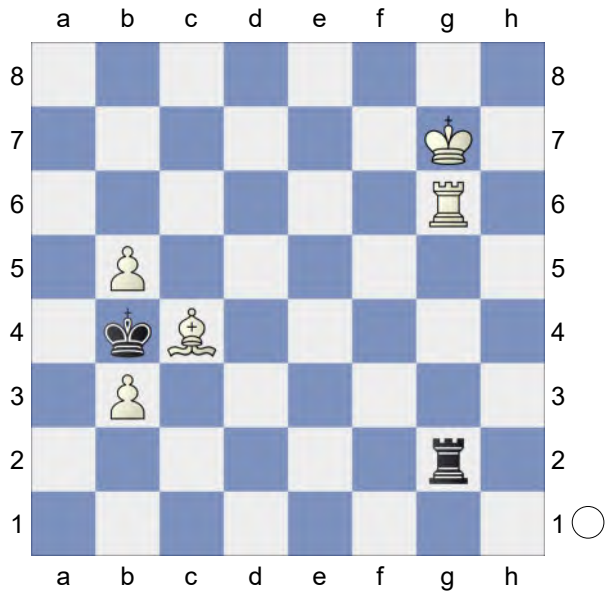


66.Rb7 Rg4+ 67.Kd5 -0.01/23
[67.Kf3± 0.37/26 Rh4 68.Rxb6 Rh3+ 69.Kg4 Rh4+ 70.Kf3]
67...Rg5+ 68.Ke6 Re5+? 9.46/21
[68...Bd4= -0.01/22]
69.Kf7? -0.01/21
[69.Kxf6+- 9.46/21 Re8 70.Rxb6]
69...Re4? 10.16/23 **70.Kxf6+-** White is clearly winning. **70...Rf4+**

(Diagram)



71.Kg7 Rf3 72.Rxb6 Rf2 73.Rxg6 Rg2



Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.18 (very precise) . Loss on time!?

0-1

76 **B54**

Drawdenied Twitch **2914**

Anythingbutaverage **2907**

Blitz 21.03.2024

[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

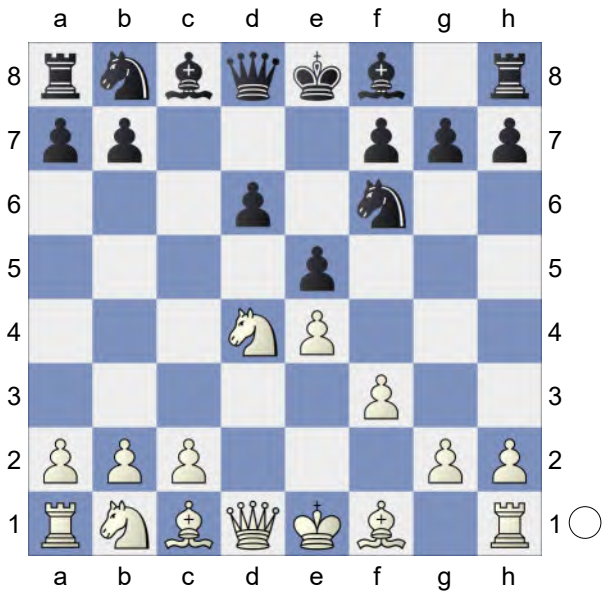
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

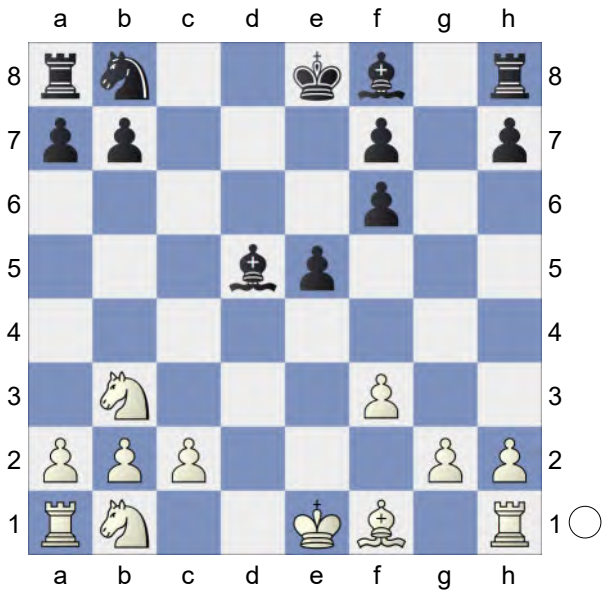
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060

[Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

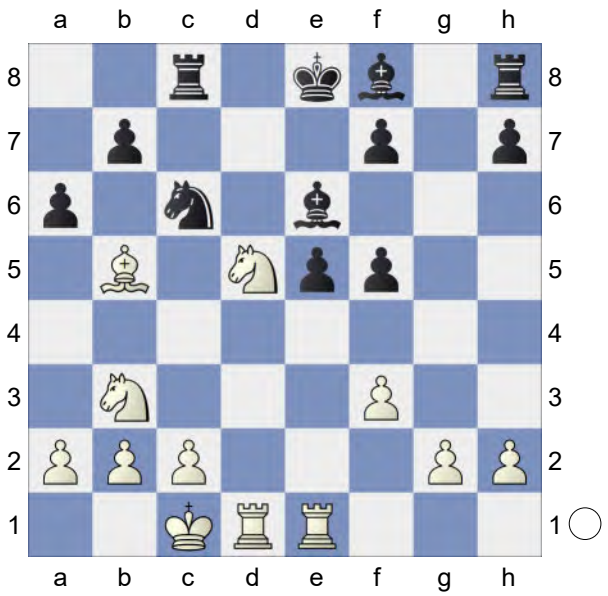


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Bxd5



11.Nc3 Be6! 12.0-0-0 Nc6 13.Bb5 Rc8 14.Nd5 White is slightly better. **14...f5 15.Rhe1 a6**

(Diagram)



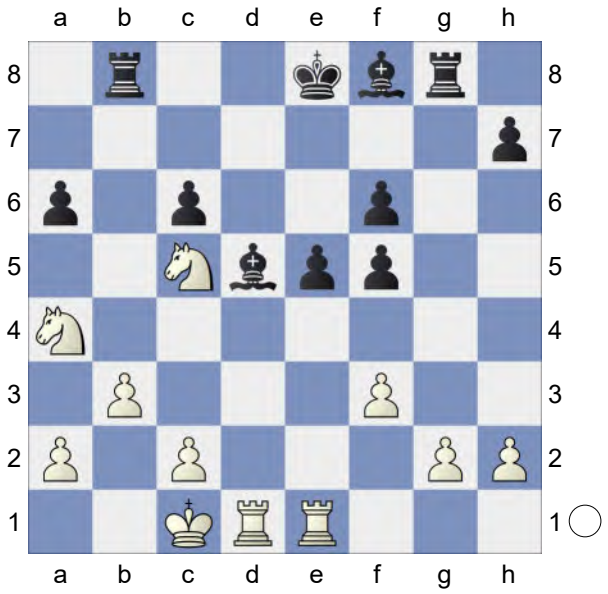
16.Bxc6+ bxc6 17.Nb6 Rb8 18.Na4 f6 19.Nbc5

[19.Nac5!? Bc8 20.g3=]

19...Bd5 20.b3 0.02/20

[20.Nxa6± 0.54/19 Rb7 21.b3]

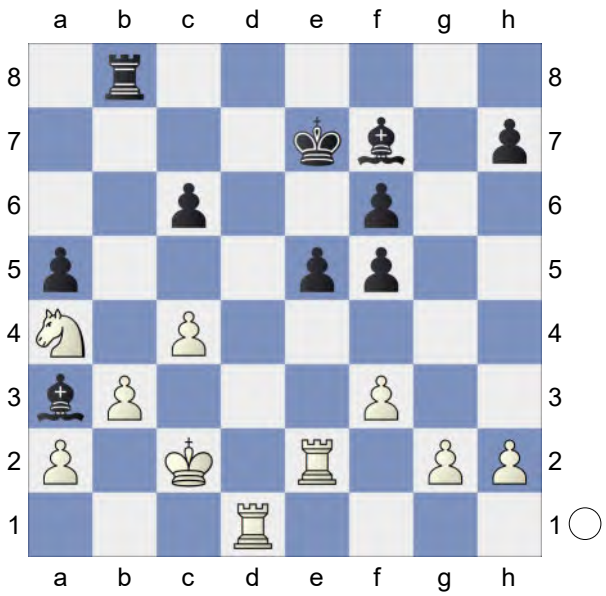
20...Rg8=



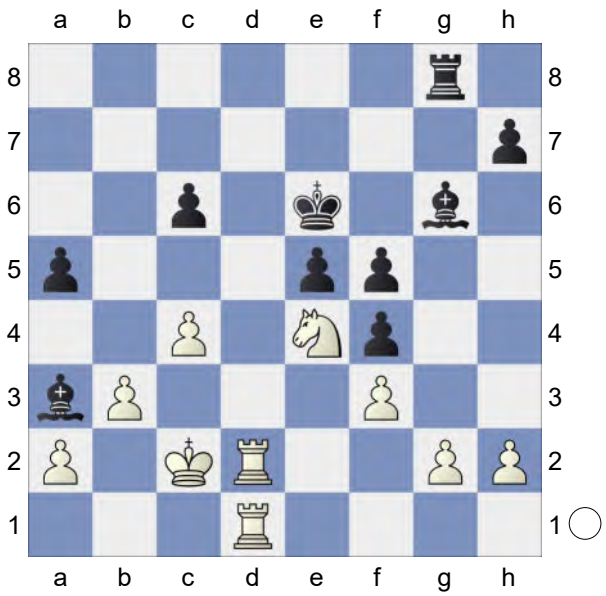
21.Re2 a5 1.06/20

[21...Bh6+= 0.00/20 keeps the balance. 22.Kb2 Bc4]

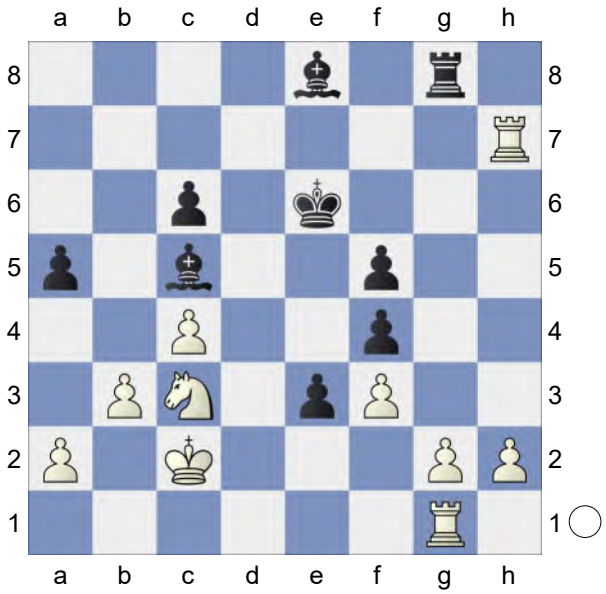
22.c4↑ White is really pushing. **22...Bf7 23.Nd7! Ba3+ 24.Kc2** 0x0.00209a826646dp-1022s more active pieces. **24...Ke7 25.Nxb8 Rxb8**



26.Red2 Hoping for Rd7+. **26...f4?** 2.74/21
[26...Be6± 0.76/21]
27.Rd7++- Ke6 28.Nc3? 0.94/21
[28.Rc7+- 2.92/21 and White stays clearly on top.]
28...Rg8± 29.R7d2 0.19/22
[Better is 29.Rc7± 1.00/23 Rxg2+ 30.Rd2 Rxd2+ 31.Kxd2]
29...Bg6+ A strong pair of Bishops.
30.Ne4 f5 1.15/20
[30...Be7± 0.45/20]

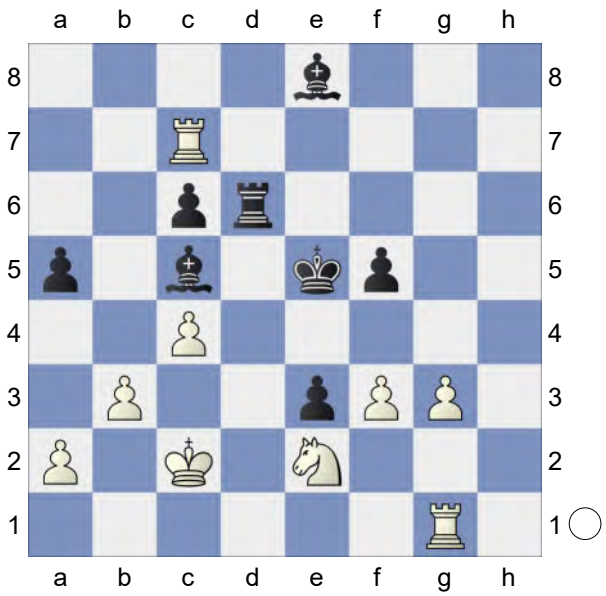


31.Nc3 0.55/18
[31.Ng5+!± 1.15/20 Kf6 32.Nh3]
31...e4? 2.50/22
[31...Be7± 0.55/18]
32.Rd7? 0.01/22
[32.Ne2+- 2.50/22]
32...e3? 2.38/21
[32...Bf7= 0.01/22]
33.Rc7 Be8 34.Rg1
[Not 34.Rxh7 Rxg2+ 35.Kd3 Bg6±]
34...Bd6 35.Rxh7 Bc5 3.38/20
[35...Bg6 2.03/20 keeps fighting.]

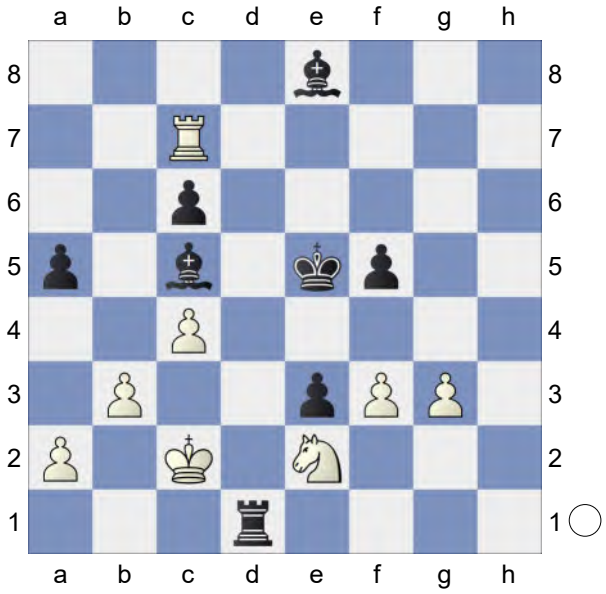


36.Ne2+- Ke5 37.Rc7 Rg6 38.g3 fxg3 39.hxg3 aiming for Rd1. **39...Rd6** 5.65/21
[39...Rh6 2.53/21 40.Nf4 Kd6]

(Diagram)



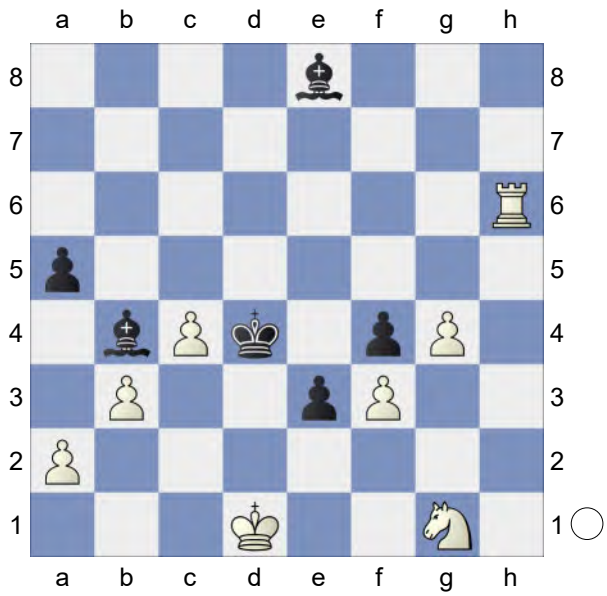
40.Rd1! Rxd1



41.Kxd1 Endgame KRN-KB **41...Bh5 42.Rxc6 Bb4 43.Ng1 f4 44.g4 Be8 45.Rh6 Kd4** 7.87/23

[⌓45...a4 5.07/21 46.Rh8 Bf7]

(Diagram)

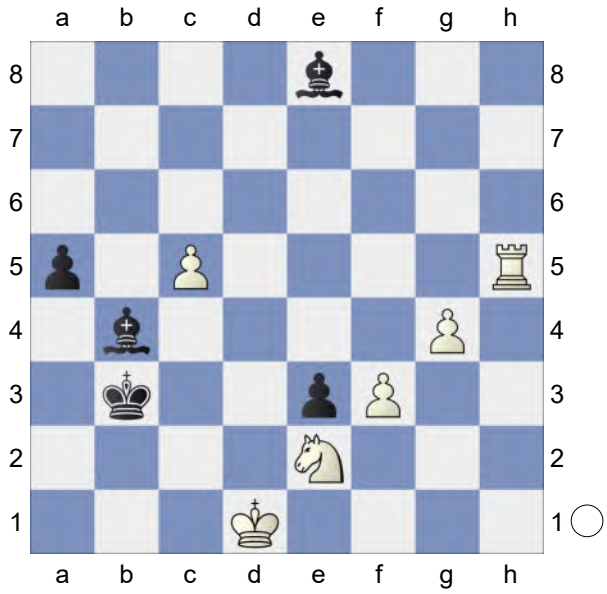


46.Ne2+ Kd3 47.Nxf4+ 10.16/24

[⌓47.Rh8 #8/21 a4 48.Nxf4+ Kc3 49.Nd5+ Kd4 50.Rxe8 Ba3 51.Ke2 Bb2 52.g5]

47...Kc3 48.Ne2+ Kb2 49.Rh5 Kxa2 50.c5 Kxb3? 7.85/22

[50...Bxh5 3.64/22 51.gxh5 Bxc5]



51.Re5 a4? 12.29/24

[51...Ba4 3.96/22 52.Kc1 Kc4 53.Rxe3 Bd7]

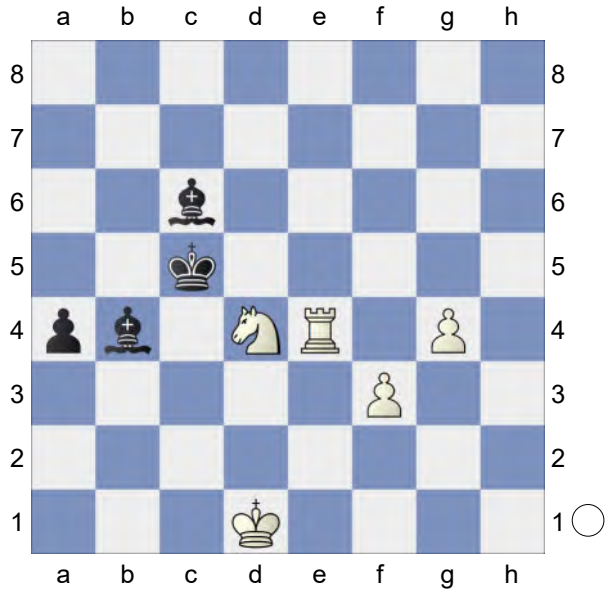
52.Rxe3+ Kc4 53.c6? 3.32/20

[53.Re4+ 11.70/22 Kd5 54.Rxe8]

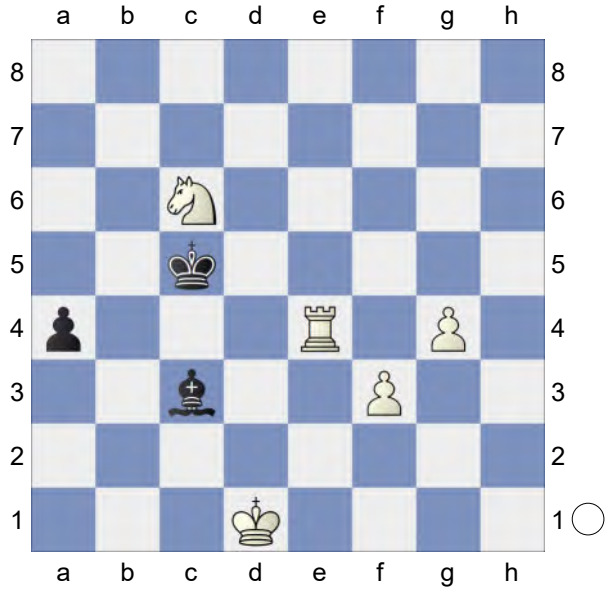
53...Bxc6 **54.Re4+?** 0.00/21 **Kb5?** 10.19/20

[54...Bxe4= 0.00/21 55.fxe4 Be7]

55.Nd4+ Kc5



56.Nxc6 Bc3

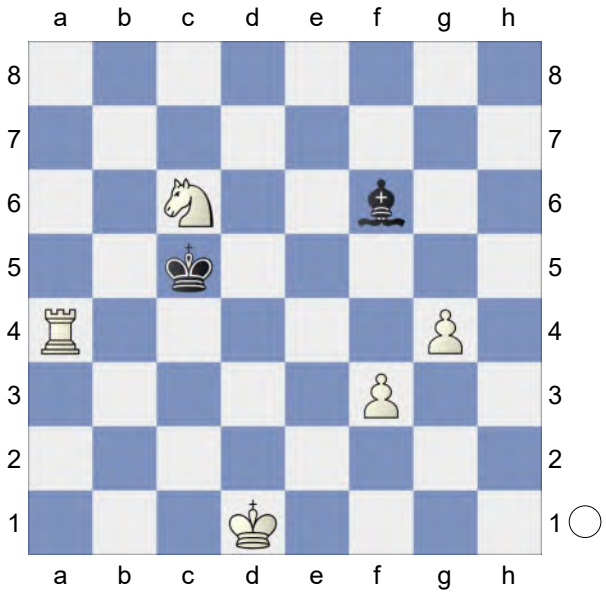


57.Rxa4! White wants to mate with Re4!

57...Bf6

[57...Bh8 58.Nd8]

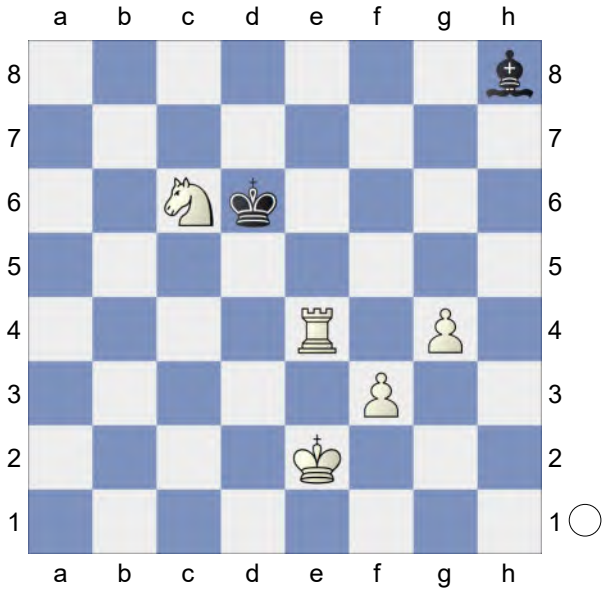
(Diagram)



58.Re4! Bh8

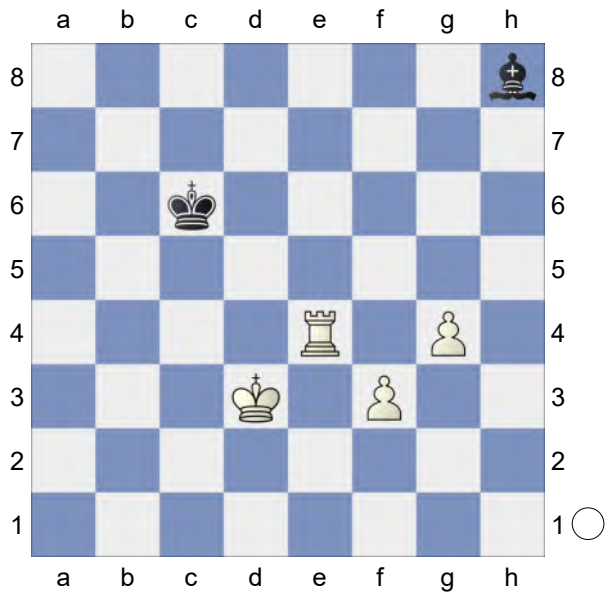
[58...Kd6 59.Ke2]

59.Ke2 19.16/24 **Kd6**

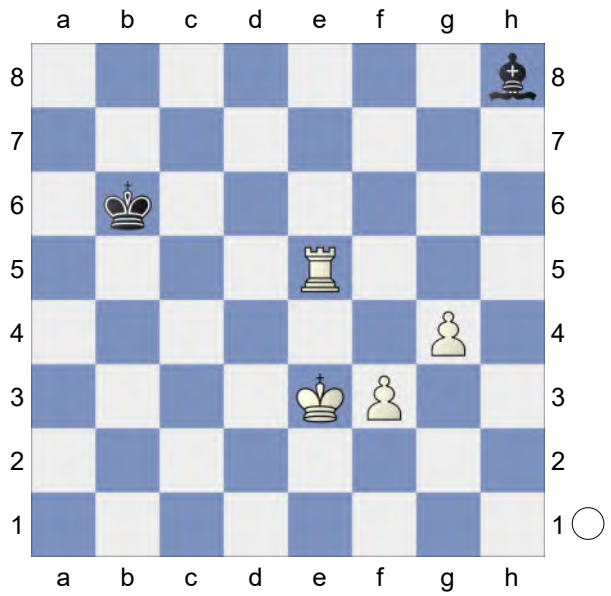


60.Kd3! 19.24/20 **Kxc6**

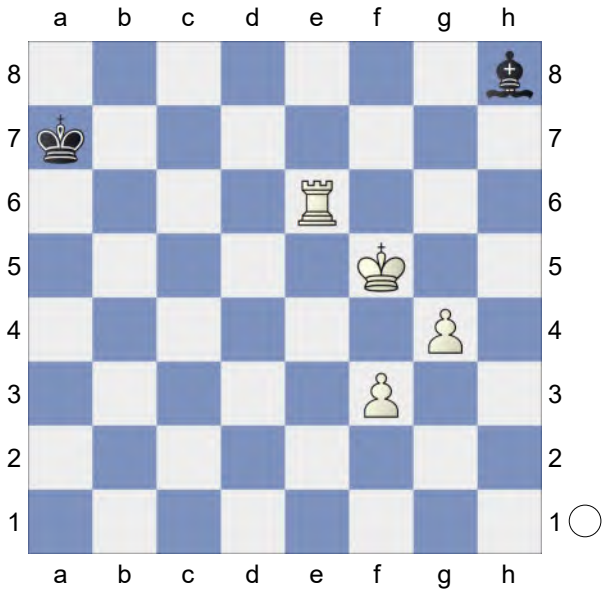
(Diagram)



KR-KB **61.Rc4+** 12.65/25
[⌓61.g5 #16/22 Bb2 62.f4 Bg7 63.f5 Bf8 64.f6 Kb6 65.g6 Bc5 66.g7]
61...Kb5 62.Rd4 14.69/22 **Ka5 63.Re4 Kb6 64.Ke3** 15.11/24
[⌓64.Re6+ #14/21 Kc7 65.f4 Kd7 66.f5 Bg7 67.g5 Bh8 68.Rh6 Be5 69.Ra6]
64...Ka6 65.Re5? 0.00/21 **Kb6?** #15/22
[65...Bxe5= 0.00/21 66.Ke4 Bh8]

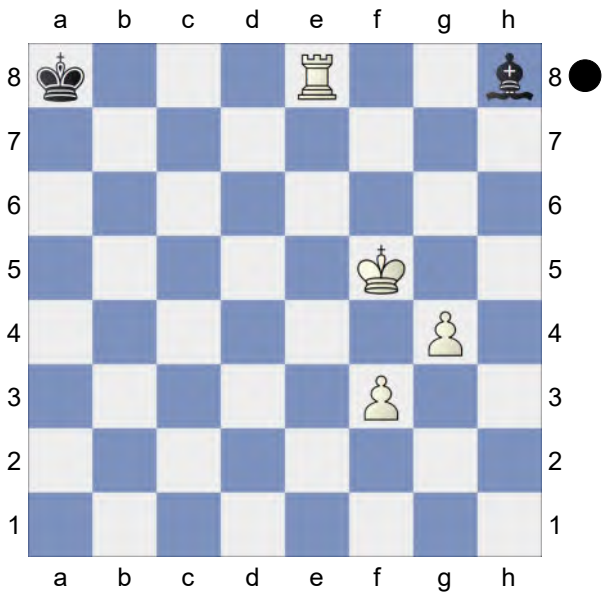


66.Re6+ Kb7 67.Ke4 Ka7 68.Kf5 Ka8
69.Re7 Kb8 70.Re6? -0.01/23
[70.Re8+ #10/22 Kb7 71.Rxh8 Kc6 72.g5 Kd5 73.g6 Kc5 74.g7 Kd6 75.g8Q]
70...Ka7? #14/22
[70...Ka8= -0.01/23 71.Re8+ Ka7 72.Rxh8 Kb6 73.g5 Kc5 74.g6 Kd5 75.g7 Kc6]



71.Re7+? 0.01/21
[71.f4 #14/22 mates Kb7 72.g5 Kc7 73.g6 Kd7 74.Ra6 Bd4 75.g7 Bxg7 76.Ra7+ Kc6 77.Rxg7]
71...Ka8? #10/22
[71...Kb8= 0.01/21 72.Re8+ Kb7 73.Rxh8 Kc6 74.g5 Kc7 75.g6 Kd6 76.g7 Kc6]
72.Re8+

(Diagram)

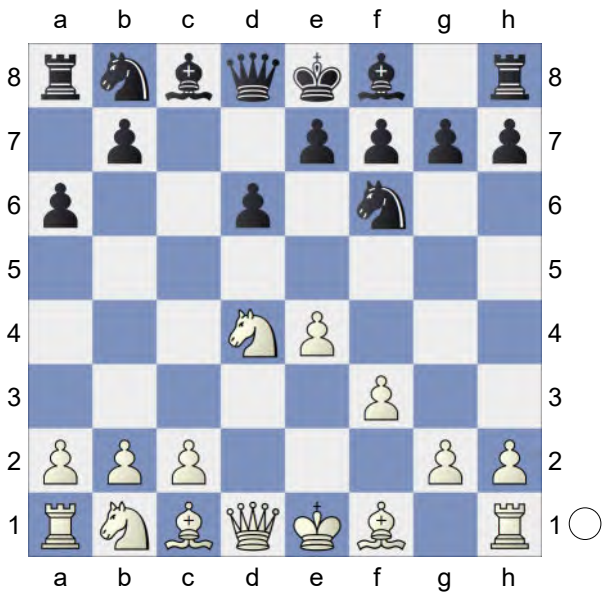


Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/ Black=0.73
1-0

77 **B54**
□ **Drawdenied Twitch** **2911**
■ **Kramnk2021** **2450**
Rapid 19.02.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6

(Diagram)



6.c4 e5N
[6...e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7
A) 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 *(14...Nfd7 15.b3 Nxb6 16.Rfc1 Re8 17.Nc2 Ned7 18.Bf1 Bf6 19.Bd4 Bg5 20.Be3 Bf6 21.Bd4 Bg5 22.Be3 Be7 23.Bd4 h5 24.Qf2 Bh4 25.g3 Bf6 26.Rd1 d5 27.exd5 exd5 28.Nxd5 Nxd5 29.cxd5* Flores Quillas,D (2200)-Lu, M (2442) Pereira 2022 1-0 (67)*)* 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13. ♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/ 244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson];
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 *(16...Bc7 17.Nde2 Kh8 18.Bd4 Bc6 19.Be3 Ne5 20.b3 h6 21.Nd4 Bb7 22.Be2 Ng6 23.Qg1 Rfe8 24.Nc2 d5 25.exd5 exd5 26.Bxb6 Bf4 27.Rb1 Nh5 28.Bf1 Re5 29.Ne2 Rxe2 30.Bxe2 Qe5 31.Bd3* Bezgodov,A (2546)-Alavkin,A (2471) Saint Petersburg

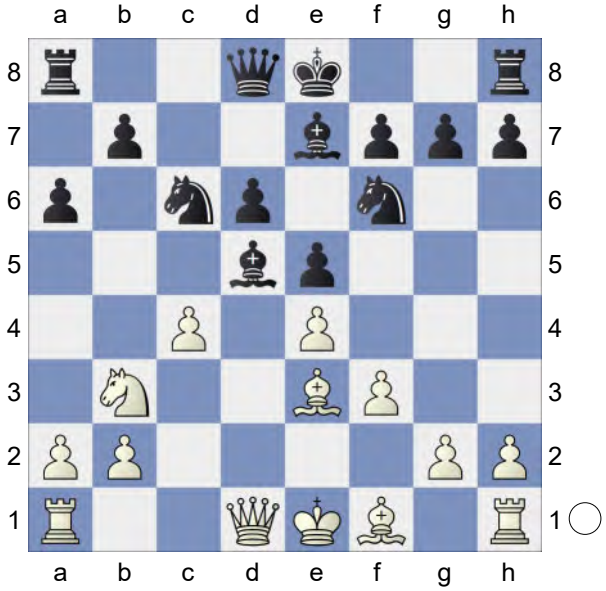
92/278 2004 CI1-130 [Bezgodov, Alexei] ½-½ (40)) 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Ba8 21.Rb1 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein, Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

7.Nb3 Be7

[7...Nxe4? 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2+-]

8.Nc3 Be6 White has an edge. **9.Be3 Nc6 10.Nd5 Bxd5** 0.94/20

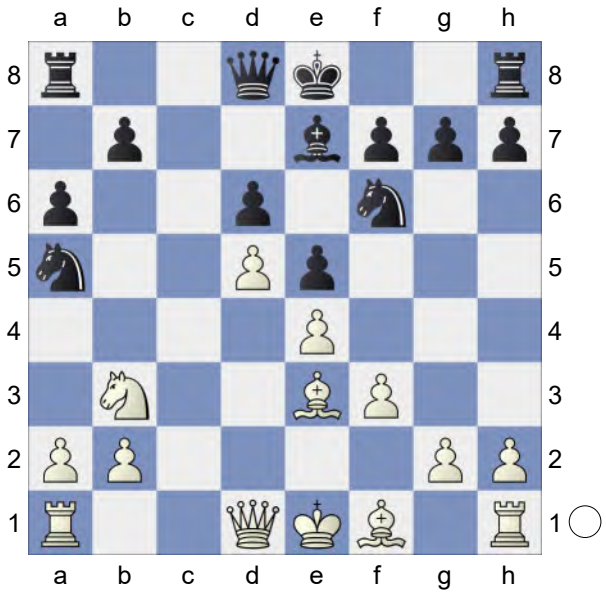
[10...Nd7± 0.45/19 should be considered.]



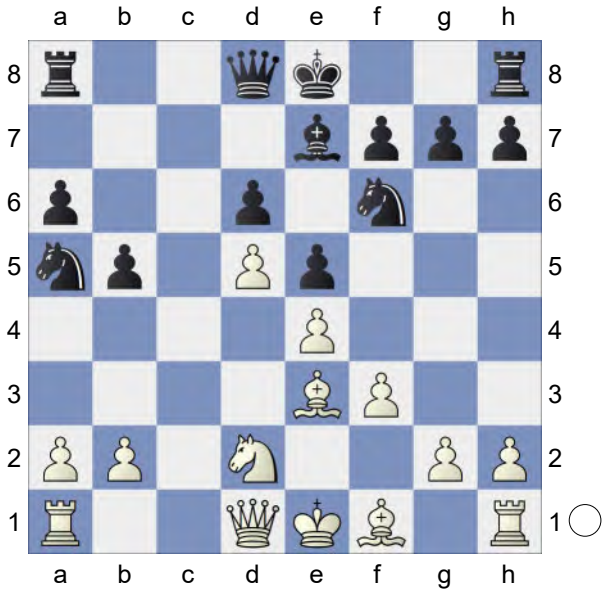
11.cxd5± Na5 1.65/21

[11...Nb8± 1.01/18 was necessary.]

(Diagram)

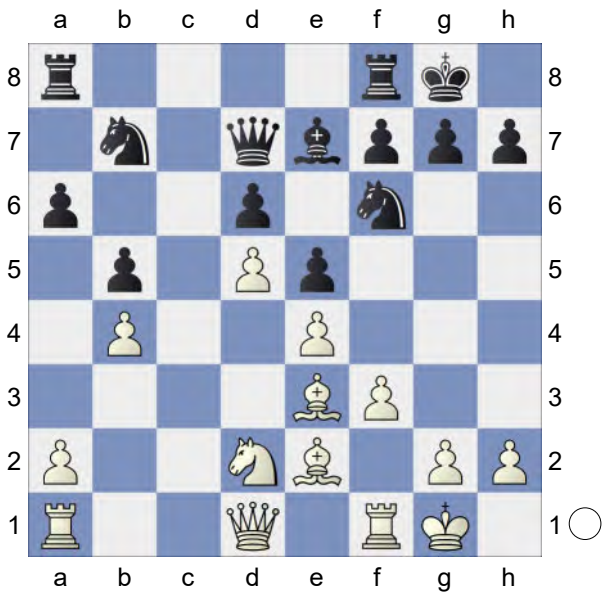


12.Nd2!+- b5

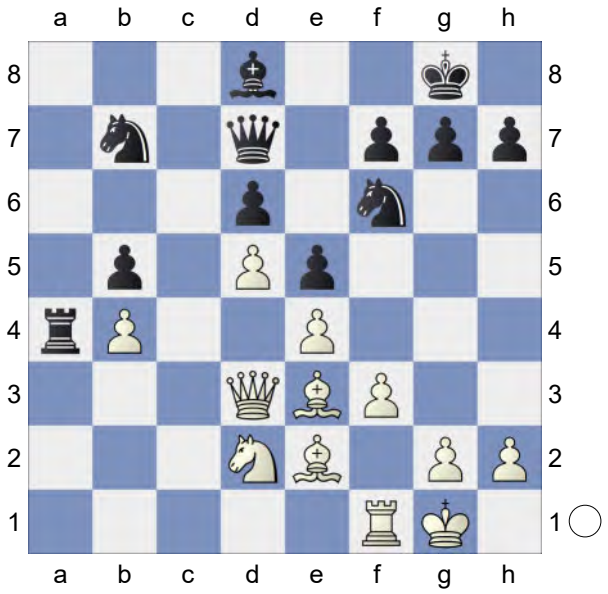


13.b4! Nb7 14.Be2 0-0 15.0-0 Qd7

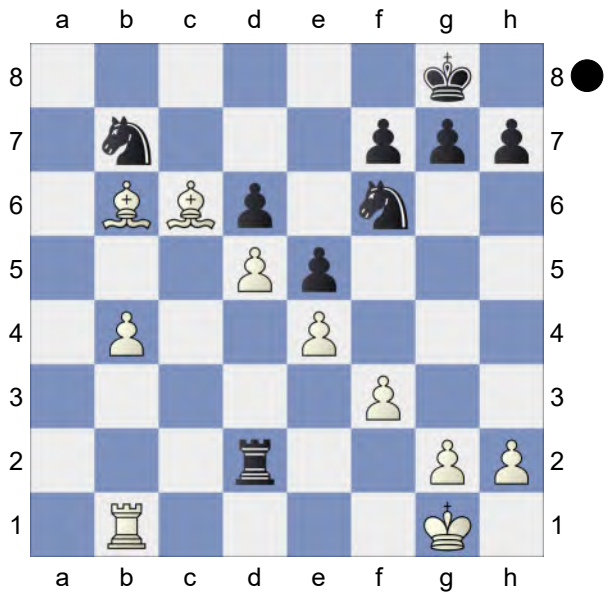
(Diagram)



16.a4 Rfc8 17.axb5 axb5 18.Qb3 Bd8 2.68/22
[18...Ne8± 1.42/20 might work better. 19.Ra3 Rxa3 20.Qxa3 Nd8]
19.Rxa8 Rxa8 20.Qd3 Ra4



21.Rb1
[Less strong is 21.Qxb5 Qxb5 22.Bxb5 Rxb4±]
21...Ra2 22.Qxb5 Qxb5 23.Bxb5 aiming for Bc6. **23...Bb6** 8.47/23
[⌓23...Be7 4.14/20 24.Bc6 Nd8]
24.Bxb6 Rxd2 25.Bc6
(Diagram)

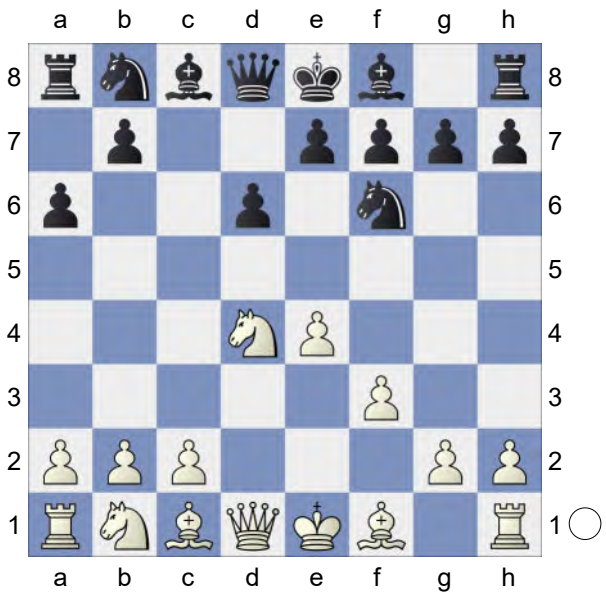


Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.34
1-0

78 **B54**
□ **Drawdenied Twitch** **2910**
■ **Kramnk2021** **2452**
Rapid 19.02.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6

(Diagram)



6.c4 e5N

[6...e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7

A) 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 *(14...Nfd7 15.b3 Nxb6 16.Rfc1 Re8 17.Nc2 Ned7 18.Bf1 Bf6 19.Bd4 Bg5 20.Be3 Bf6 21.Bd4 Bg5 22.Be3 Be7 23.Bd4 h5 24.Qf2 Bh4 25.g3 Bf6 26.Rd1 d5 27.exd5 exd5 28.Nxd5 Nxd5 29.cxd5* Flores Quillas,D (2200)-Lu,M (2442) Pereira 2022 1-0 (67)) 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13. ♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson];

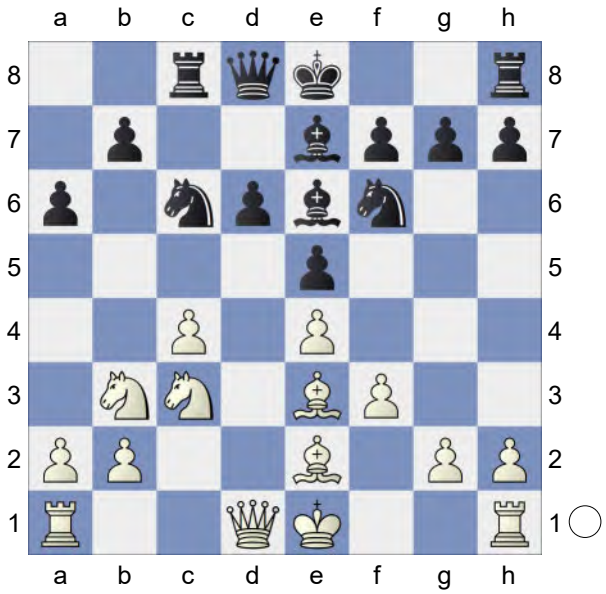
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 *(16...Bc7 17.Nde2 Kh8 18.Bd4 Bc6 19.Be3 Ne5 20.b3 h6 21.Nd4 Bb7 22.Be2 Ng6 23.Qg1 Rfe8 24.Nc2 d5 25.exd5 exd5 26.Bxb6 Bf4 27.Rb1 Nh5 28.Bf1 Re5 29.Ne2 Rxe2 30.Bxe2 Qe5 31.Bd3* Bezgodov,A (2546)-Alavkin,A (2471) Saint Petersburg 92/278 2004 CI1-130 [Bezgodov, Alexei] ½-½ (40)) 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Ba8 21.Rb1 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein, Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

7.Nb3 Be7

[7...Nxe4? 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2+-]

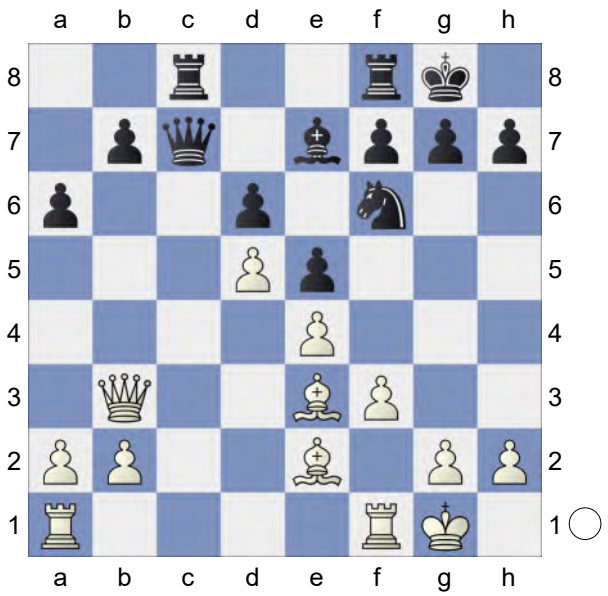
8.Nc3 Be6 White has an edge. **9.Be3 Nc6 10.Be2 Rc8** 0.66/18

[⌓10...a5 0.32/18]

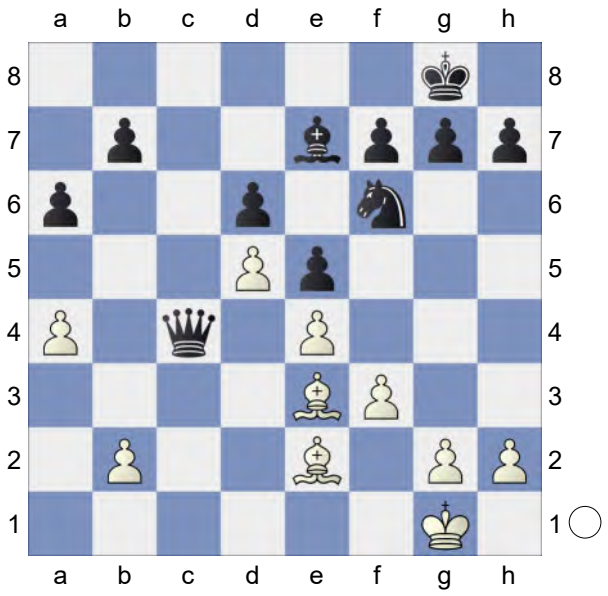


11.0-0 Na5 12.Nxa5 Qxa5 13.Nd5 Bxd5 14.cxd5 Hoping for Qb3. **14...0-0 15.Qb3 Qc7**

(Diagram)



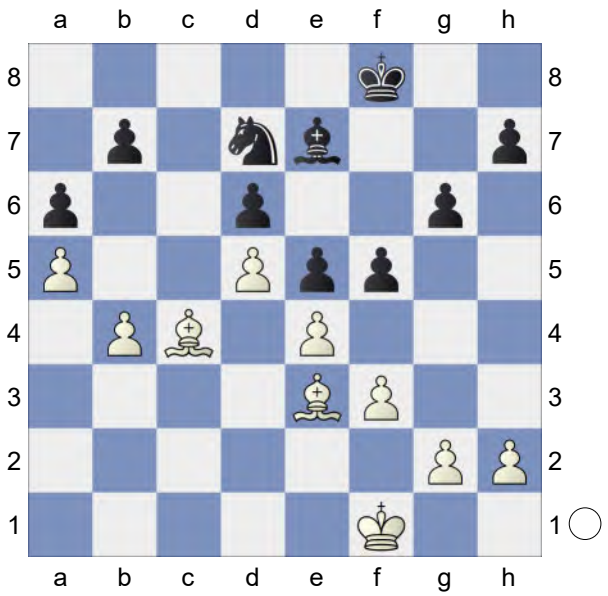
16.Rfc1 &Bianco is more active. **16...Qd7 17.a4 Rxc1+ 18.Rxc1 Rc8 19.Rxc8+ Qxc8 20.Qc4 Qxc4**



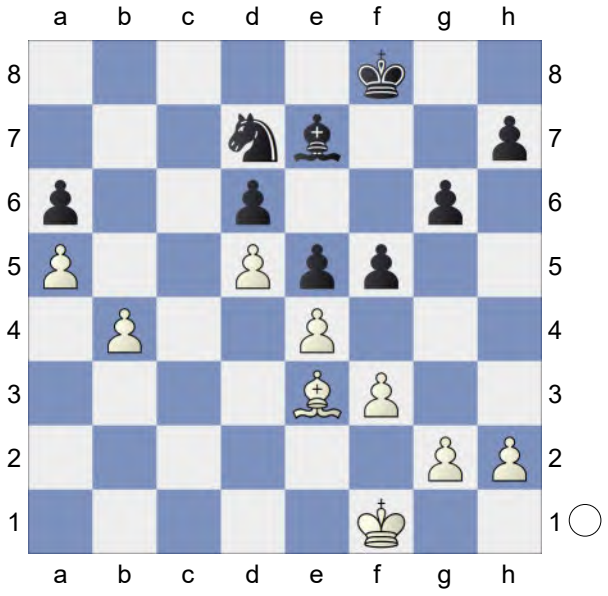
21.Bxc4± Endgame KBB-KBN **21...Nd7 22.b4 Kf8 23.a5 g6 24.Kf1 f5?** 6.09/23

[24...Ke8± 1.16/20]

(Diagram)



This costs Black the game. **25.Bxa6!+- bxa6**



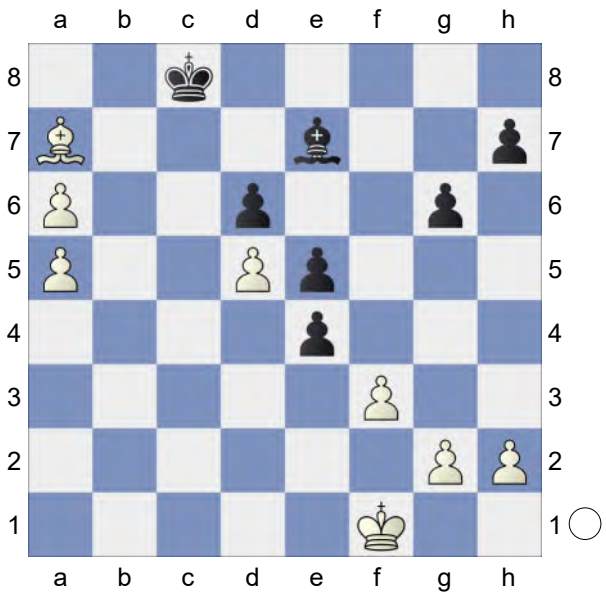
26.b5! Nb8 7.75/23

[26...axb5? 27.a6+-]

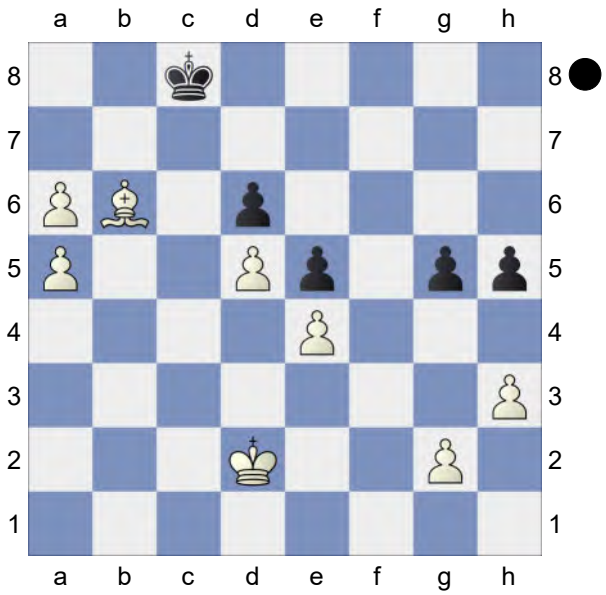
[26...Bg5 3.54/23 27.Bf2 Nb8]

27.Ba7 Ke8 28.Bxb8 KB-KB **28...Kd8 29.bxa6 Kc8 30.Ba7 fxe4**

(Diagram)



31.fxe4 Bg5 32.Bb6 Bd2 33.h3 h5 34.Ke2 g5 35.Kxd2



Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.84

1-0

79 **B54**

□ **Drawdenied Twitch** **2905**

■ **Rousseau12** **2419**

Rapid 13.01.2022

[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 10min

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

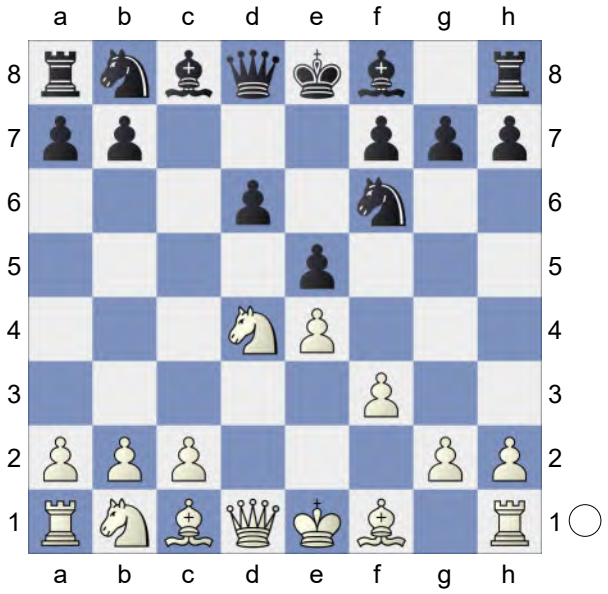
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

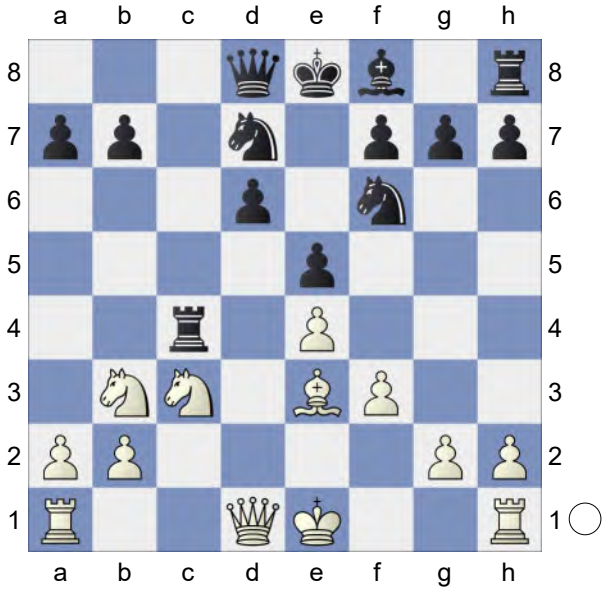
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060

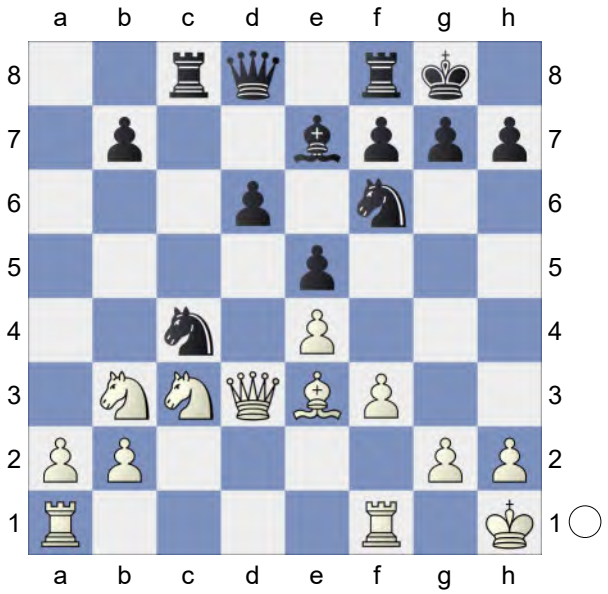
[Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



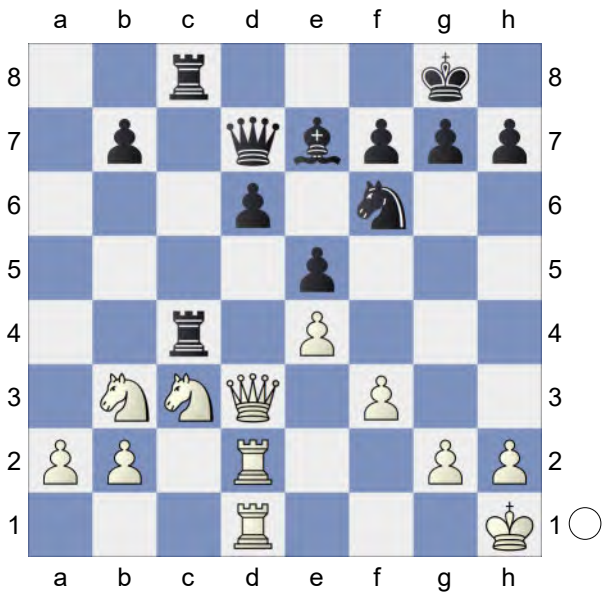
6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 Nbd7
[Don't do 7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]
8.Be3 Rc8 9.Nc3 Bxc4 10.Bxc4 Rxc4



11.Qd3 Rc8 12.Bxa7 Be7 0.63/21
[12...d5= 0.30/20]
13.Be3 0.28/20 &Bianco is more active.
[13.Bf2± 0.63/21]
13...0-0= 14.0-0 Nb6! 15.Kh1 Nc4
(Diagram)

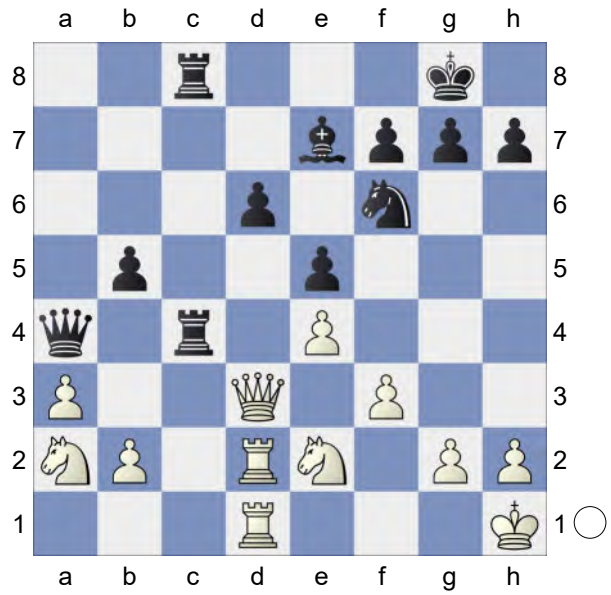


16.Rf2 Nxe3 -0.13/21
[16...d5∓ -0.50/21 17.Nxd5 *(17.exd5 Nxe3 18.Qxe3 Nxd5=)* 17...Nxd5 18.exd5 Nxe3 19.Qxe3 Qxd5]
17.Qxe3 Qd7 0.12/19
[17...d5∓ -0.39/18 18.Nxd5 *(18.exd5 Nxd5 19.Nxd5 Qxd5∓)* 18...Nxd5 19.exd5 Qxd5]
18.Rd1 Rc7 19.Rfd2 Rfc8 20.Qd3 -0.12/17
[⌓20.Na1 0.30/18]
20...Rc4



21.a3 Qc7 22.Nc1 Qa5 23.N1e2 b5

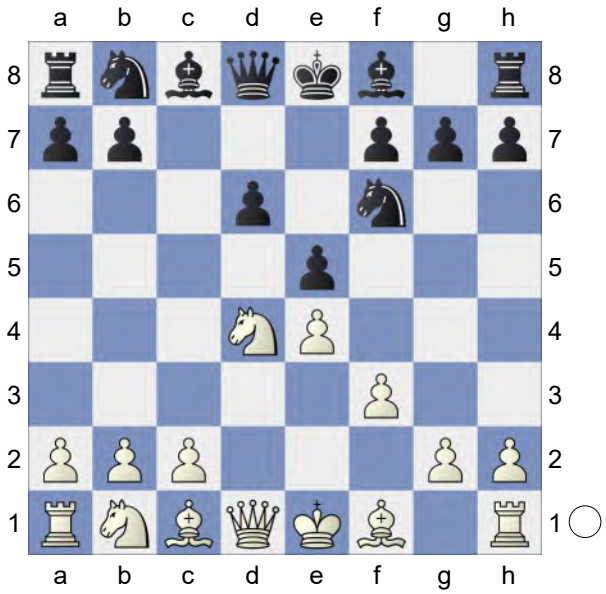
24.Na2 Qa4? 4.10/19
[24...g6= 0.17/18]



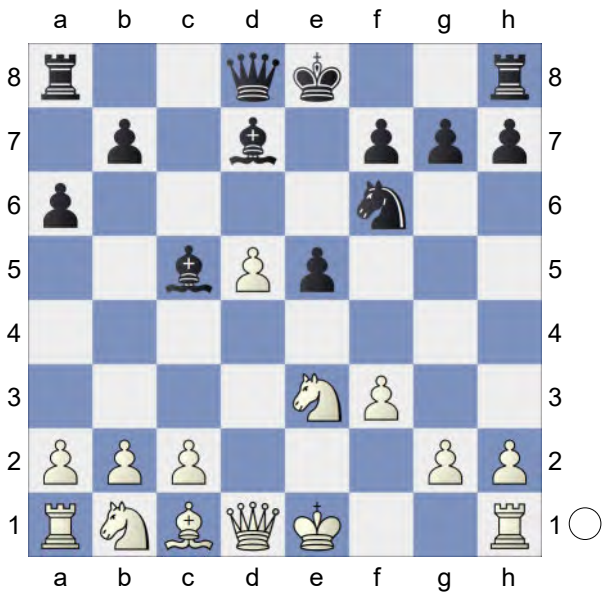
Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.15 (very precise)
1-0

80 **B55**
□ **Tr1Pl3Fire** **2903**
■ **Mnedobora** **2697**
Blitz 19.09.2021
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

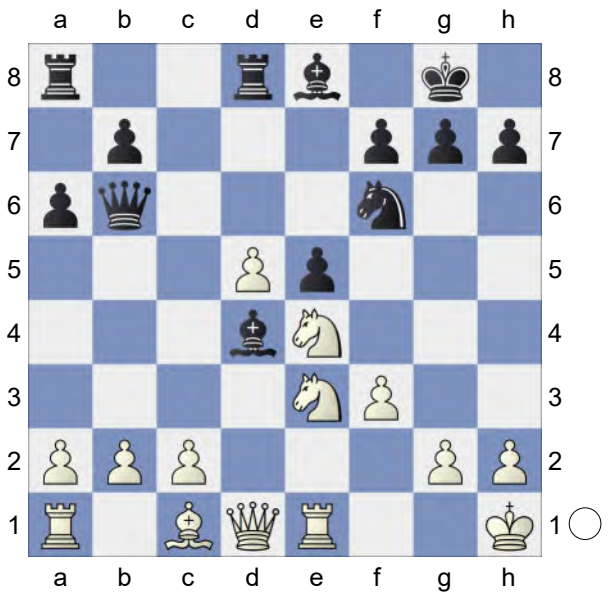


6.Bb5+ Nbd7 7.Nf5 d5 8.exd5 White wants to play Qe2. **8...a6 9.Bxd7+ Bxd7 10.Ne3 Bc5**

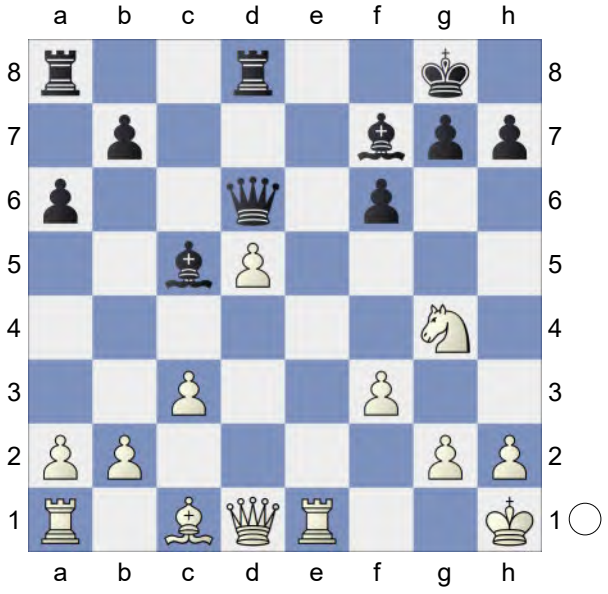


Black has compensation. The position is equal. **11.0-0 Qb6** 0.09/20
[⩲11...Bb5 -0.24/20 12.Rf2 Bxe3 13.Bxe3 Nxd5]
12.Re1!= 0-0 13.Nc3 -0.51/20
Against e4
[13.Kh1= -0.03/19]
13...Bd4 0.21/19
[13...e4∓ -0.51/20]
14.Kh1 Rfd8 0.53/19
[14...Nh5= 0.08/18 should be considered.]
15.Ne4!± Be8 1.15/20
[15...Rac8± 0.54/17]

(Diagram)

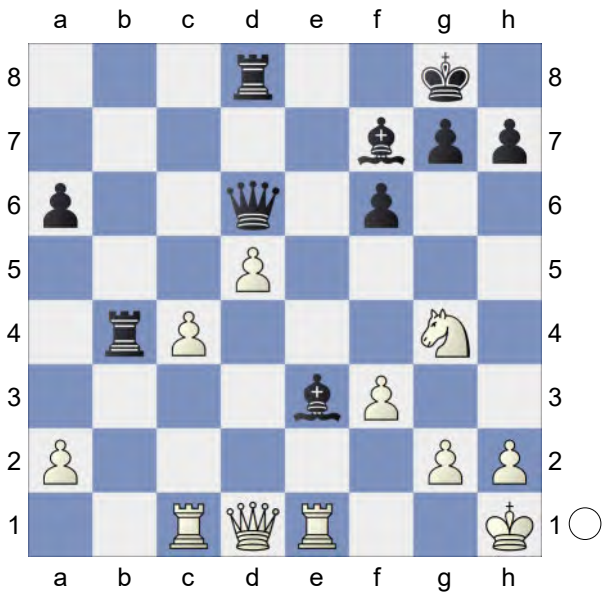


16.c3± Bc5 17.Nxf6+ 0.84/19
[White should try 17.Nxc5 1.45/19 Qxc5 18.c4]
17...Qxf6 18.Ng4 Qd6 19.Rxe5 f6
20.Re1 b4 is the strong threat. **20...Bf7**

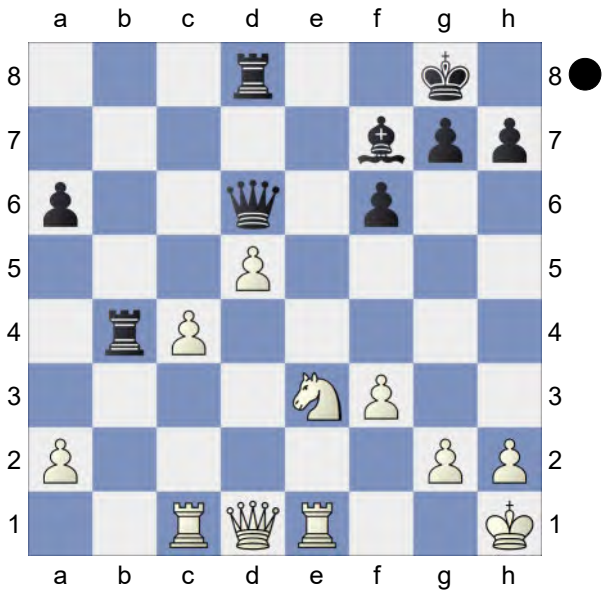


21.c4 b5 22.b3! bxc4 23.bxc4 Rab8 1.46/17
[23...Rac8± 0.69/20]
24.Be3 Rb4 2.09/19
[24...Bb4± 1.24/18]
25.Rc1 Bxe3

(Diagram)

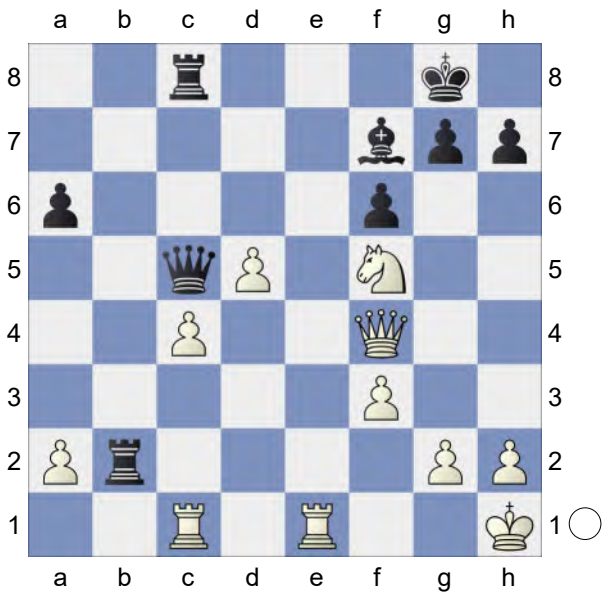


26.Nxe3
[Much less strong is 26.Rxe3 Qc5]



And now c5 would win. **26...Qc5 27.Qd2 Rdb8 28.Nf5 Rb2?** 3.64/20
[28...Rxc4 1.75/19 was necessary. 29.Rxc4 Qxc4]
29.Qf4 Rc8? 10.28/20
[29...Kf8 3.14/18 30.Qg4 g6]

(Diagram)



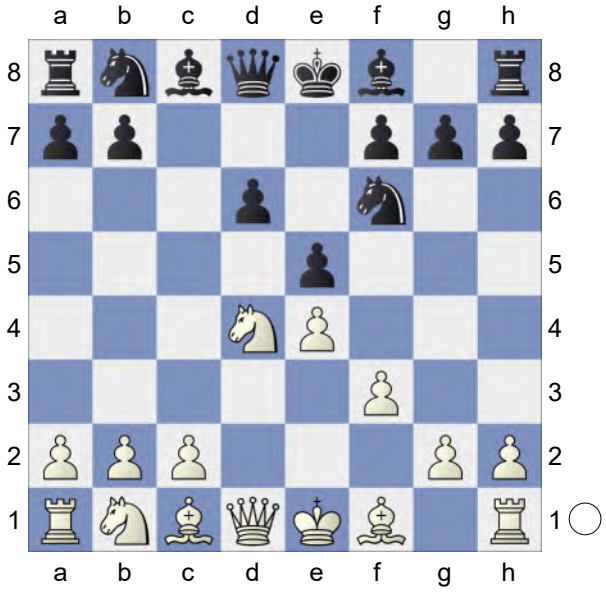
Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.37
1-0

81 **B54**
□ **Saysomething12** **2903**
■ **Merci Mon Ami** **2870**
Blitz 06.03.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4*

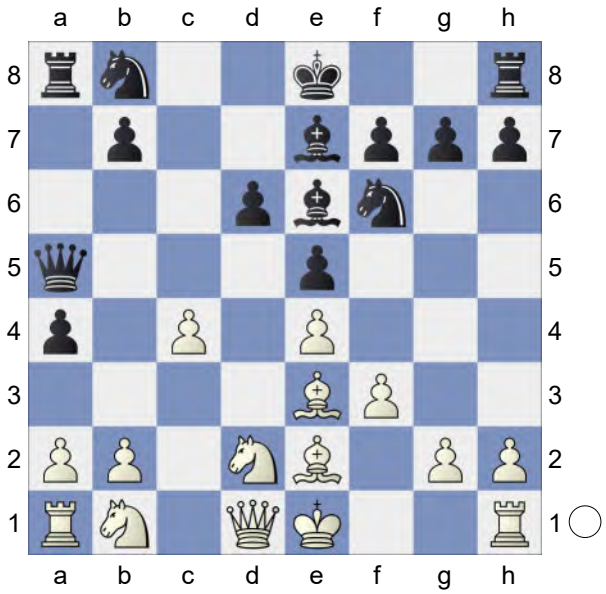
16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 Be7 7.c4 a5 8.Be3 a4 9.N3d2 Be6 10.Be2 The position is equal. **10...Qa5**

(Diagram)



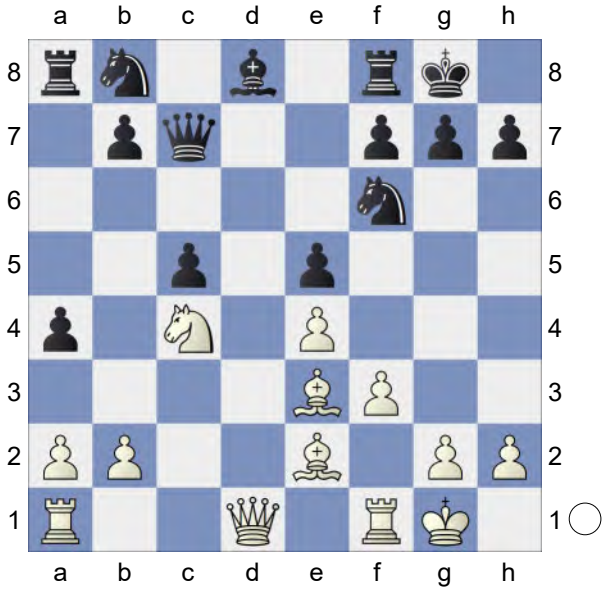
11.0-0 Bd8 12.c5 -0.32/18 Prevents Bb6.

[12.Nc3= 0.23/19]

12...dxc5 0.02/20

[12...d5∓ -0.32/18]

13.Na3= 0-0 14.Ndc4 Bxc4 15.Nxc4 Qc7

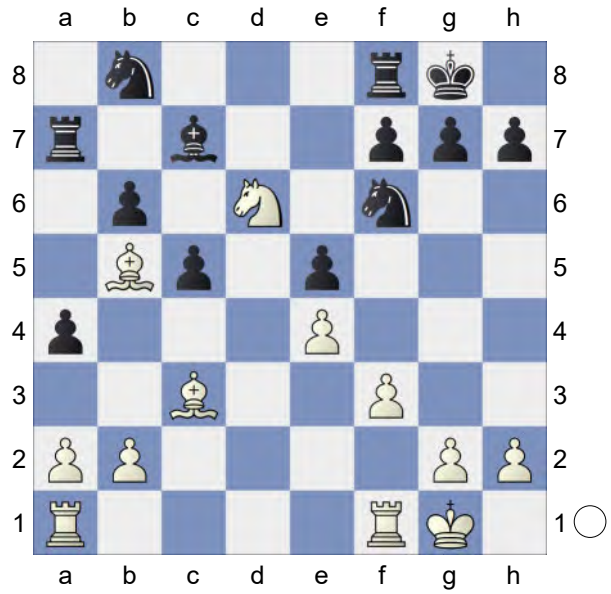


16.Qd6 Qxd6 17.Nxd6 b6 18.Bb5 Prevents Nc6. White has compensation. **18...Ra5** 0.98/20

[18...Bc7± 0.67/20 19.Nc4 Nbd7]

19.Bd2± &Bianco is much more active. A strong pair of Bishops. **19...Ra7**

20.Bc3 Bc7

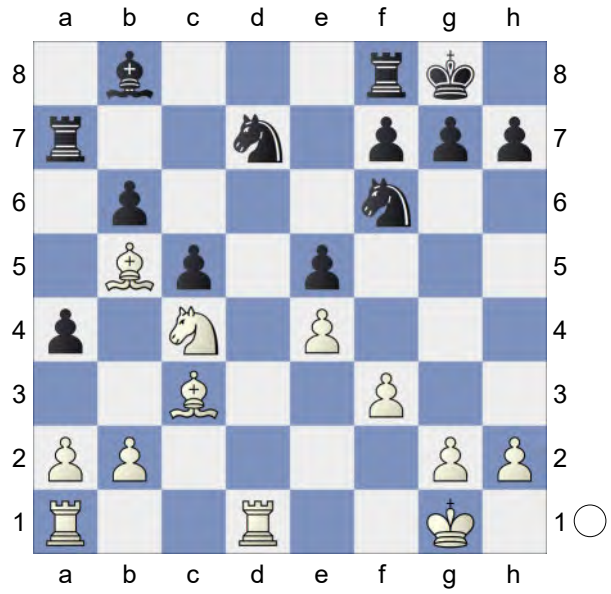


21.Rfd1

[21.Bxe5 Nfd7 22.Bg3 Bxd6 23.Bxd6 Rc8±]

21...Nbd7 22.Nc4 Bb8? 3.36/24

[22...Nb8 1.68/22 23.Rd2 *(23.Nxe5 Bxe5 24.Bxe5 Rc8+-)* 23...Ne8]



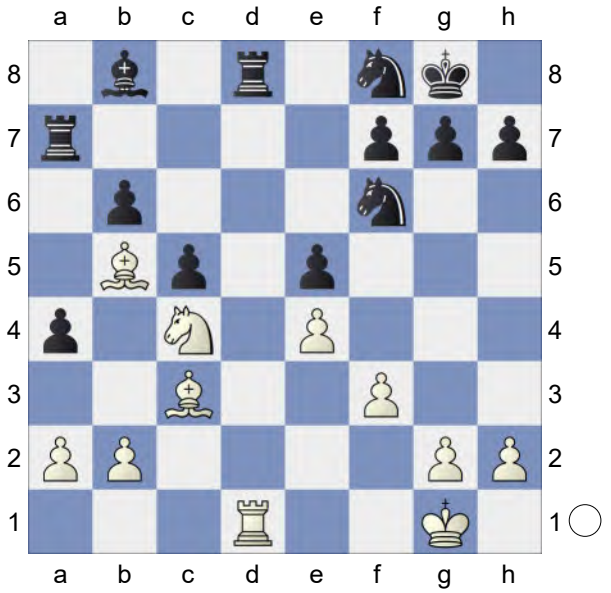
23.Rd3 Rc8 4.16/23

[23...Re8 2.92/22 is a better defense. 24.Nxb6 Rb7]

24.Rad1+- Nf8 25.Rd8

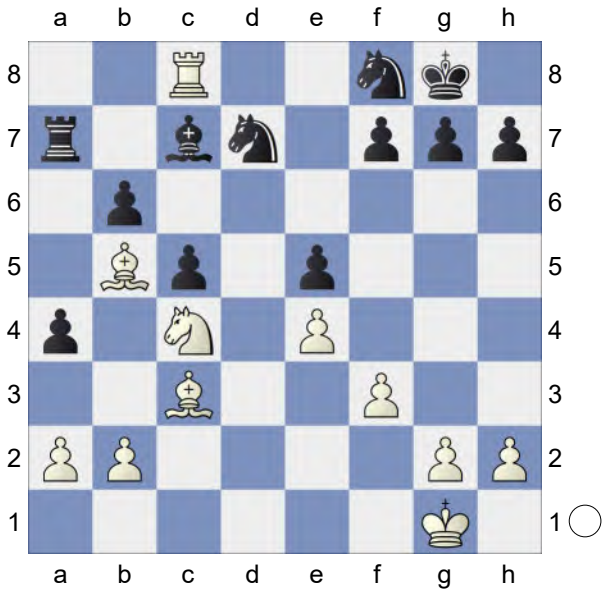
[Don't play 25.Nxb6 Rcc7 26.Nc4 *(26.Bxa4 Rcb7∓)* 26...Re7+-]

25...Rxd8



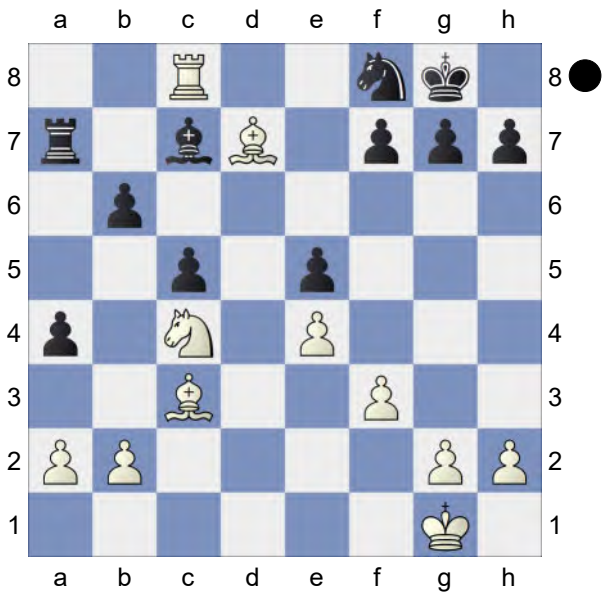
26.Rxd8 Bc7 27.Rc8 N6d7? 7.68/23

[27...g6 3.45/21 28.Rxc7 *(28.Bxe5 Bxe5 29.Nxe5 Kg7±)* 28...Rxc7]



28.Bxd7

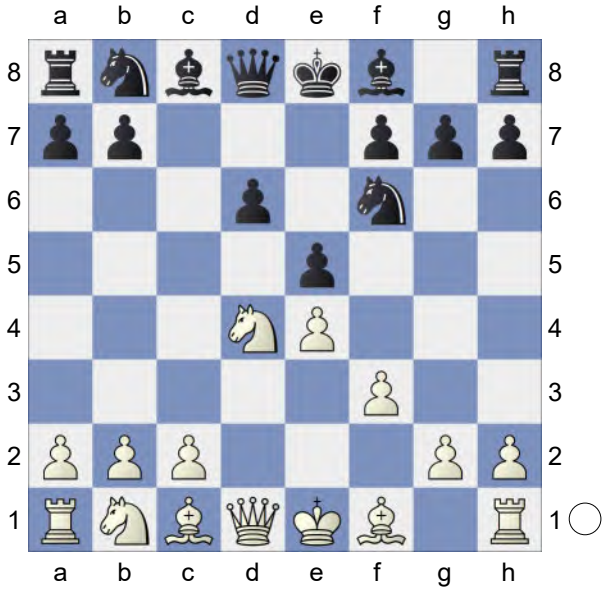
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.24 (precise)
1-0

82 **B55**
□ **Odinokij Pastyx** **2902**
■ **Mindprison** **2964**
Blitz 01.04.2022
[Kitty Kat]

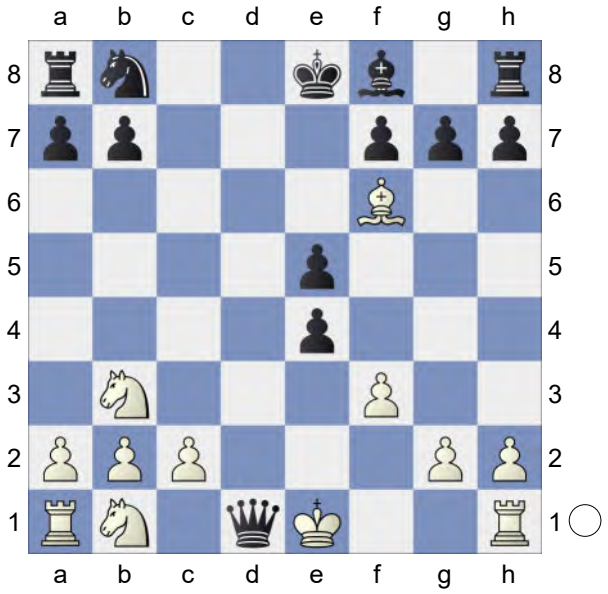
Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.Nb3 d5 9.Bg5 dxe4
[9...d4 feels hotter. 10.c3 Nc6 11.0-0 h6]
10.Bxf6 The position is equal.
[10.N1d2 is interesting. exf3 11.Qxf3

Qc6 12.0-0-0]

10...Qxd1+



11.Kxd1 gxf6 12.fxe4 Nc6 13.Rf1

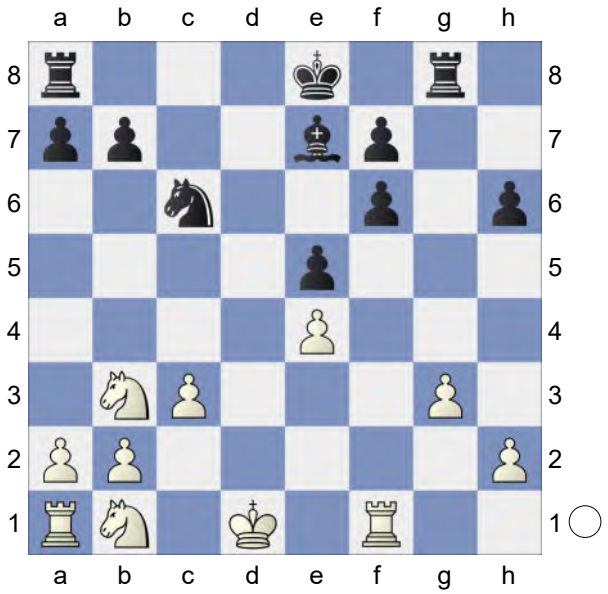
[13.Ke2 with more complications. Rc8 14.Rf1 Rg8 15.g3]

13...Rg8 14.g3 Be7 15.c3 -0.46/20

[15.Nc3= 0.01/18]

15...h6 0.00/19

[15...h5∓ -0.46/20 is more appropriate.]



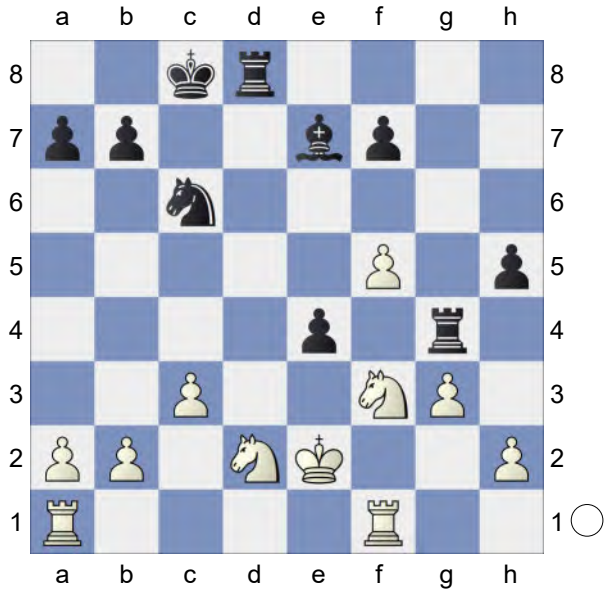
16.N1d2 0-0-0 0.44/21

[16...h5= -0.10/18]

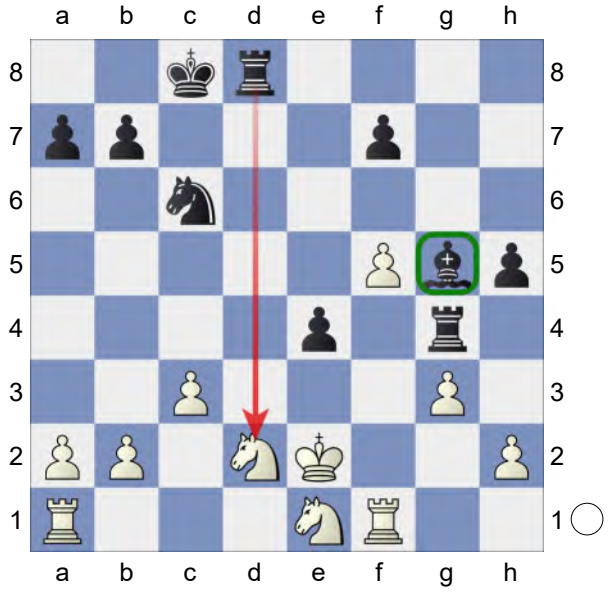
17.Ke2 0.05/20

[17.Rf5± 0.44/21]

17...h5!= 18.Nf3 Rg4 19.Nbd2 f5 20.exf5 e4



21.Ne1 Bg5!



22.Rd1 And now Nc4 would win.

22...h4⇄ Black is not holding back

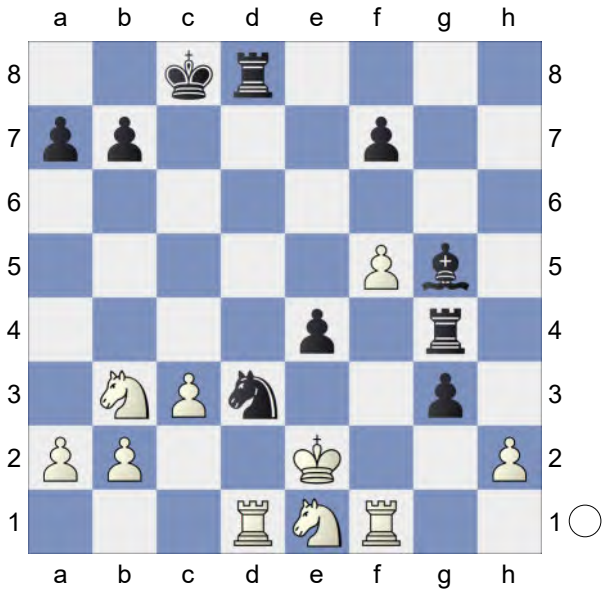
23.Ng2 aiming for Nc4. **23...Ne5** Inhibits Nc4.

[23...hxg3? 24.h3 Rxd2+ 25.Rxd2 Bxd2 26.hxg4+-]

24.Nb3 -0.77/21

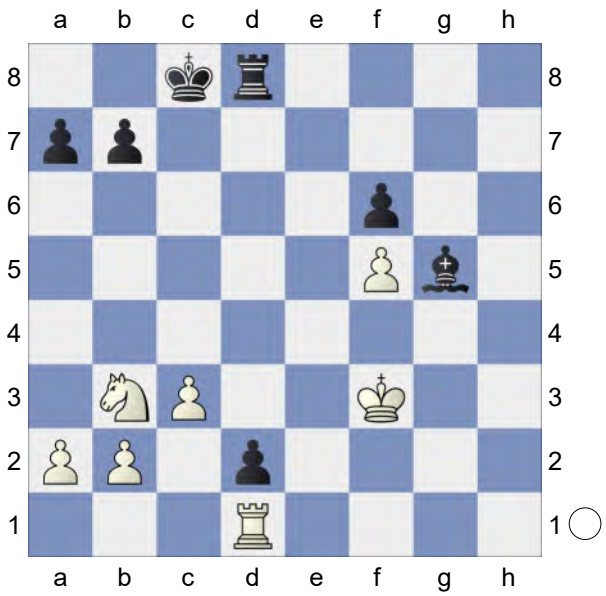
[24.Nf4= 0.00/21]

24...Nd3∓ &Nero is more active.
[24...hxg3? 25.h3 Rxd1 26.Rxd1+-]
[24...Rh8 looks sharper. 25.Nxh4 Bxh4 26.gxh4 Rhxh4 27.Nc5 Rxh2+ 28.Rf2 Rhh4]
25.Ne1 -1.93/23
[25.Nxh4∓ -0.81/19 might work better. Bxh4 26.gxh4]
25...hxg3-+

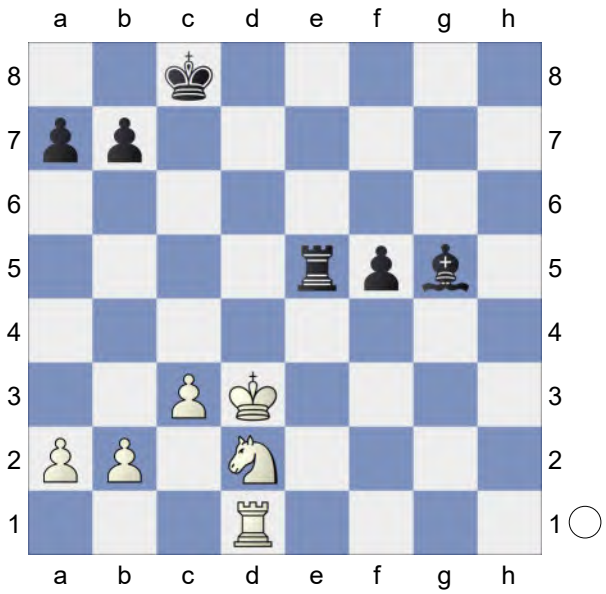


26.hxg3 Rxg3 -1.28/20
[26...Nxb2-+ -1.82/22 27.Rxd8+ Kxd8]
27.Nxd3∓ Rgxd3 -0.39/19
[27...Rdxd3∓ -1.16/21 28.Rxd3 exd3+ 29.Kf2 Rh3]
28.Rxd3∓ exd3+-+ Endgame KRB-KRN **29.Kf3 d2 30.Rd1 f6**

(Diagram)

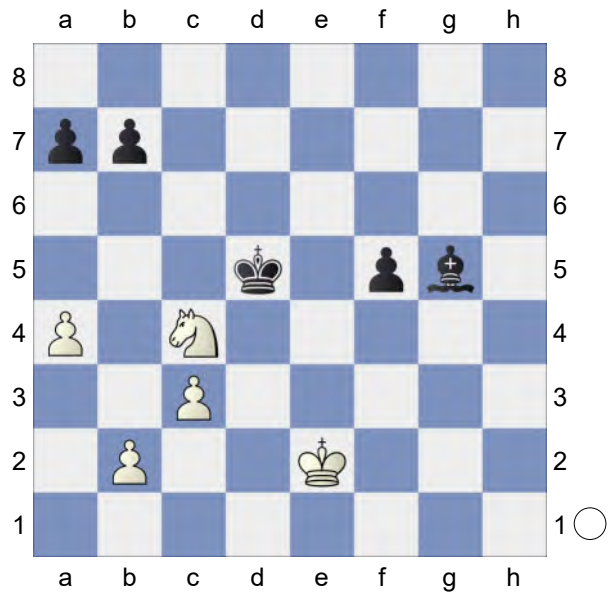


31.Ke2 Rd5 32.Nxd2 Re5+ 0.01/21
[Black should play 32...Bxd2∓ -0.65/19 33.Rxd2 Rxf5]
33.Kf3 Rxf5+ 34.Ke4 Re5+ 35.Kd3 f5

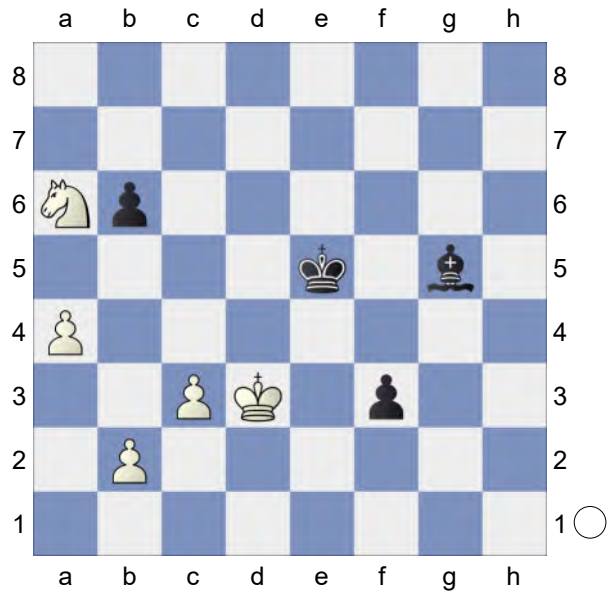


36.Nc4 Rd5+ 37.Ke2 Rxd1 38.Kxd1= KB-KN **38...Kd7** Inhibits Nd6. **39.a4 Ke6 40.Ke2 Kd5**

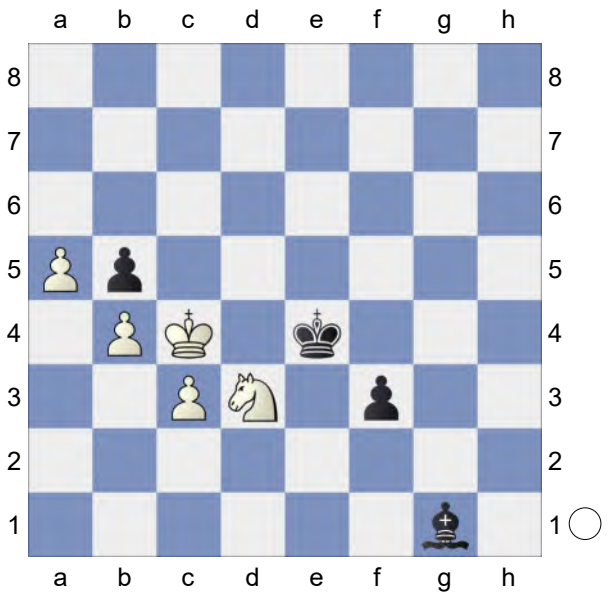
(Diagram)



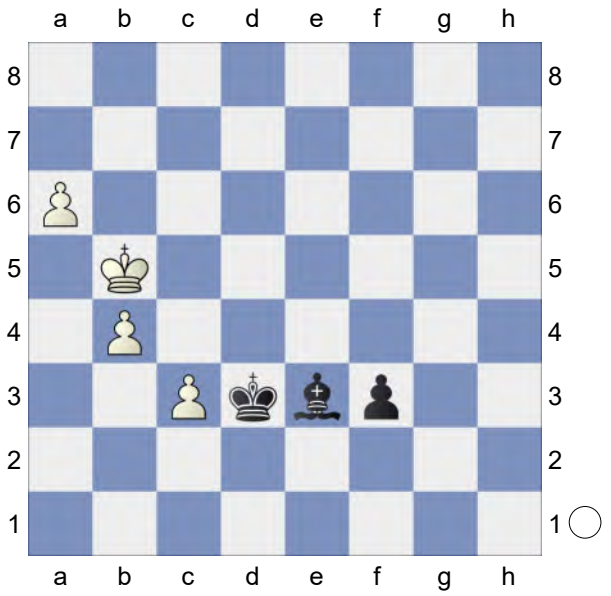
41.Kd3 b6 42.Na3 a6 43.Nc2 Ke5 44.Nb4 f4 45.Nxa6 f3



46.Nb4 -0.35/27
[46.Nc7= 0.00/25]
46...Kf4!∓ Black has compensation.
47.Kc4? -13.32/22 Loses the game.
[Not 47.Nd5+? Kg3 48.Kc4 f2-+]
[47.Kd2= -0.30/26]
47...Ke4-+ 48.Nd3 Be3 49.b4 Bg1
[Inferior is 49...f2 50.Nxf2+ Bxf2 51.a5 bxa5 52.bxa5=]
50.a5 b5+
(Diagram)



Deflection. Black mates. **51.Kxb5 Kxd3 52.a6 Be3**



Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/ Black=0.12 (very precise)
0-1

83 **B54**
□ **Drkingspawnstein** **2902**
■ **Kivurawnuru** **2820**
Blitz 02.04.2023
[Kitty Kat]

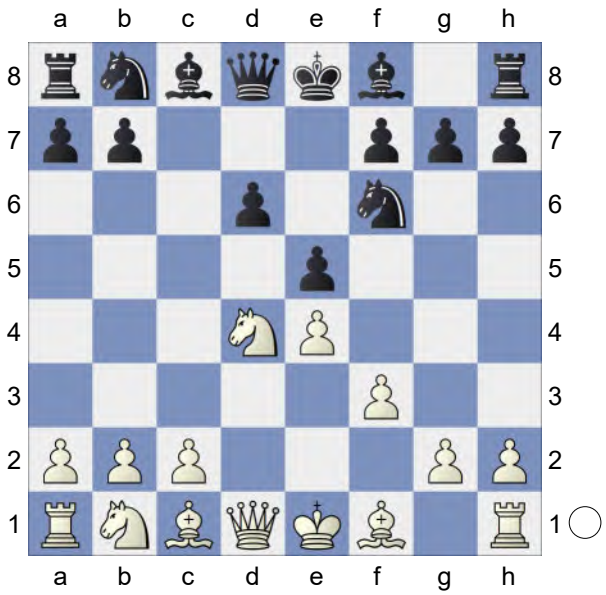
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

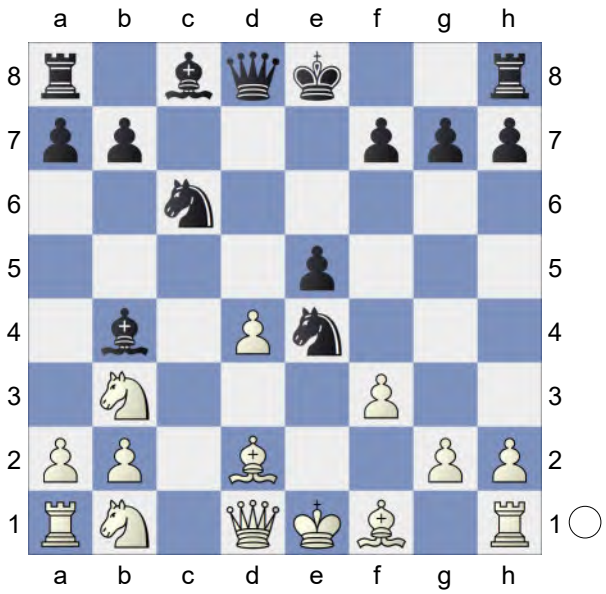
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.cxd4 Bb4+ 10.Bd2 Nxe4



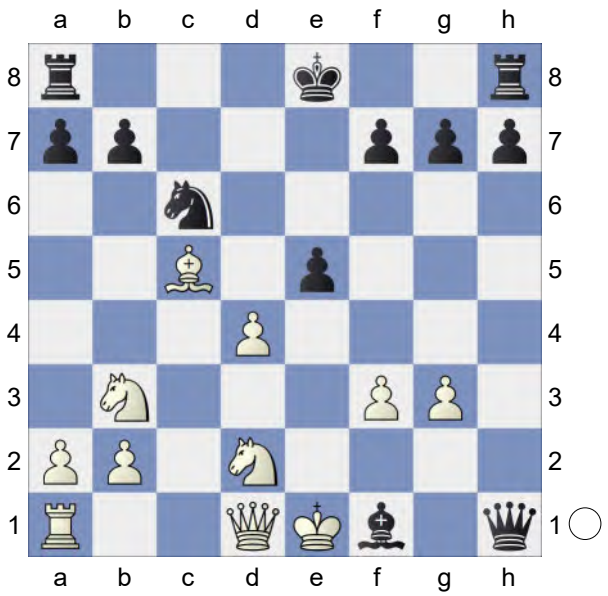
11.Bxb4 Qh4+! 12.g3 Nxg3 13.hxg3 Qxh1 14.Bc5 And now d5 would win.

14...Bh3 0.44/21

[14...b6= 0.01/22 might be stronger. 15.Ba3 Bb7]

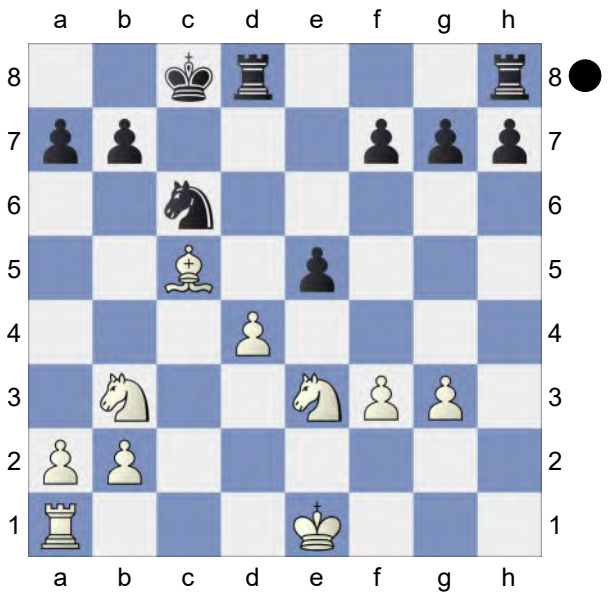
15.N1d2± Bxf1

(Diagram)

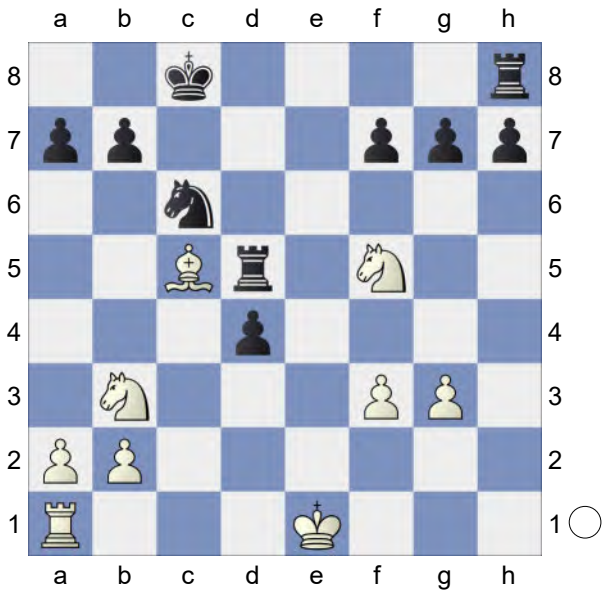


16.Nxf1 Hoping for d5. **16...0-0-0** **17.Qe2** -0.51/21
[17.d5± 0.86/20]
17...Qh6 0.92/19
[17...Rhe8 18.d5 e4 19.f4 *(19.dxc6? exf3 20.cxb7+ Kxb7-+)* 19...Rxd5 20.Bxa7=]
[17...exd4∓ -0.51/21 stays ahead. 18.0-0-0 Qh6+ 19.Kb1 Qg6+ 20.Ka1 d3]
18.Qe3 -0.46/19
[18.Qc4± 0.92/19 exd4 19.Nxd4 *(19.Bxd4 Kb8±; 19.Qxf7 b6=)*]
18...Qxe3+∓ 19.Nxe3

(Diagram)

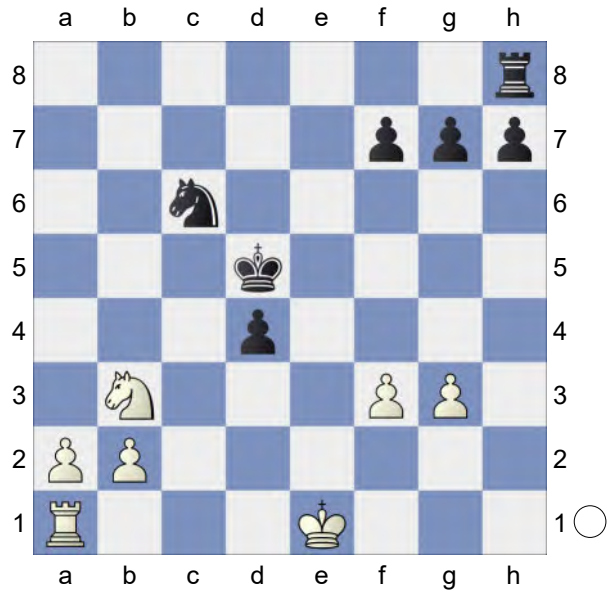


aiming for d5. **19...exd4** **20.Nf5** -0.68/22
[20.Nc4= -0.01/22]
20...Rd5!

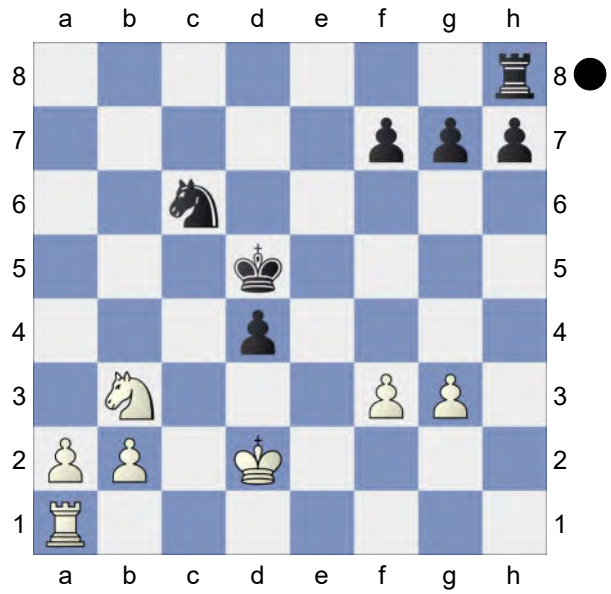


21.Nd6+ **Kd7!** White must now prevent ...b6. **22.Nc4** -1.46/22
[⌓22.Ne4 -1.05/22]
22...b6∓ 23.Bxb6 **axb6** -0.16/21
[23...Ne5∓ -1.20/22 ...Rc8 is the strong threat. 24.Bxa7 *(24.Nc5+? Ke7-+)* 24...Nxc4 25.Bxd4 f6]
24.Nxb6+= **Kd6** -0.55/20
[24...Ke6= -0.11/22 is superior. 25.Nxd5 Kxd5]

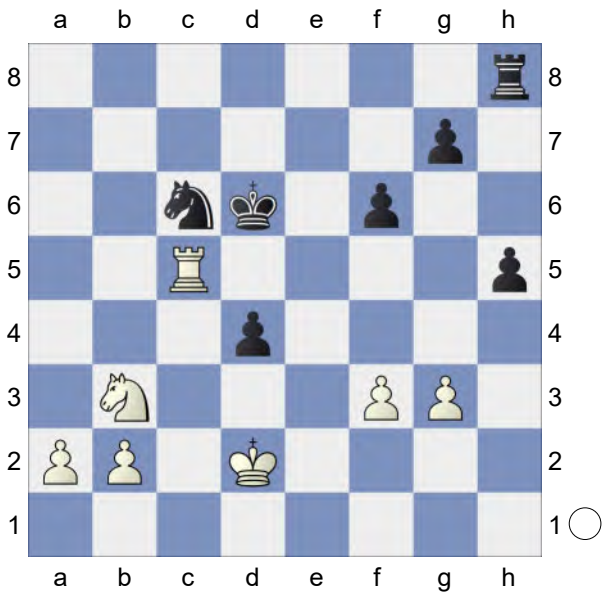
25.Nxd5∓ Kxd5



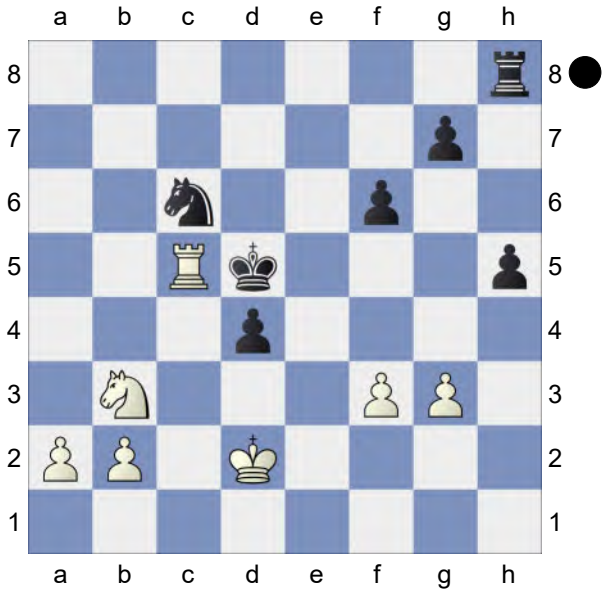
Endgame KRN-KRN **26.Kd2** -1.20/21
[Better is 26.Rc1∓ -0.39/20]



26...h5 -0.54/22
[Black should play 26...Ne5!∓ -1.20/21
27.Ke2 Re8]
27.Rc1 f6 -0.01/25
[27...h4!∓ -0.46/22 feels stronger.
28.gxh4 Rxh4 29.Rc5+ Kd6]
28.Rc5+ The position is equal. **28...Kd6**
29.Rc4 Kd5 30.Rc5+ Kd6
(Diagram)



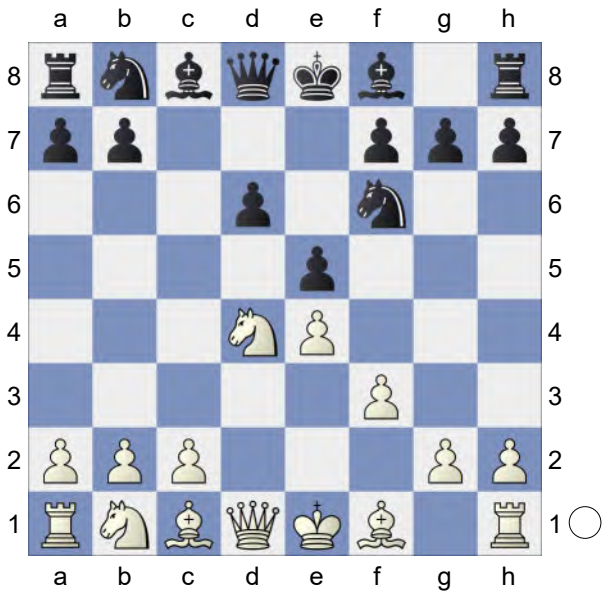
31.Rc4 Kd5 32.Rc5+



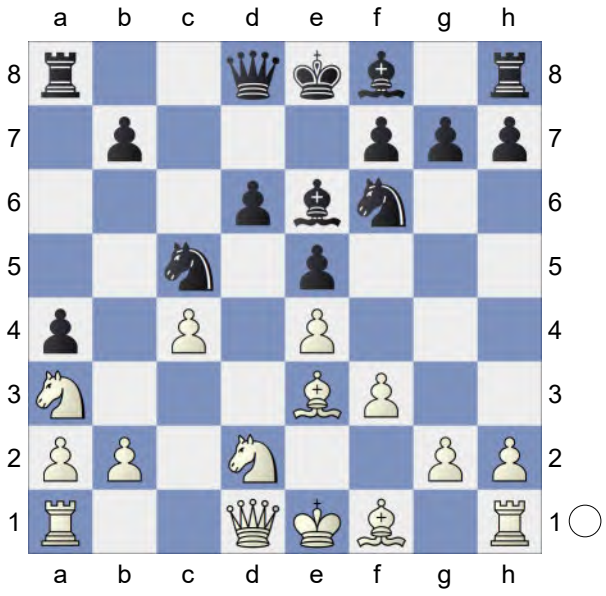
Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.13 (very precise)
½-½

84 **B54**
□ **Zubov,Alexander** **2892**
■ **Titledwolf** **2728**
Blitz 20.11.2019
[Kitty Kat]

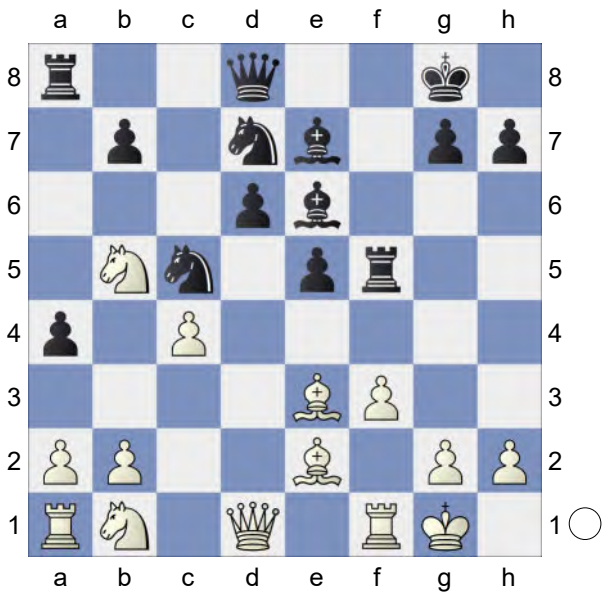
Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 a5
[7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]
8.Be3 a4 9.N3d2 Nbd7 The position is equal. **10.Na3 Nc5**



11.Be2 Be7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Nb5 Nfd7 14.Nb1 f5 1.06/20
[14...Qa5± 0.52/16]
15.exf5±
[15.Nxd6?! fxe4 16.Nc3 exf3 17.Bxf3 *(17.Rxf3 Qb6=)* 17...Qb8=]
15...Rxf5



16.Nxd6 Rh5 17.Nc3 Bxd6 18.Qxd6 0.01/23

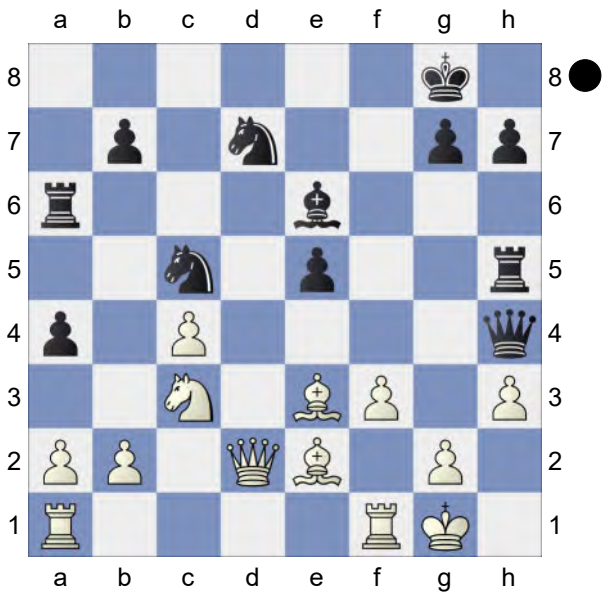
[18.f4± 1.07/19]

18...Ra6= 19.Qd2

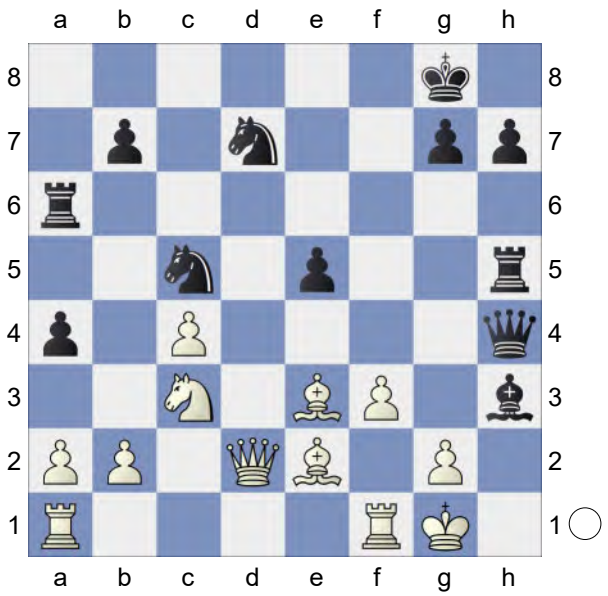
[Wrong is 19.Bxc5? Rxd6 20.Bxd6 Qb6+ 21.c5 Qxb2-+]

19...Qh4 20.h3 -0.75/18

[20.Bxc5= 0.01/21 keeps the balance. Nxc5 21.Ne4 *(21.h3 Qd4+ 22.Qxd4 exd4=)* 21...Qxh2+ 22.Kf2 Qh4+ 23.g3 Nxe4+ 24.fxe4]



20...Bxh3!∓



Threatens to win with ...Rg6. **21.Bf2 Qg5 22.Qxg5 Rxg5 23.g3 Bxf1** &Nero is more active. **24.Kxf1** -0.99/23

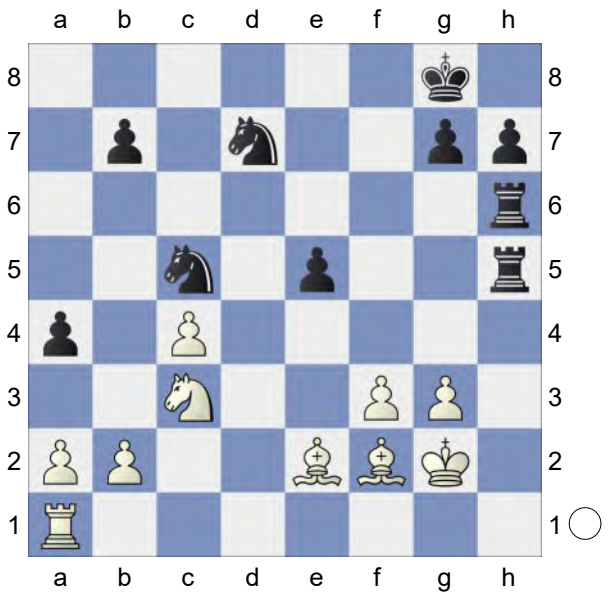
[24.Rxf1∓ -0.66/19 is superior. Rb6 25.Rb1]

24...Rh6 25.Kg2 -1.80/21 Against Rh1

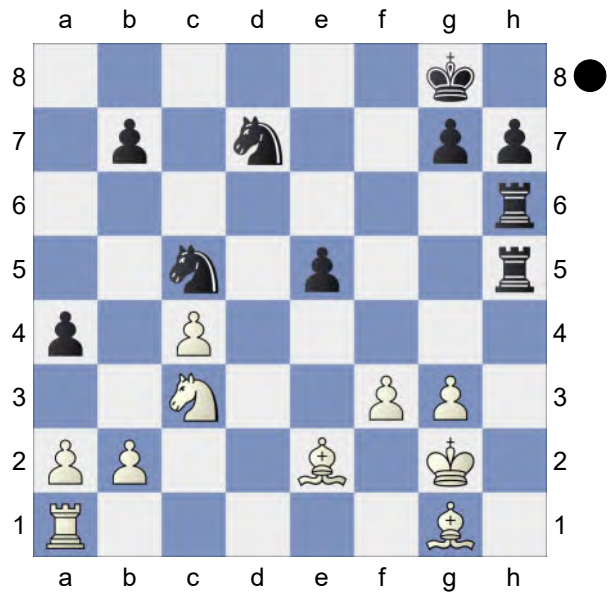
[25.g4∓ -0.86/21]

25...Rgh5 -0.40/21

[25...Ne6!-+ -1.80/21 White must now prevent ...Nf4+. 26.Nd5 Nf4+ 27.Nxf4 exf4]



26.Bg1∓



Ne6! **27.Nxa4** -2.20/23 Now White is beyond hope.

[27.Rd1∓ -0.72/19 Nd4 28.f4 Nxe2 29.Nxe2]

27...Rg6 **28.Bf1** -2.96/22

[28.Nc3 -1.75/20 was worth a try.]

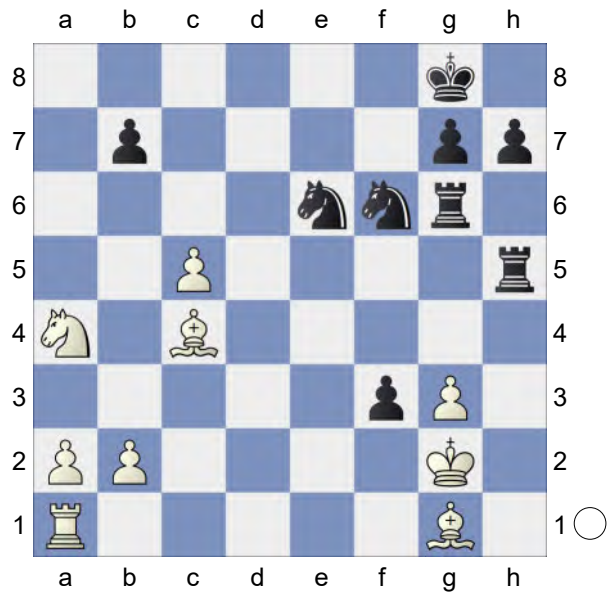
28...Nf6 -1.59/19

[28...Nf4+-+ -2.96/22 29.Kf2 Nh3+ 30.Kg2 e4 31.fxe4 Nxg1 32.Kxg1 Rxg3+ 33.Kf2 Rg4]

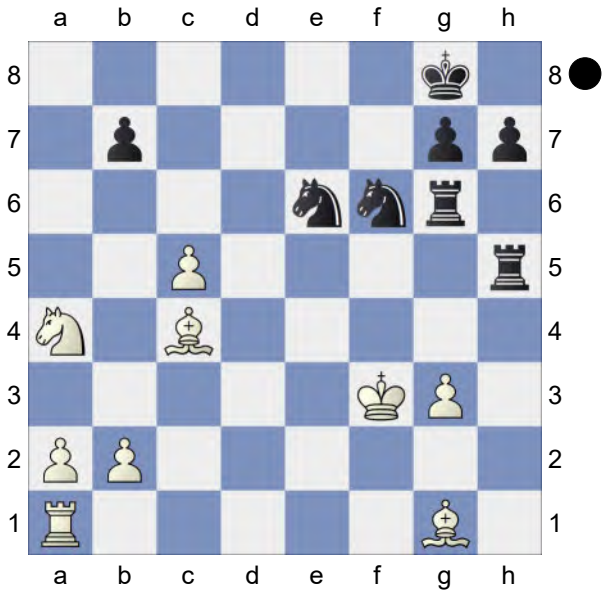
29.c5 -2.76/23

[29.Be3∓ -1.59/19]

29...e4 **30.Bc4** **exf3+**



31.Kxf3



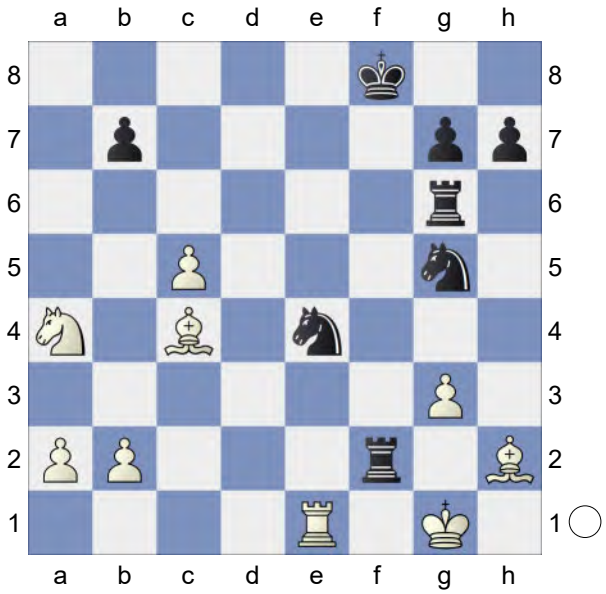
Rf5+!

[Weaker is 31...Nd5 32.Rd1 Rf5+ 33.Ke4∓]

32.Kg2 **Ne4** **33.Bh2** **Rf2+** **34.Kg1** aiming for Re1. **34...Kf8** **35.Re1?** -4.64/24

[35.Rf1 -2.41/19 might work better. Rxf1+ 36.Bxf1]

35...N6g5-+

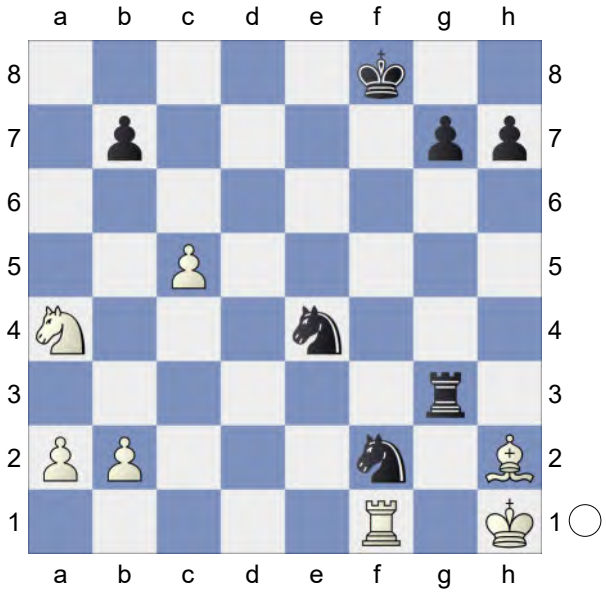


(-> ...Nf3+) **36.Be2** -#8/18

[36.Rxe4-+ -4.61/23 Nxe4 37.Nc3]

36...Nh3+ Pair of Knights! **37.Kh1** **Rxg3**

Black mates. **38.Bf1 Rxf1+ 39.Rxf1+ Nhf2+**

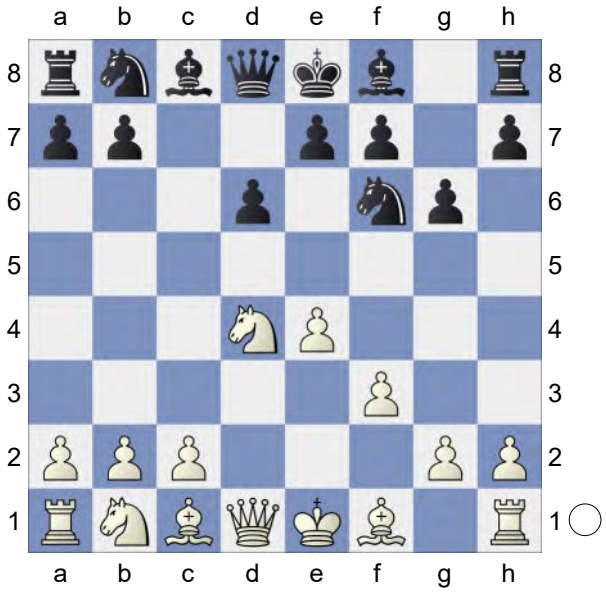


Weighted Error Value: White=0.63/ Black=0.20 (precise)
0-1

85 **B38**
☐ **Drawdenied Twitch** **2891**
■ **Daffy Duck** **2404**
Rapid 19.02.2023
[Kitty Kat]

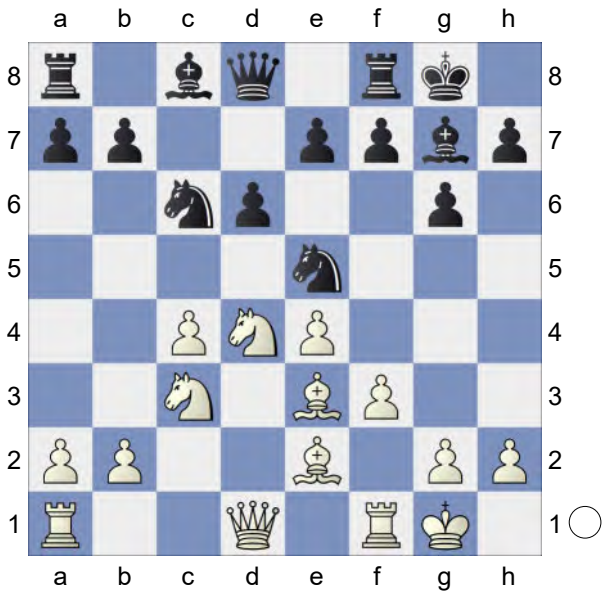
B38: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind with 5...Bg7 and 7...0-0
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 g6N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



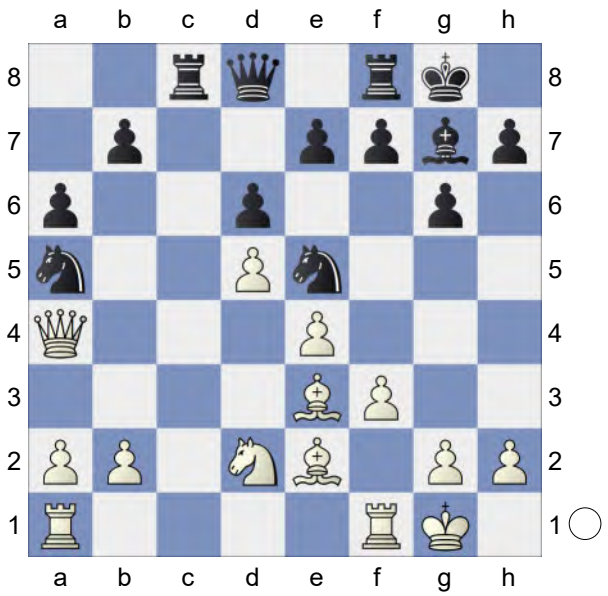
6.c4 Bg7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 Nc6 9.Be2 Nd7 10.0-0 0.08/18
[10.Qd2± 0.41/18
is more appropriate.]

10...Nde5 0.60/17
[Black should try 10...Qb6= 0.08/18 11.Ncb5 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Bxd4+ 13.Qxd4 Qxd4+ 14.Nxd4 b6]

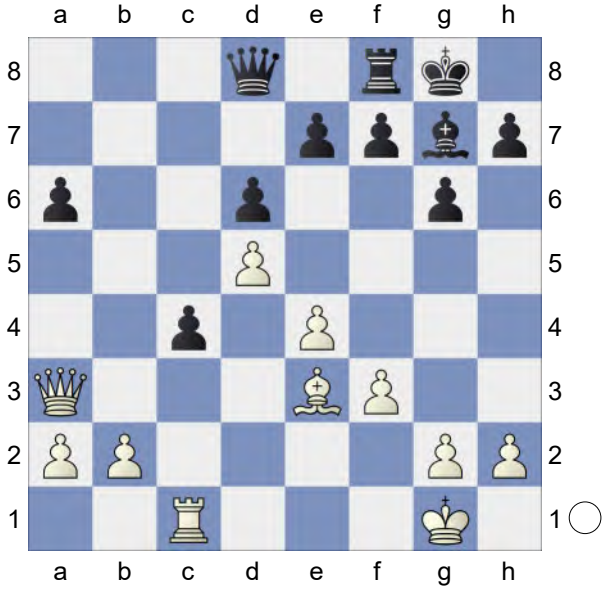


11.Nb3 0.24/16
[11.Qd2± 0.60/17 should be considered.]
11...Be6= 12.Nd5 White has an edge.
12...Bxd5 0.90/21
[12...a5= 0.24/18 keeps the balance.]
13.cxd5± aiming for f4.
[Of course not 13.Qxd5 Nd7=]
13...Na5 14.Nd2 Inhibits Nec4. **14...Rc8**
15.Qa4
[Much weaker is 15.Bxa7?! b6=]
15...a6

(Diagram)

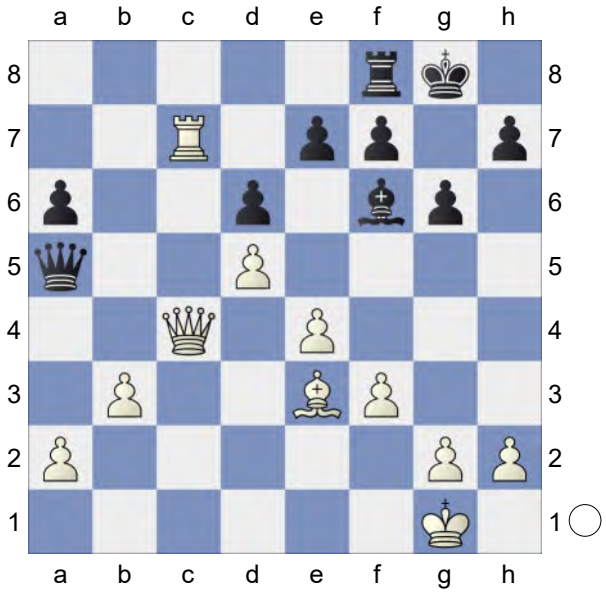


16.Rac1 Strongly threatening Rxc8.
16...Rxc1 1.81/23
[16...Nac4± 0.97/23 keeps fighting. 17.Nxc4 *(17.Bxc4 b5±)* 17...b5 18.Qxa6 bxc4]
17.Rxc1+- b5 18.Qa3 &Bianco is more active. **18...Nac4** 1.81/21
[18...e6± 1.22/23]
19.Nxc4 Nxc4 20.Bxc4 bxc4

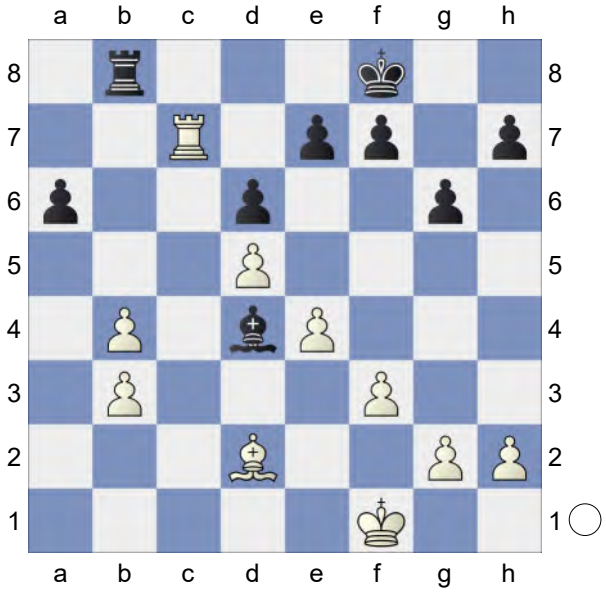


21.Rxc4 Qb8 2.21/22
[⌓21...a5 1.84/20 22.Qb3 Qb8]
22.b3 Qb7 1.95/20
[22...Qb5± 1.44/20 23.Qc1 f5]

23.Qc1 Qb5 24.Rc7 Bf6 1.92/23
[24...Qa5± 1.36/21]
25.Qc4 Qa5

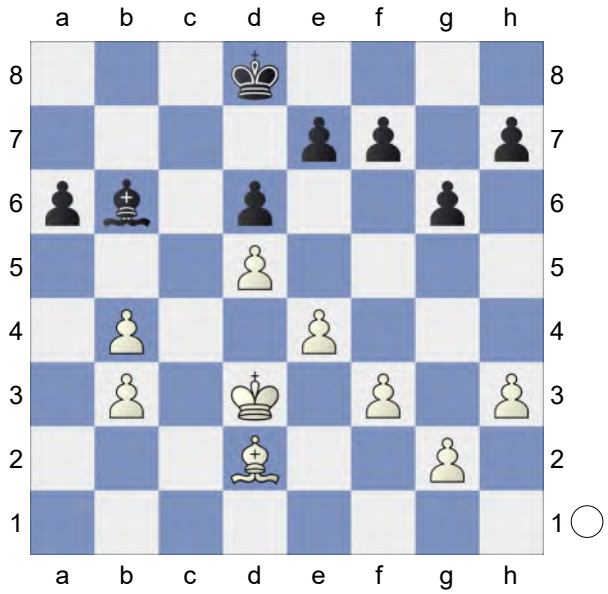


Threatens to win with ...Qe1+. **26.b4 Qa3 27.Qb3 Qxb3 28.axb3±**
Endgame KRB-KRB **28...Rb8 29.Bd2 Bd4+** 2.06/23
[29...Kf8 1.65/23 was called for. 30.Rc6 Ra8]
30.Kf1+- Kf8

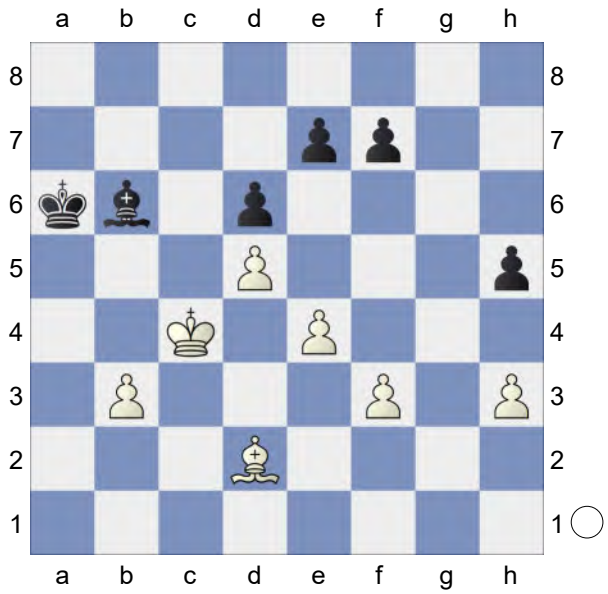


31.Ke2 Ke8 32.Kd3 Bg1 33.h3 Kd8 34.Rc6 Rb6 3.01/26
[⌓34...Ra8 2.09/20 35.Rc1 Bf2]

35.Rxb6 Bxb6

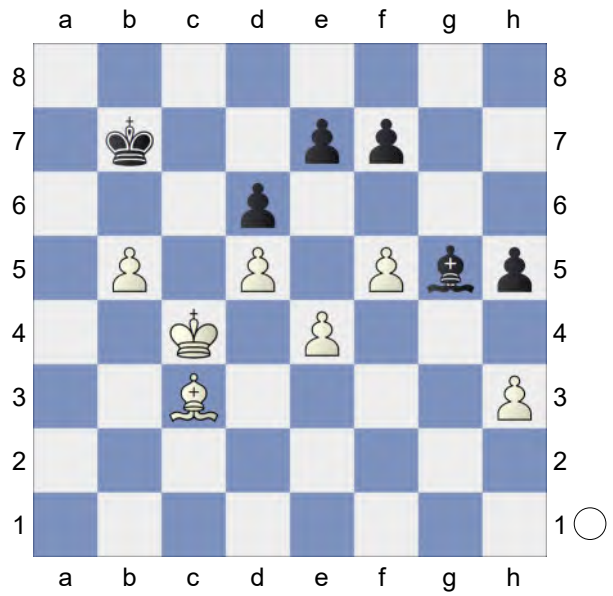


KB-KB **36.Kc4 Kc7 37.b5 Kb7 38.bxa6+ Kxa6 39.g4 h5 40.gxh5 gxh5**

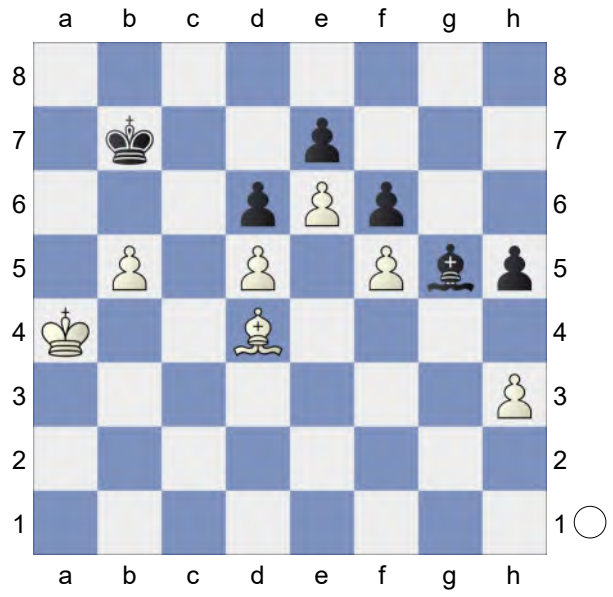


41.f4 Bd8 42.b4 Bb6 43.b5+ Kb7 44.Bc3 Be3 45.f5 Bg5 2.37/26
[45...Bf4 1.85/26 was necessary. 46.Bd4 Kc7]

(Diagram)

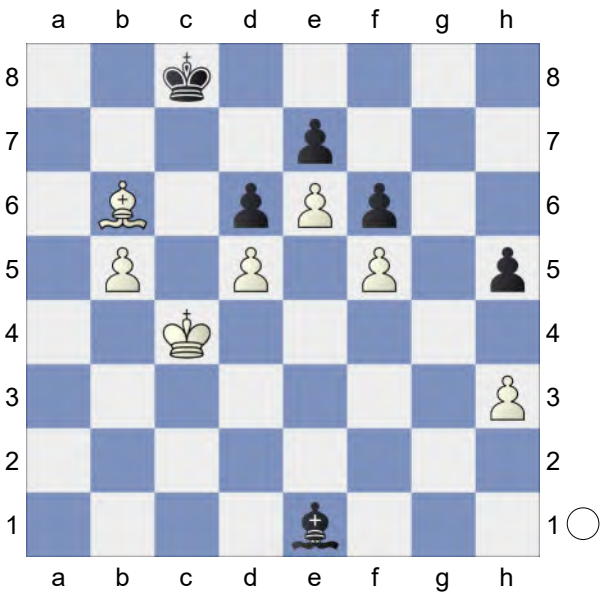


46.e5 f6? 13.96/28
[46...dxe5 2.37/24 47.Bxe5 Bh4]
47.e6 Kb6 48.Bd4+ Kb7 49.Kb3 Bh4 50.Ka4 Bg5

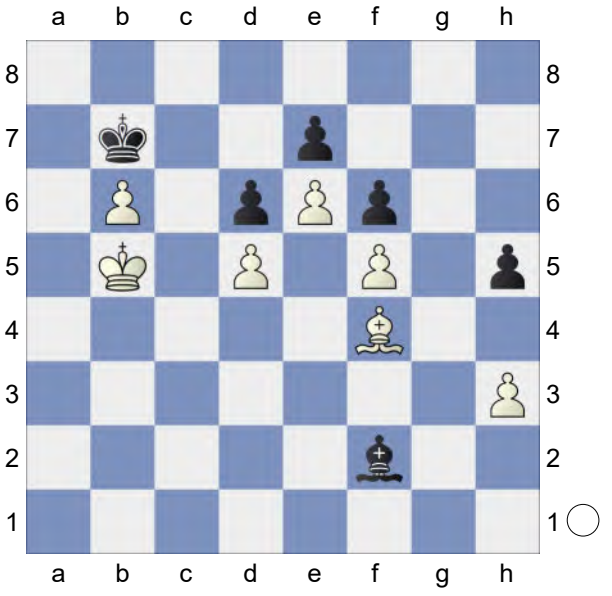


51.Bc3 And now Ba5 would win.
51...Bh4 52.Ba5 Kc8 Prevents Bd8.
53.Kb3 Bf2 54.Kc4 5.84/24
[⌓54.Kc2 13.09/35 Bg3 55.Kd1]
54...Bg3 55.Bb6 Against Bf2. White threatens Bd4 and mate. **55...Be1**

(Diagram)

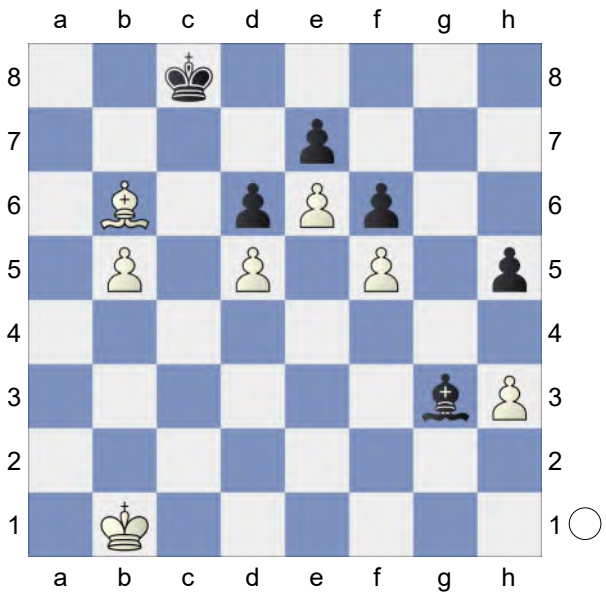


56.Kb3 7.66/27
[⌓56.Be3 #18/23 Bg3 57.b6 Bh4 58.Kb5 Kb7 59.Bf4 Bf2

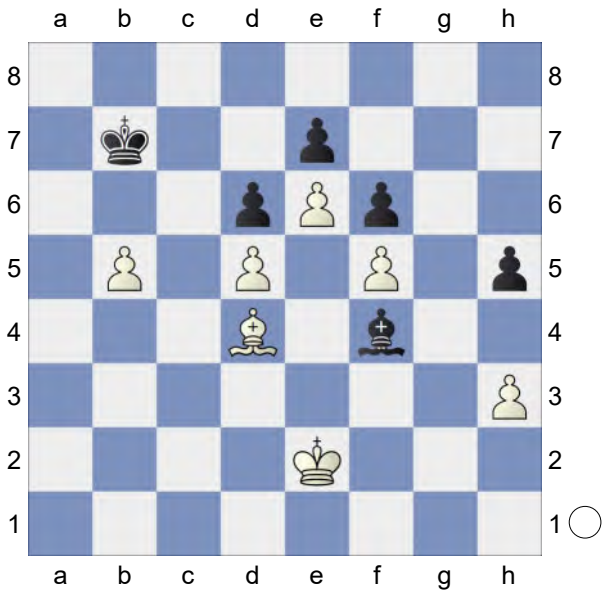


60.Bxd6! Bxb6 61.Bxe7]
56...Bg3 57.Ka4 Be1 58.Ka3 Bg3 59.Ka2 Be1 60.Kb1 Bg3

(Diagram)

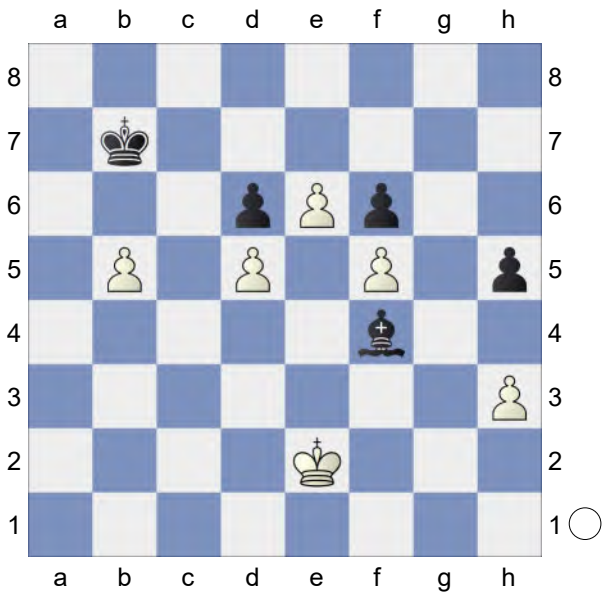


61.Kc1 Be1 62.Kd1 Bg3 63.Ke2 Bf4
64.Bd4 Bxf6! is the strong threat.
64...Kb7

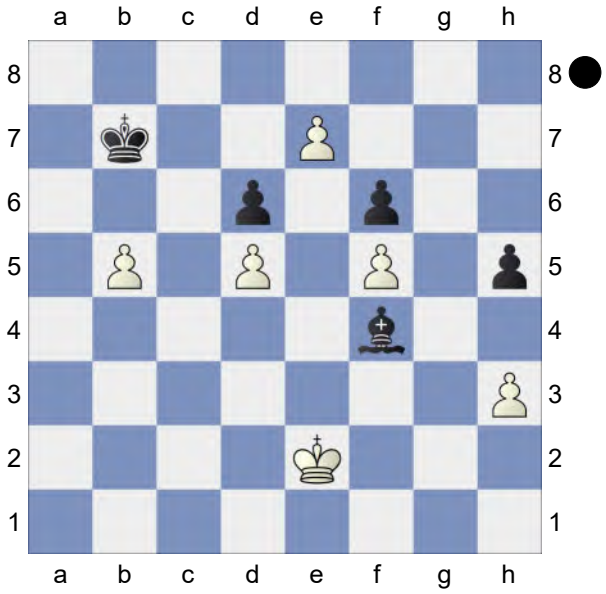


65.Bxf6! exf6
[65...Be5 66.Bxe5]

(Diagram)



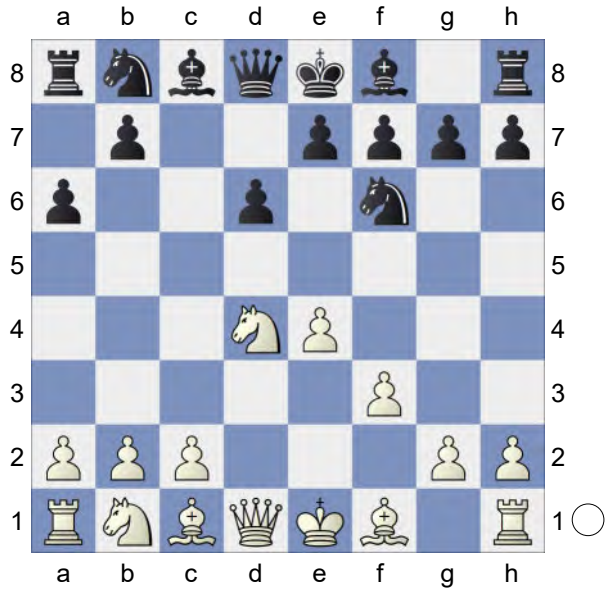
66.e7



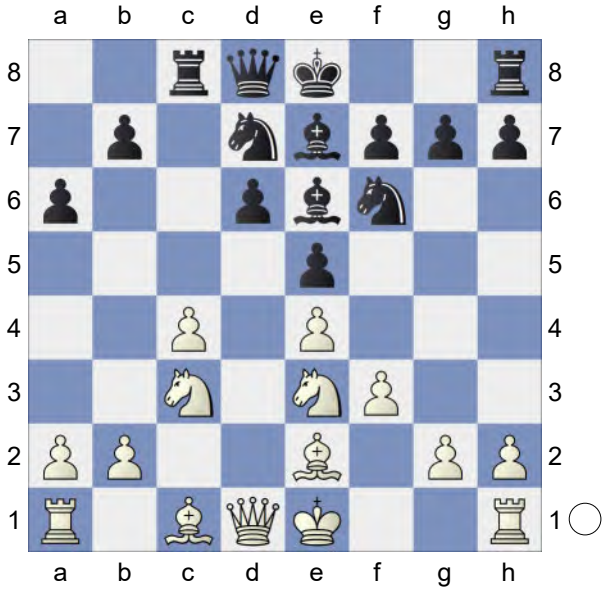
Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/ Black=0.70
1-0

86 **B54**
□ **Drawdenied Twitch** **2890**
■ **Rousseau12** **2438**
Rapid 10.01.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 8min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6

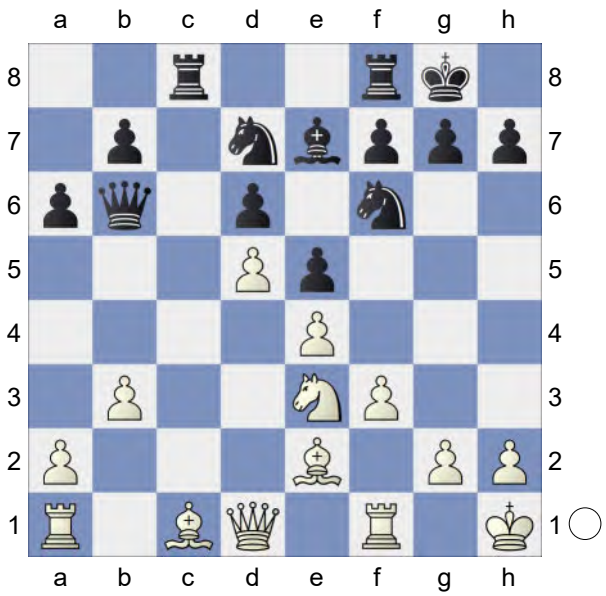


6.c4 e5N
[6...e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7
A) 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 *(14...Nfd7 15.b3 Nxb6 16.Rfc1 Re8 17.Nc2 Ned7 18.Bf1 Bf6 19.Bd4 Bg5 20.Be3 Bf6 21.Bd4 Bg5 22.Be3 Be7 23.Bd4 h5 24.Qf2 Bh4 25.g3 Bf6 26.Rd1 d5 27.exd5 exd5 28.Nxd5 Nxd5 29.cxd5* Flores Quillas,D (2200)-Lu, M (2442) Pereira 2022 1-0 (67)*)* 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson];
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 *(16...Bc7 17.Nde2 Kh8 18.Bd4 Bc6 19.Be3 Ne5 20.b3 h6 21.Nd4 Bb7 22.Be2 Ng6 23.Qg1 Rfe8 24.Nc2 d5 25.exd5 exd5 26.Bxb6 Bf4 27.Rb1 Nh5 28.Bf1 Re5 29.Ne2 Rxe2 30.Bxe2 Qe5 31.Bd3* Bezgodov,A (2546)-Alavkin,A (2471) Saint Petersburg 92/278 2004 CI1-130 [Bezgodov, Alexei] ½-½ (40) *)* 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Ba8 21.Rb1 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein, Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]
7.Nc2 Be6 8.Nc3 Nbd7 White is slightly better. **9.Be2 Rc8 10.Ne3 Be7**

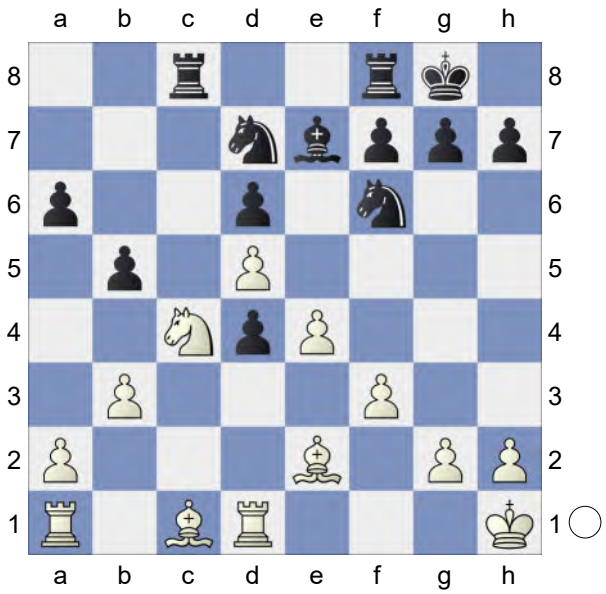


11.0-0 0-0 12.Kh1 Nb6 13.b3 Nbd7 14.Ncd5 Bxd5 15.cxd5 Qb6 1.09/18
[15...Nh5± 0.69/17]

(Diagram)

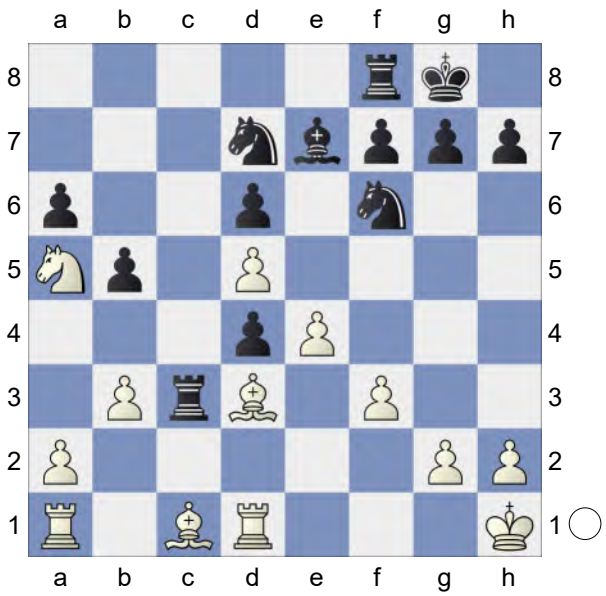


16.Nc4 Qd4 1.42/19
[⌓16...Qc7 1.06/18]
17.Qxd4± exd4 18.Rd1 &Bianco is more active. **18...b5**

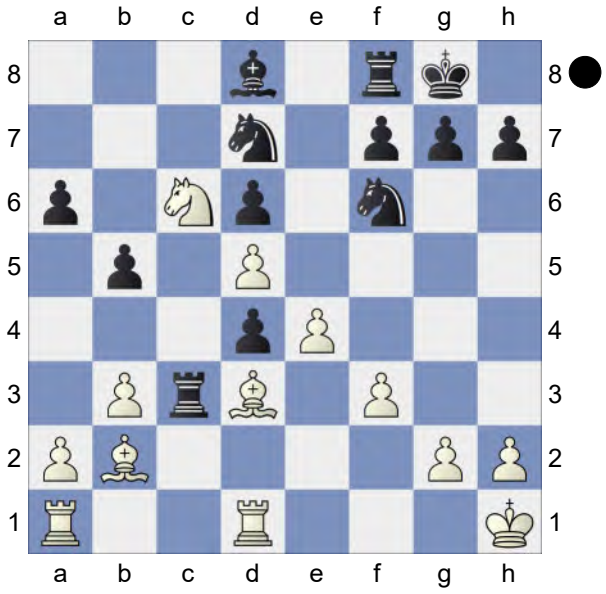


19.Na5
[Much less strong is 19.Na3 Ne8±]
19...Rc2 2.72/21
[19...Ne5± 1.22/18 was necessary.]
20.Bd3 Rc3 2.75/21
[⌓20...Rc7 1.76/20 21.Nc6 Ne5]

(Diagram)



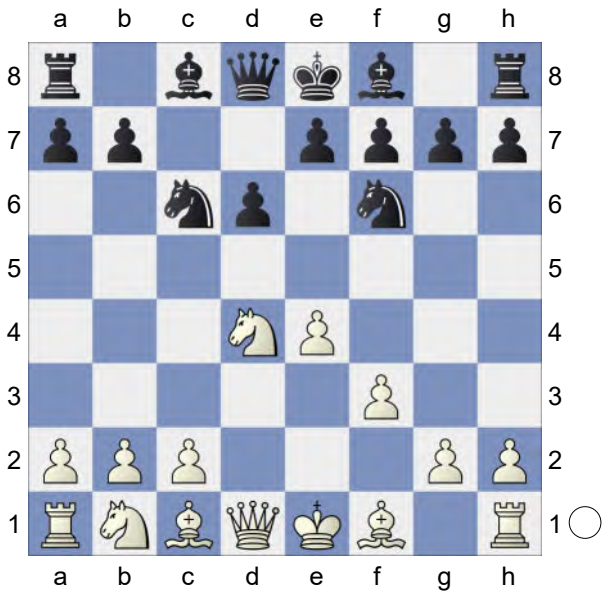
21.Nc6+- Bd8 22.Bb2
[Don't do 22.Nxd4?! Ne5+-]



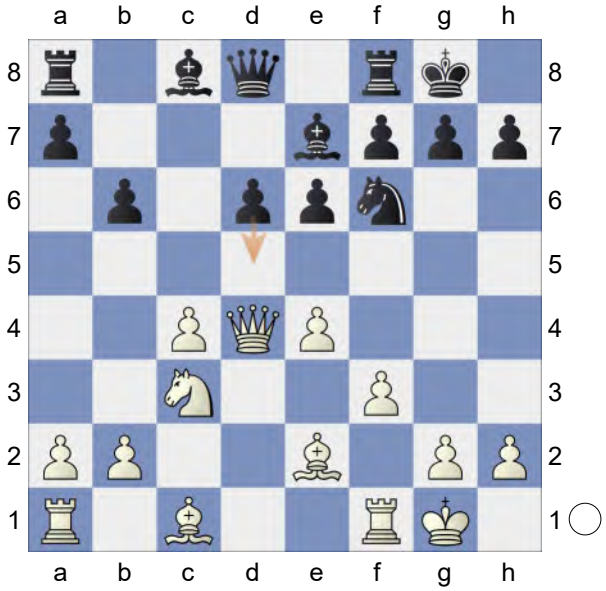
Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.26 (precise)
1-0

87 **B54**
□ **Drawdenied Twitch** **2886**
■ **Schroedingersqueen** **2396**
Rapid 25.04.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 8min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

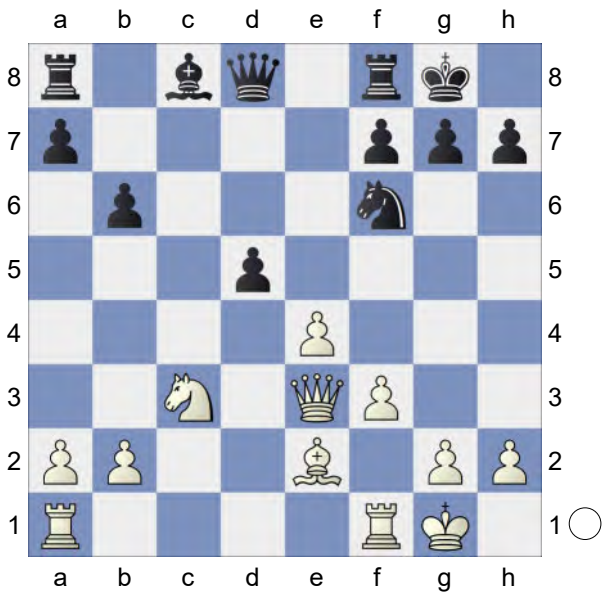


6.c4 Nxd4 7.Qxd4 e6 8.Nc3 Be7
White is slightly better. **9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 b6**

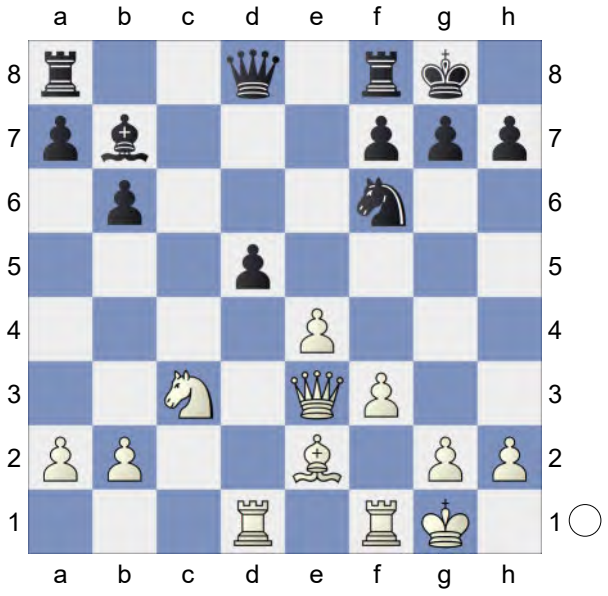


11.Be3 d5 12.cxd5 Bc5 0.99/21
[12...Bb7± 0.67/19 was preferrable.]
13.Qd2± Bxe3+ 14.Qxe3 exd5

(Diagram)

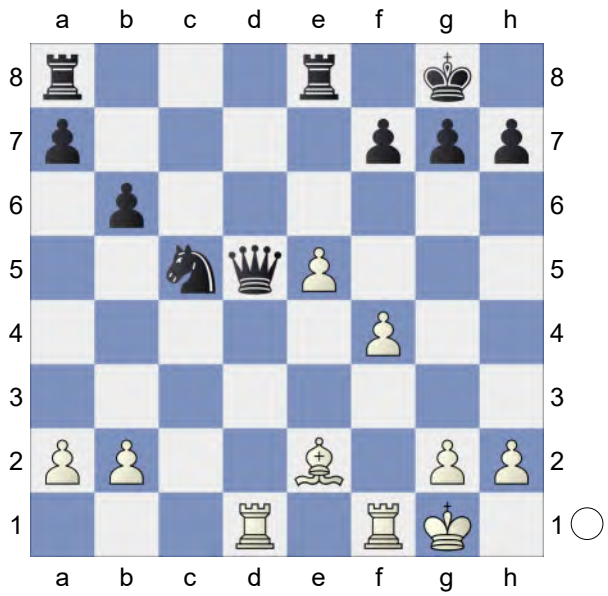


And now ...d4 would win. **15.Rad1 Bb7**

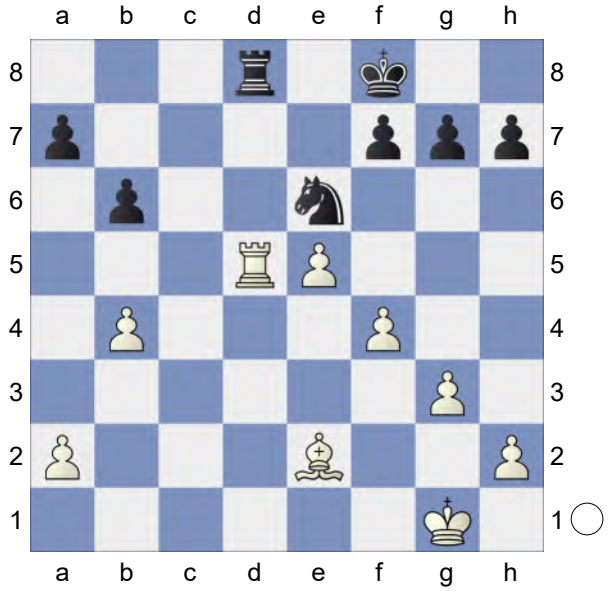


16.e5 Re8 1.60/20
[⌓16...Ne8 0.95/18]
17.Qd4 Nd7 18.f4
0x0.00209a826646dp-1022s more active pieces.
[Don't do 18.Nxd5 Nxe5 19.Bb5 Bc6 20.Bxc6 Nxc6=]
18...Nc5 1.50/18
[Better is 18...f6 0.86/18]
19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.Qxd5 Qxd5

(Diagram)

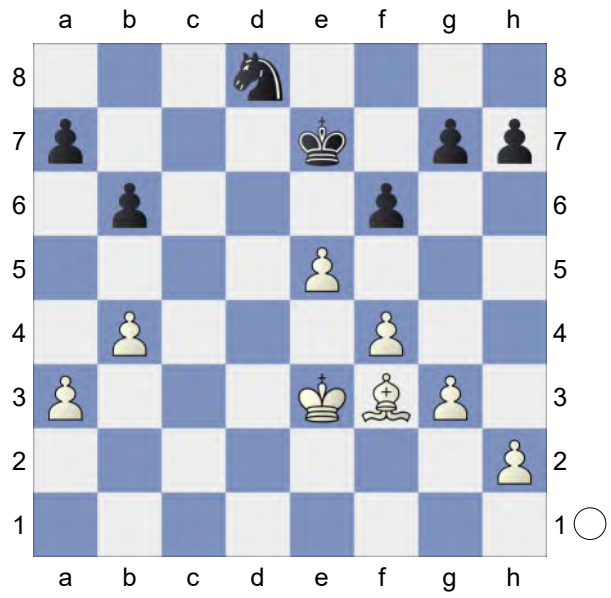


21.Rxd5 Red8 22.Rfd1 Rxd5
23.Rxd5+- Endgame KRB-KRN **23...Kf8**
24.b4 Ne6 25.g3 Rd8 2.21/20
[25...g6 1.73/20 is a better defense.
26.Rd7 a5 27.bxa5 Nc5]

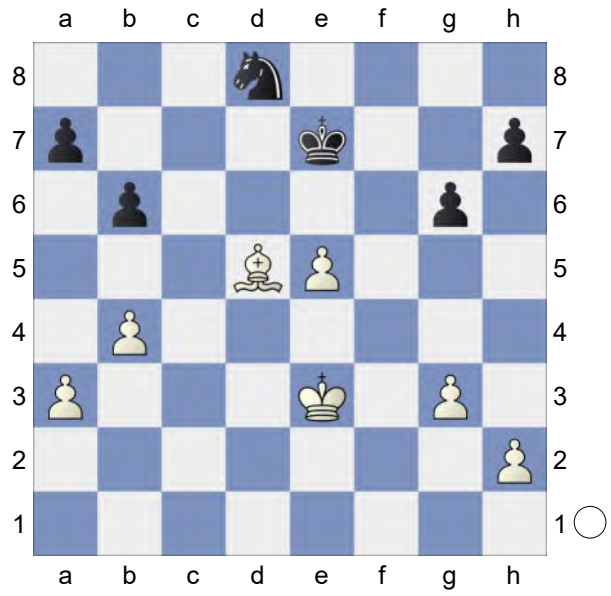


26.Rxd8+ Nxd8 KB-KN **27.Kf2 Nc6**
28.a3 Ke7 29.Ke3 f6 30.Bf3 Nd8

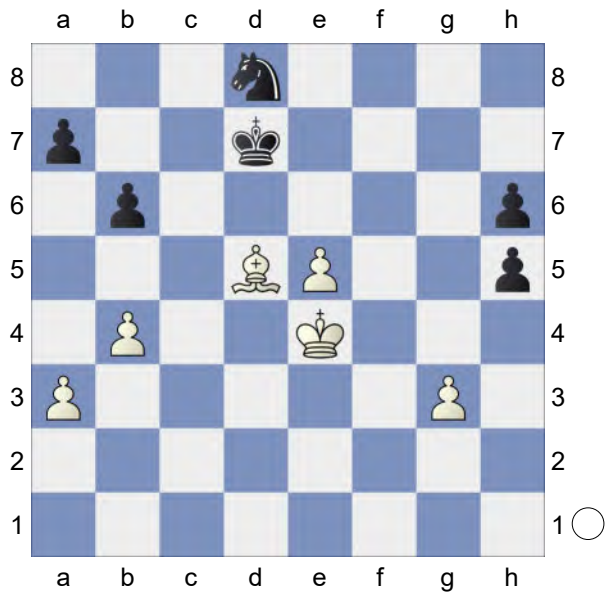
(Diagram)



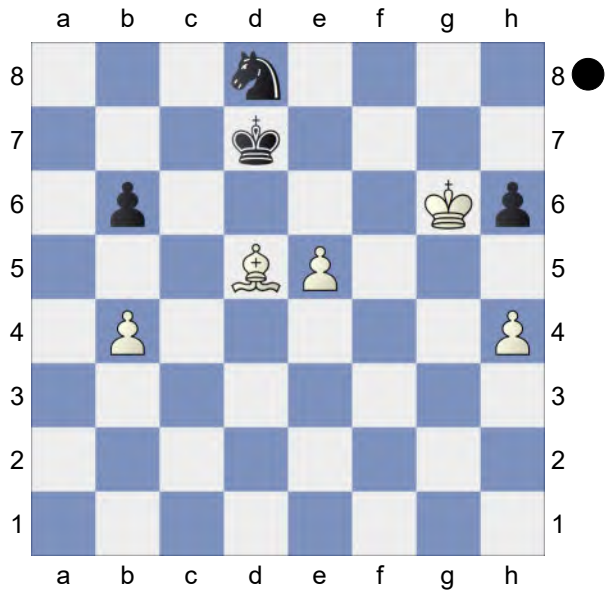
31.Bd5 fxe5 32.fxe5 g6? 10.71/26
[32...a6 3.87/23 33.Bg8 h6]



33.h4 5.00/26
[⌓33.b5 10.71/26 Kf8 34.Kf4]
33...h6 11.61/25
[⌓33...a5 5.00/26 34.Kf4 axb4]
34.Ke4 4.43/24
[⌓34.b5 11.61/25 Ke8 35.Ke4]
34...Kd7 11.13/25
[⌓34...a5 4.43/24 35.Kd4 Ke8]
35.h5 gxh5
(Diagram)



36.Kf5 a5 37.Kg6 6.17/25
[⌓37.Kf6 13.99/24 axb4 38.axb4]
37...h4 38.gxh4 axb4 39.axb4

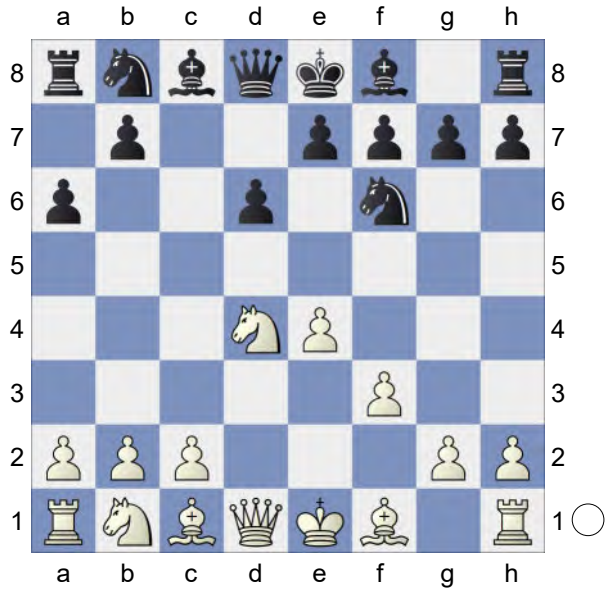


Weighted Error Value: White=0.56/ Black=0.27 (precise)
1-0

88 **B54**
□ **Drawdenied Twitch** **2886**
■ **Entkoter** **2448**
Rapid 19.01.2023
[Kitty Kat]

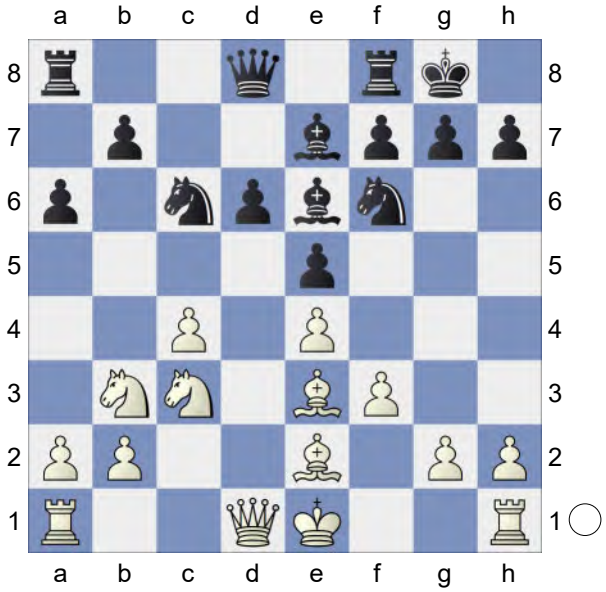
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6



6.c4 e5N
[6...e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7
A) 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 *(14...Nfd7 15.b3 Nxb6 16.Rfc1 Re8 17.Nc2 Ned7 18.Bf1 Bf6 19.Bd4 Bg5 20.Be3 Bf6 21.Bd4 Bg5 22.Be3 Be7 23.Bd4 h5 24.Qf2 Bh4 25.g3 Bf6 26.Rd1 d5 27.exd5 exd5 28.Nxd5 Nxd5 29.cxd5* Flores Quillas,D (2200)-Lu,M (2442) Pereira 2022 1-0 (67)*)* 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson];
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 *(16...Bc7 17.Nde2 Kh8 18.Bd4 Bc6 19.Be3 Ne5 20.b3 h6 21.Nd4 Bb7 22.Be2 Ng6 23.Qg1 Rfe8 24.Nc2 d5 25.exd5 exd5 26.Bxb6 Bf4 27.Rb1 Nh5 28.Bf1 Re5 29.Ne2 Rxe2 30.Bxe2 Qe5 31.Bd3* Bezgodov,A (2546)-Alavkin,A (2471) Saint Petersburg 92/278 2004 CI1-130 [Bezgodov, Alexei] ½-½ (40) *)* 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Ba8 21.Rb1 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein, Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

7.Nb3 Be6
[7...Nxe4? 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2+-]
8.Nc3 Nc6 White is slightly better.
9.Be3 Be7 10.Be2
[10.Nd5 looks sharper. 0-0 11.Qd2 a5 12.Bb6]
10...0-0



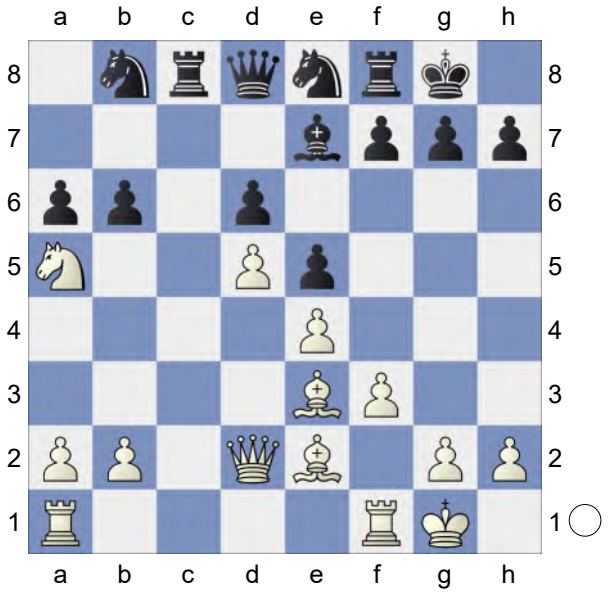
11.0-0 Rc8 0.67/18
[11...a5= 0.28/17]
12.Qd2 Ne8 13.Nd5 Bxd5 1.57/23

[13...h6± 0.64/19]

14.cxd5±

[14.exd5 Nb8±]

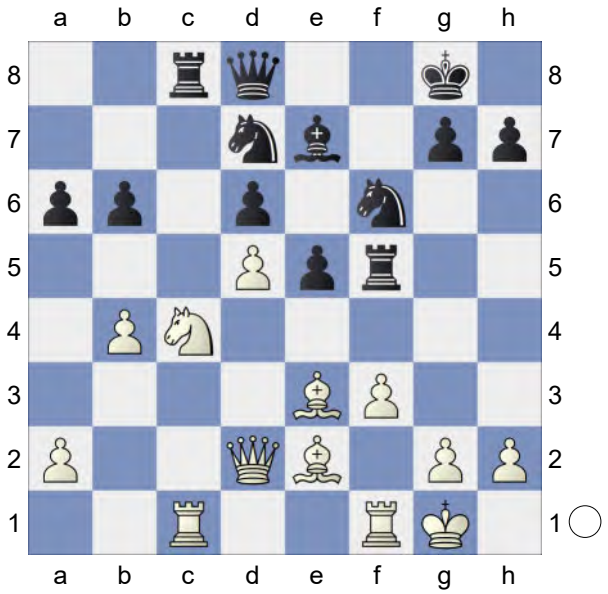
14...Nb8 15.Na5 b6



16.Nc4 Nd7 17.b4

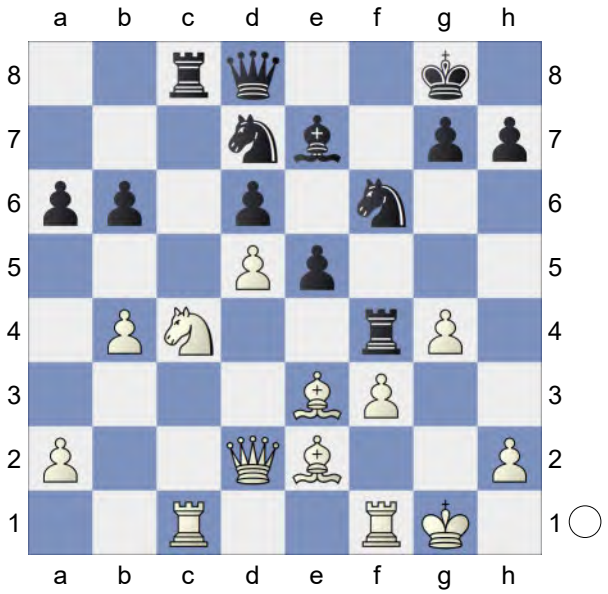
0x0.00209a826646dp-1022s more active pieces. The black rooks are badly placed. **17...f5 18.exf5 Rxf5 19.Rac1 Nef6?** 3.28/21

[19...Rf8± 1.37/17 20.a4 h6]



This costs Black the game. **20.g4+- Rf4**

(Diagram)



21.Bxf4 exf4 22.Qxf4

[Much less strong is 22.g5?! Ne8 23.Bd3 *(23.Qxf4? Bxg5 24.Qf5 Bxc1-+)* 23...Bxg5+-]

22...Nxd5 5.16/21

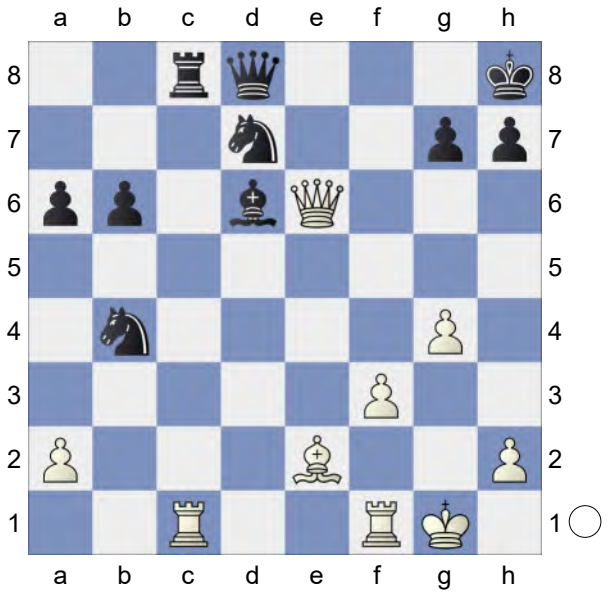
[⌓22...b5 3.56/19 23.Ne3 *(23.Nxd6 Qb6+ 24.Kg2 Rxc1±)* 23...g6]

23.Qe4 Nxb4 5.24/25

[23...Nc7 3.60/20 is a better defense. 24.Ne3 Nf6]

24.Qe6+ White is clearly winning.

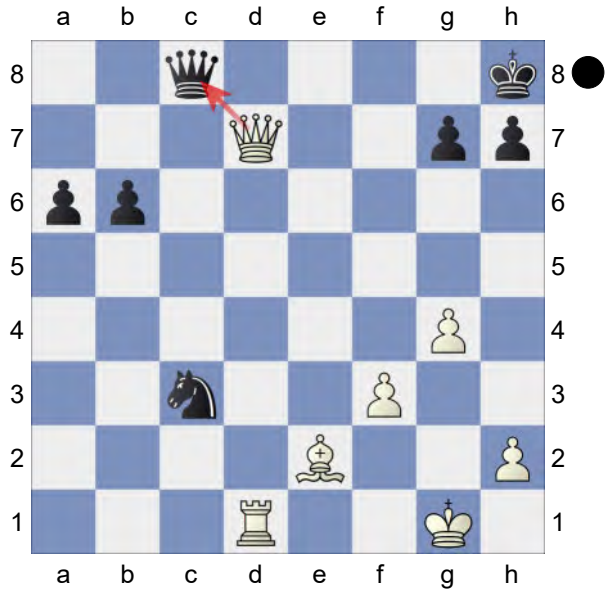
24...Kh8 25.Nxd6 Bxd6



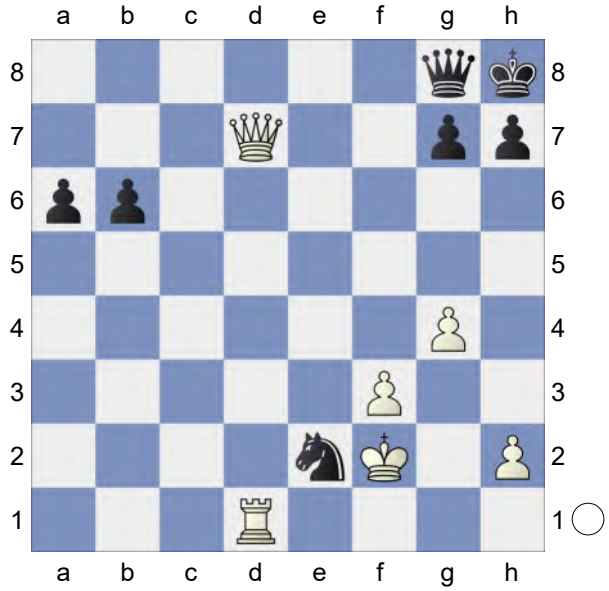
26.Rxc8

[Don't play 26.Qxd6 Nc5 27.Qxd8+ Rxd8+-]

26...Qxc8 27.Qxd6 Nxa2 28.Rd1 Nc3 29.Qxd7

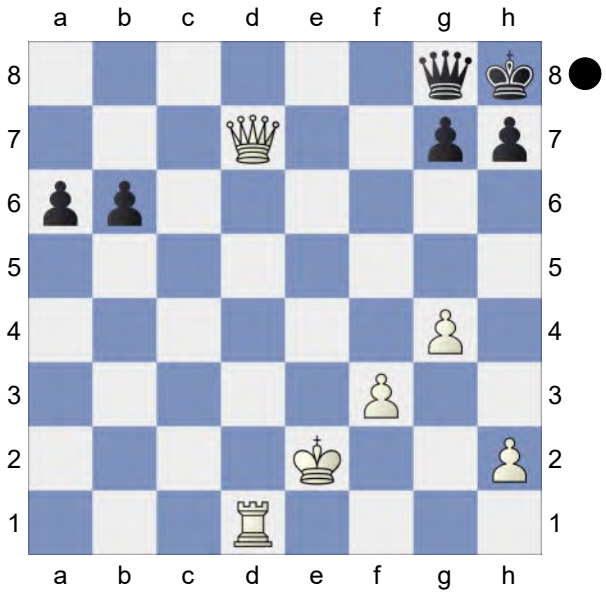


Nxe2+ 30.Kf2 Qg8



31.Kxe2

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.48

1-0

89 **B54**

□ **Kacparov** **2884**

■ **Warummel** **2630**

Blitz 19.02.2022

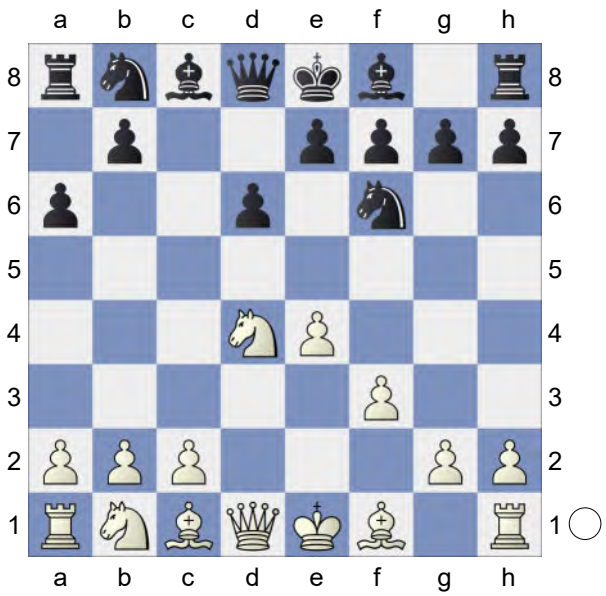
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6

(Diagram)



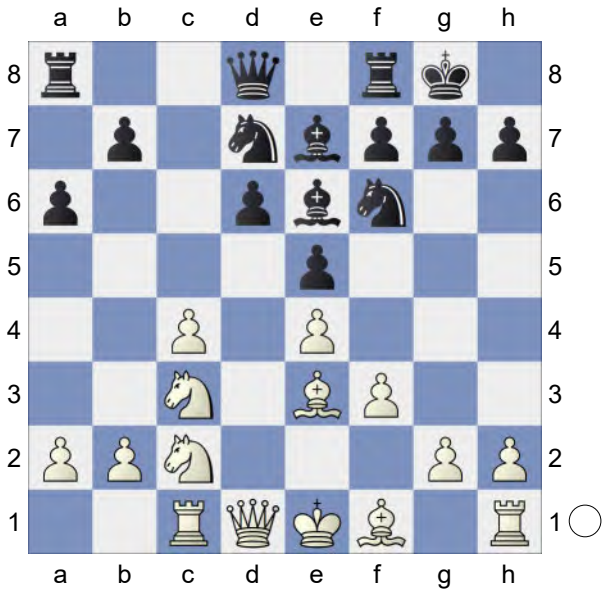
6.c4 e5N

[6...e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7

A) 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 *(14...Nfd7 15.b3 Nxb6 16.Rfc1 Re8 17.Nc2 Ned7 18.Bf1 Bf6 19.Bd4 Bg5 20.Be3 Bf6 21.Bd4 Bg5 22.Be3 Be7 23.Bd4 h5 24.Qf2 Bh4 25.g3 Bf6 26.Rd1 d5 27.exd5 exd5 28.Nxd5 Nxd5 29.cxd5* Flores Quillas,D (2200)-Lu,M (2442) Pereira 2022 1-0 (67)*)* 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson];

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 *(16...Bc7 17.Nde2 Kh8 18.Bd4 Bc6 19.Be3 Ne5 20.b3 h6 21.Nd4 Bb7 22.Be2 Ng6 23.Qg1 Rfe8 24.Nc2 d5 25.exd5 exd5 26.Bxb6 Bf4 27.Rb1 Nh5 28.Bf1 Re5 29.Ne2 Rxe2 30.Bxe2 Qe5 31.Bd3* Bezgodov,A (2546)-Alavkin,A (2471) Saint Petersburg 92/278 2004 CI1-130 [Bezgodov, Alexei] ½-½ (40) *)* 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Ba8 21.Rb1 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein, Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

7.Nc2 Be6 8.Nc3 Be7 White is slightly better. **9.Be3 0-0 10.Rc1 Nbd7**



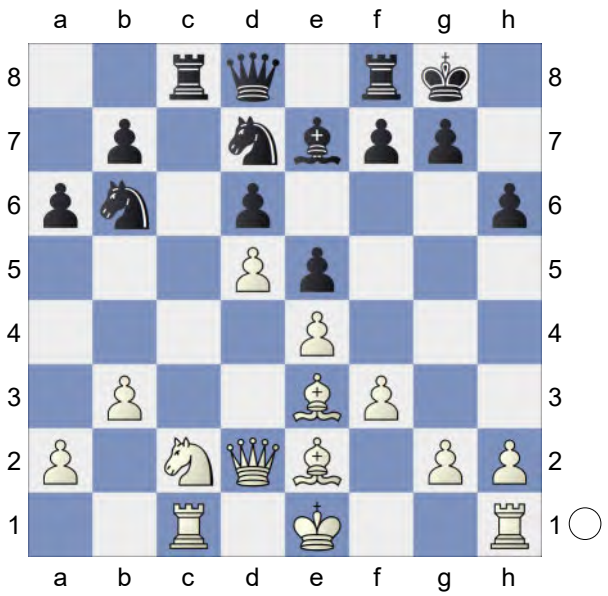
11.Nd5 Rc8 12.Qd2 Bxd5 13.cxd5 Nb6 0.67/19

[⌓13...Nh5 0.36/20]

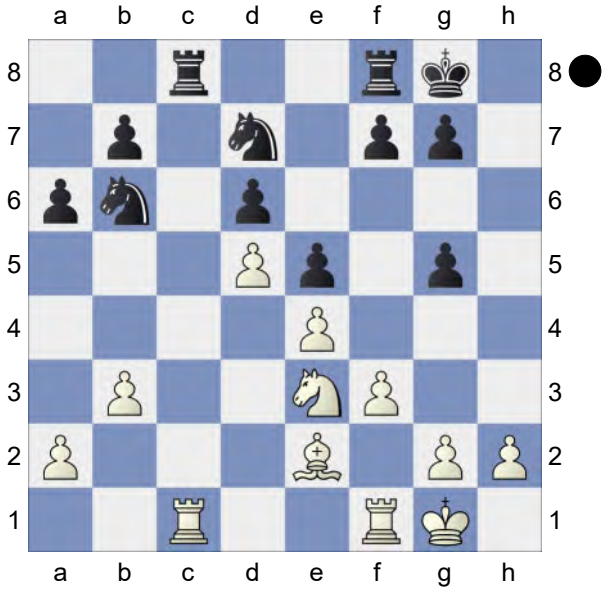
14.b3± Nfd7 15.Be2 h6 0.74/19

[15...f5± 0.35/21 is superior.]

(Diagram)

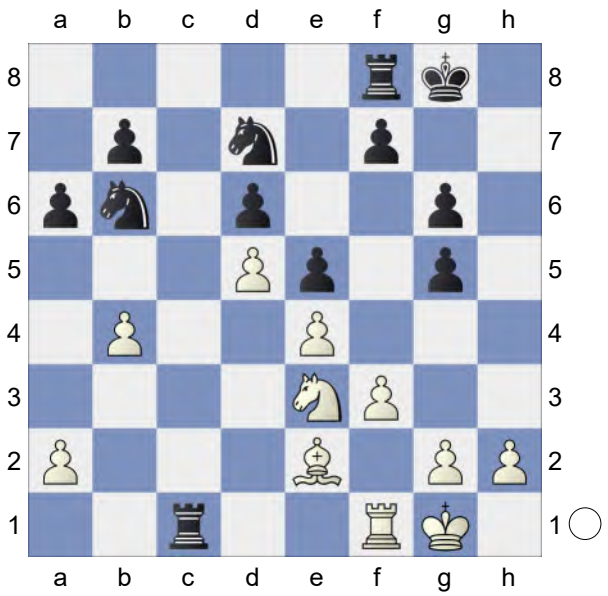


16.0-0± &Bianco is more active.
16...Bg5 17.Bxg5
[17.g3 with more complications. f5 18.exf5 Rxf5 19.Kg2]
17...Qxg5 18.Qxg5 hxg5 19.Ne3

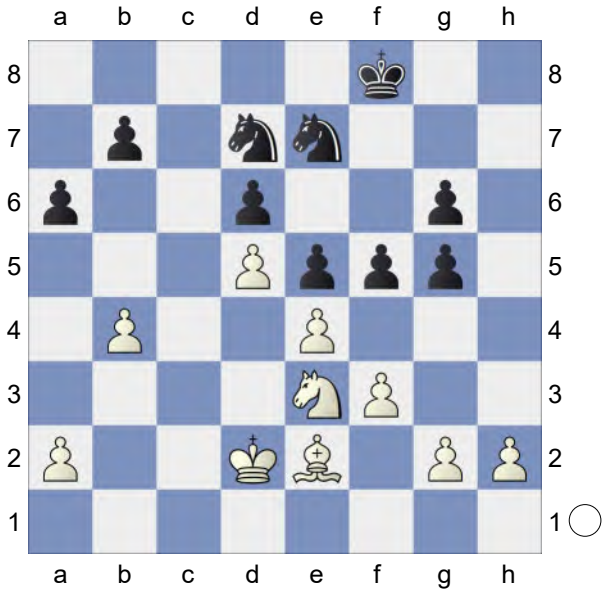


Threatens to win with Nf5. **19...g6**
Prevents Nf5. **20.b4 Rxc1** 0.64/21
[20...Nf6= 0.20/20]

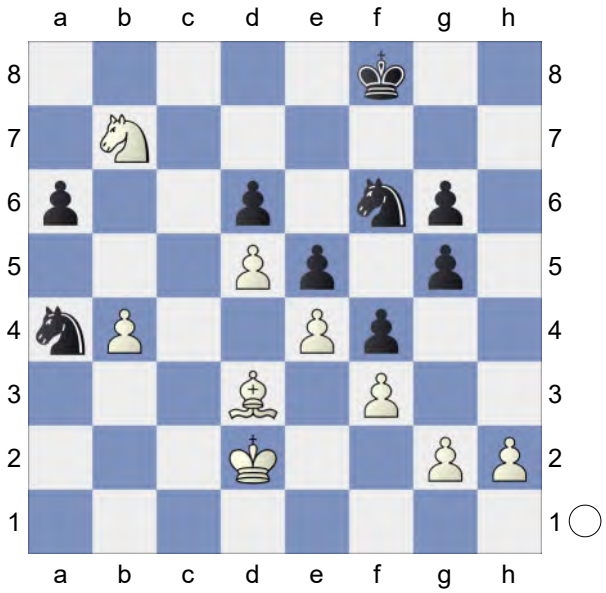
(Diagram)



21.Rxc1± aiming for Rc7. **21...Rc8**
Against Rc7 **22.Rxc8+ Nxc8±**
Endgame KBN-KNN **23.Kf2** 0.31/24
[23.a4 0.65/22 is more appropriate.]
23...Kf8 0.71/21
[23...b5± 0.31/24]
24.Ke1 0.28/23
[24.a4± 0.71/21]
24...Ne7 1.08/22
[24...b5= 0.28/23]
25.Kd2 0.77/21
[⌓25.Nc4 1.08/22]
25...f5

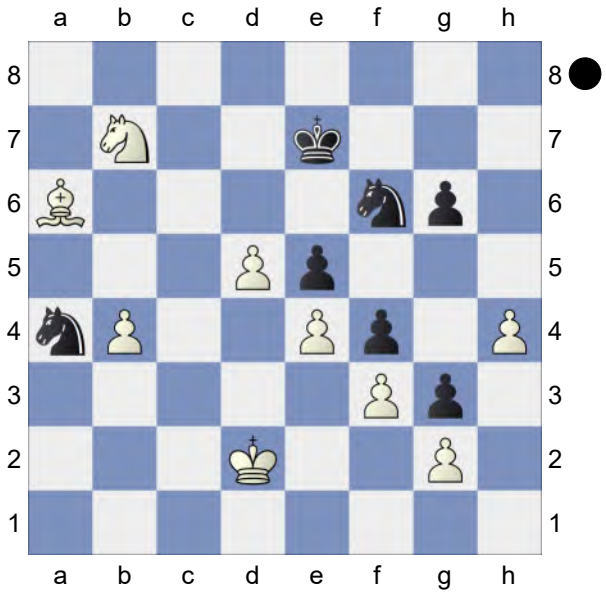


26.a4 0.62/24
[Better is 26.Nc4± 0.98/22]
26...Nf6± 27.Bd3 f4? 2.74/22
This move loses the game for Black.
[27...Ke8± 0.56/21]
28.Nc4+- Nc8 29.Na5 Nb6 4.81/27
[29...b5 3.39/22 keeps fighting.
30.axb5 axb5 31.Bxb5 Nb6]
30.Nxb7 Nxa4

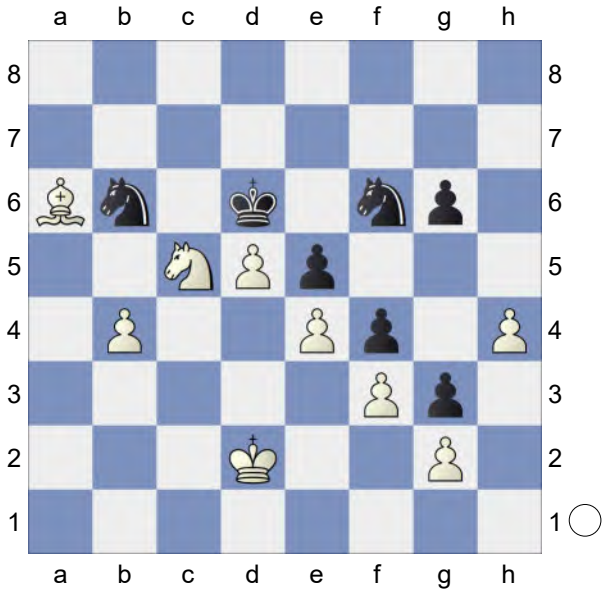


31.Nxd6 Ke7 32.Nb7 g4 33.Bxa6 g3? 6.47/25
[33...Nb6 3.98/23 34.Be2 gxf3
35.gxf3 Nfd7 36.d6+ Kf7]
34.h4

(Diagram)

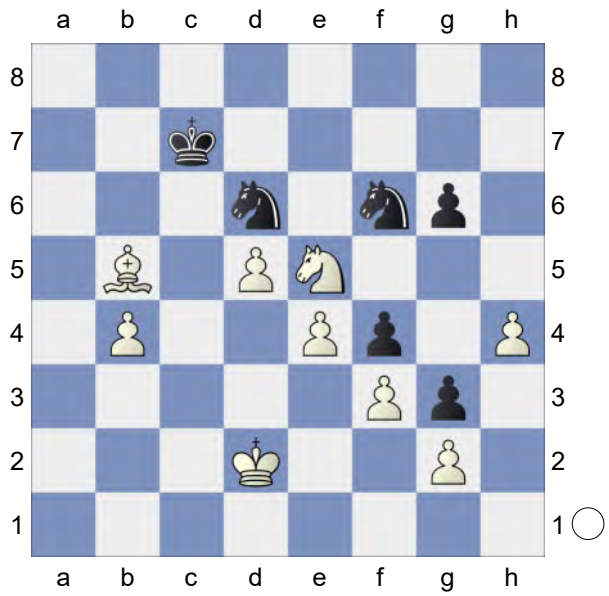


Strongly threatening d6+. **34...Nb6**
35.Nc5 Kd6

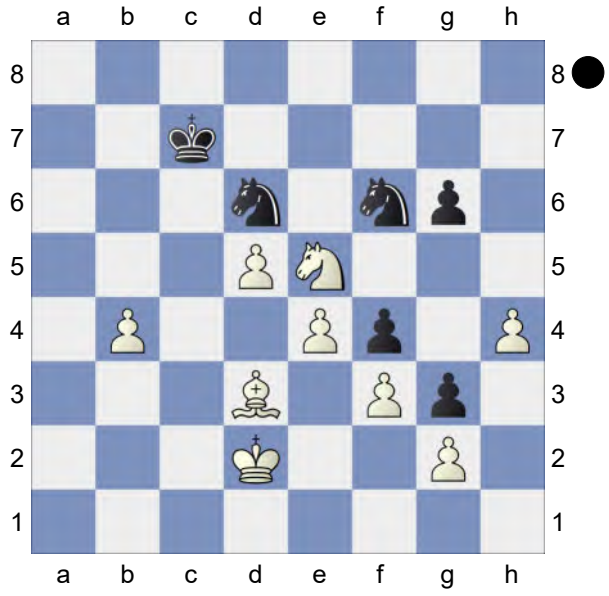


36.Bb5 Black must now prevent Ke2.
36...Nh7? 5.11/22
[36...Ke7 2.68/22 37.Nd3 Kd6]
37.Ne6 Nf6? 7.26/23
[37...Ke7 3.96/23 38.Kc3 Nf6]
38.Ng5 And now Nf7+ would win. White is clearly winning. **38...Nc8 39.Nf7+ Kc7 40.Nxe5 Nd6**

(Diagram)



41.Bd3



Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.50

1-0

90 **B54**

□ **Drawdenied Twitch** **2884**

■ **Bbybyyo1** **2726**

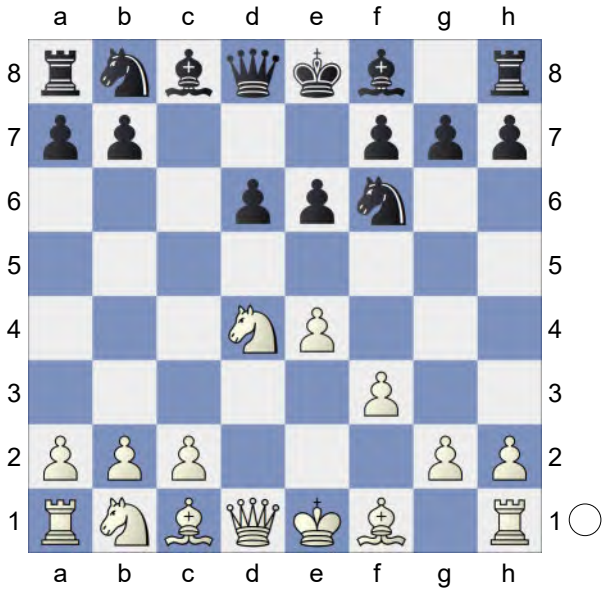
Blitz 12.03.2024

[Kitty Kat]

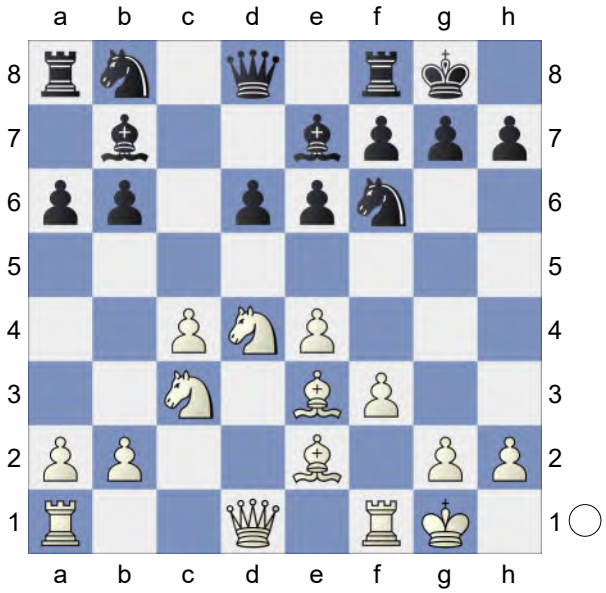
Blitz 3min

A31: Symmetrical English: 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 d4

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e6

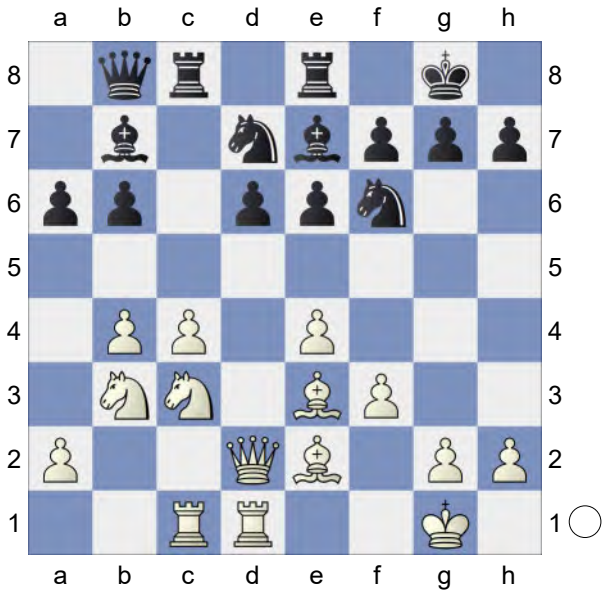


6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 b6 9.Be2 Bb7 10.0-0 a6

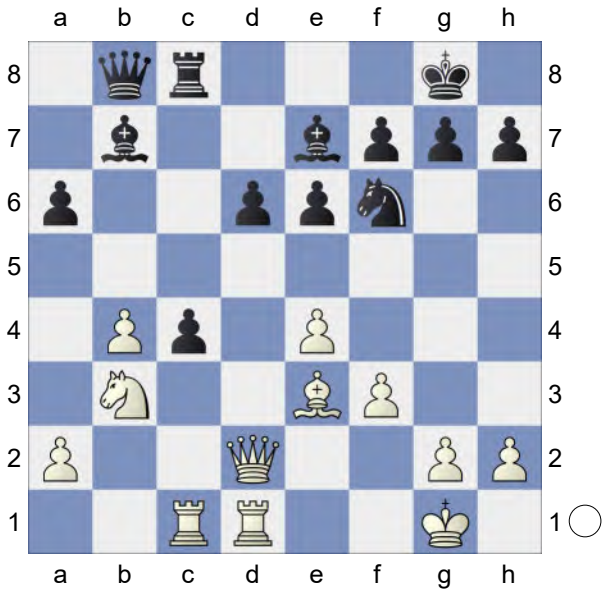


11.Qd2 Nbd7 12.Rfd1 Qc7 13.Rac1 Rac8 14.b4
[14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Nc2 Bc7 17.Kh1 Qa8 18.Na4 Nc5 19.Nxc5 dxc5 20.b4 cxb4 21.Bxb6 Bxb6 22.Qxb6 a5 23.e5 Nh5 24.Nd4 Rb8 25.Qd6 Rfd8 26.Qe7 Nf4 27.Qg5 Ng6 28.c5 h6 Didok,D (1582)-Sidorika,V (2278) Kiev 2023 0-1 (38)]
14...Qb8 15.Nb3N -0.01/19
[15.a3± 0.42/15 might be stronger. Bd8 *(15...Rfe8 16.Nb3 Bc6 17.Kh1 h6 18.Bf1 Ne5 19.Qf2 Bd7 20.Nb1 Ba4 21.N1d2 b5 22.c5 dxc5 23.Bxc5 Bxc5 24.Rxc5 Nfd7 25.Rxc8 Rxc8 26.Qd4 Nb6 27.Rc1 Rd8 28.Qc3 Qd6 29.Qc5 Bxb3 30.Nxb3* Palejko,M (2664)-Sanjuan Garcia,M (2683) Biel 2015 Lasker [S&V #259; Alekhine Mem book] 0-1 (65) *)* 16.Nb3 Bc7 17.Bf4 Ne5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.c5 Rcd8 20.Qb2 Nd7 21.Na4 b5 22.Nc3 Bc6 23.Nd2 Qb7 24.Nf1 Rb8 25.Ne3 Bd8 26.Rd3 Bg5 27.Bd1 Rbd8 28.Qe2 Nf6 29.Rxd8 Rxd8 30.Bb3 Geshko,A (1976)-Keymer,V (2347) Porto Carras 2015 CBM 169 Extra [Schulz,Andre] 0-1 (74) h5 31.Kf2 h4 32.Rd1 Rc8 33.g3 Qe7 34.Ng2 Ne8 35.Qd3 Qb7 36.gxh4 Bf6 37.Qe3 Qe7 38.Ne2 Bxh4+ 39.Nxh4 Qxh4+ 40.Kg2 g6 41.Ng3 Nf6 42.Rd6 Kg7 43.Qg1 Bb7 44.Rb6 Bc6 45.Rxa6 Novichkov,V (1976)-Glaser,G (2347) Denver 2015 Lasker [Liubomirov] 0-1 (74)]
15...Rfe8 0.43/15
[15...Ne5= -0.01/19]

(Diagram)

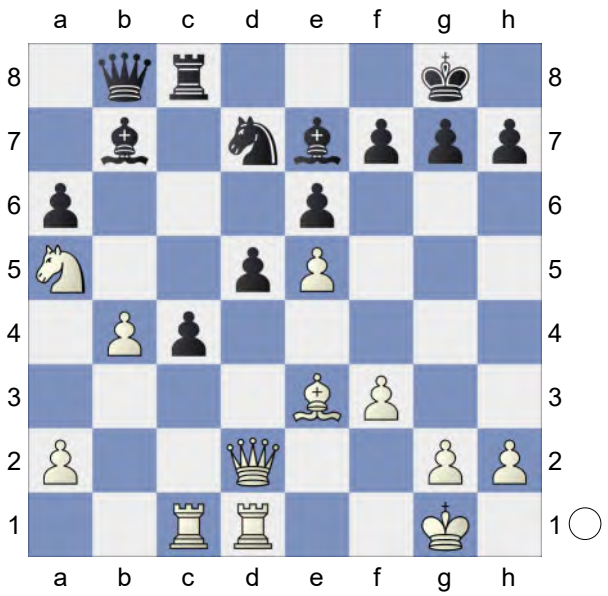


16.Bf1 Ne5 White has an edge. **17.Na4 Nxc4 18.Bxc4 b5 19.Nb6 bxc4 20.Nxc8**
[Of course not 20.Rxc4 Rxc4 21.Nxc4 d5∓]
20...Rxc8



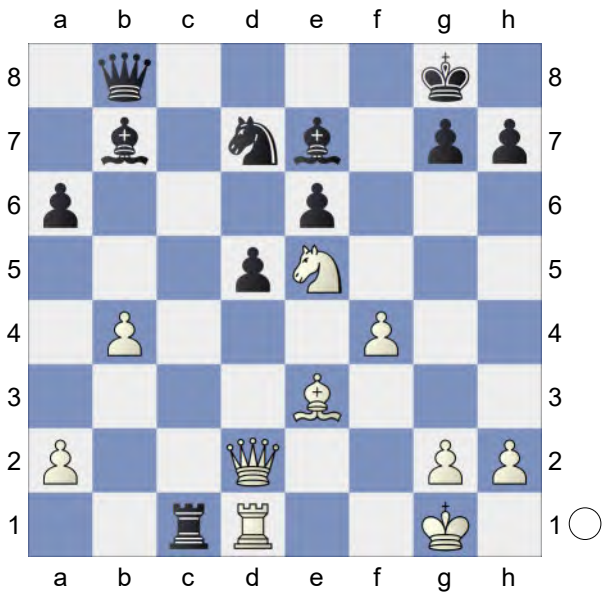
21.Na5 d5 22.e5 Nd7 0.73/20
[22...Ba8= -0.20/17]

(Diagram)

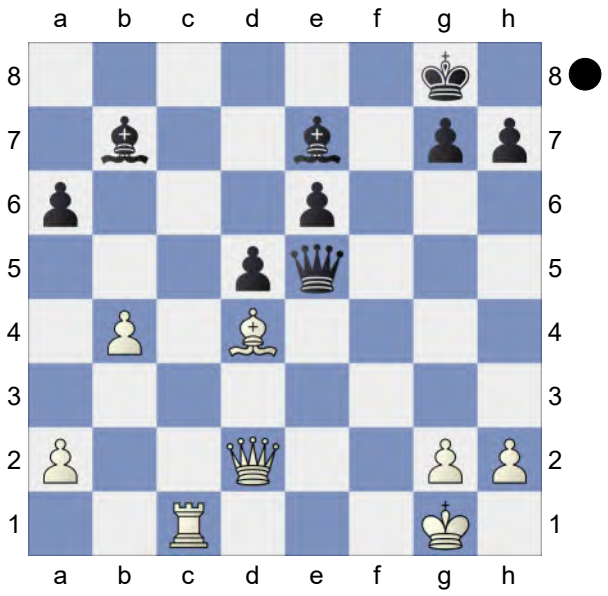


23.f4 -0.36/17
[Worse is 23.Nxb7 Qxb7 24.Bd4 Qb8∓]
[23.Nxc4!± 0.73/20 Rd8 *(23...dxc4 24.Qxd7)* 24.Na5]
23...f6? 1.40/19
[23...Nf8∓ -0.36/17]
24.Nxc4± &Bianco is more active.
24...fxe5 1.79/18
[24...Bc6± 1.30/20]
25.Nxe5+- Rxc1 2.82/22
[25...Nxe5 1.81/20 is a better defense. 26.fxe5 Bc6]

(Diagram)



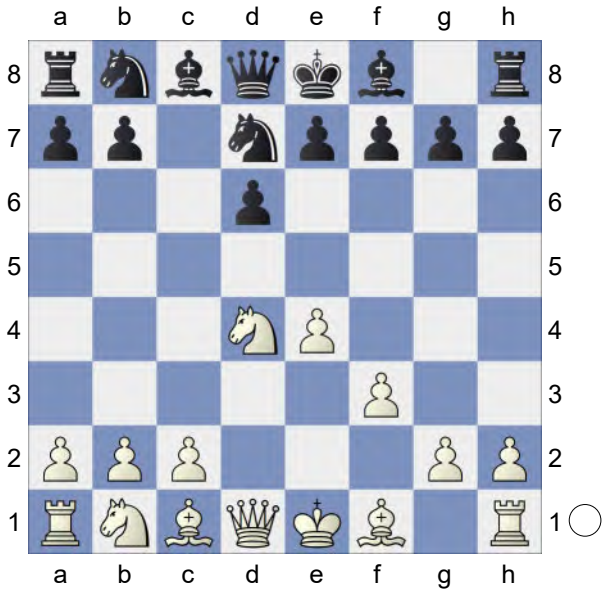
26.Rxc1 Nxe5 27.fxe5 Qxe5 4.10/25
[⌓27...Bc8 2.81/19 28.Qc3 Bd7]
28.Bd4



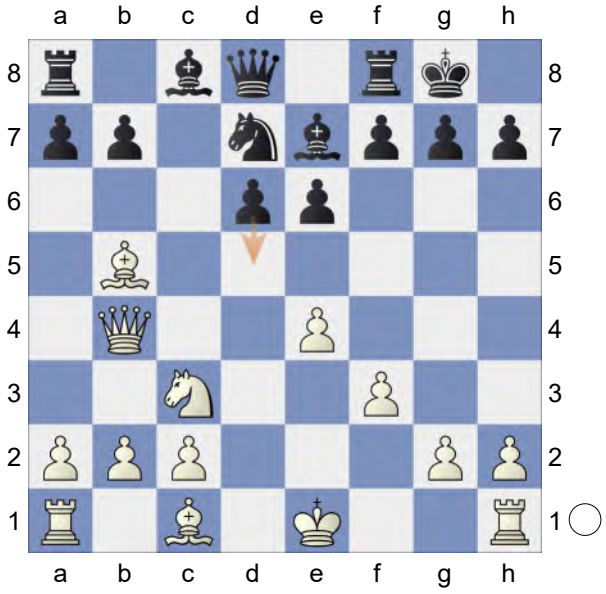
Weighted Error Value: White=0.26 (precise) /Black=0.64
1-0

91 **B54**
□ **Genius00L** **2875**
■ **Mysecret111** **2988**
Blitz 17.07.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nfd7N 0.51/20
[5...e5= 0.12/17 6.Nb3 *(6.Bb5+ Bd7=)* 6...Be6]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

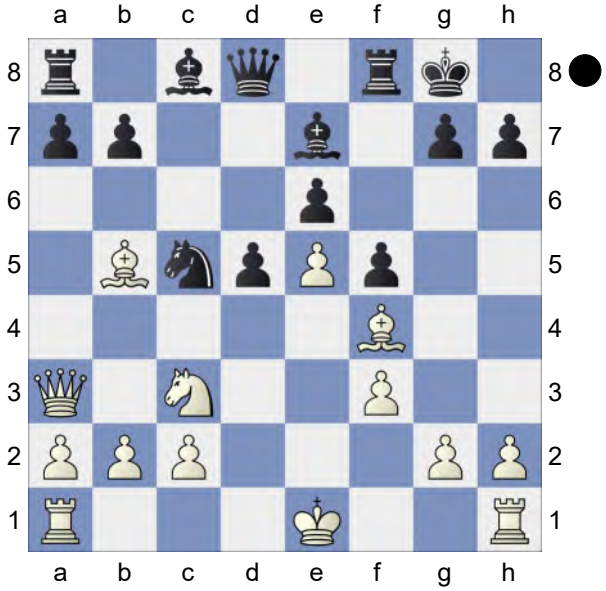


6.Nc3± Nc6 7.Bb5 Nxd4 8.Qxd4 White is slightly better. **8...e6 9.Qc4** -0.07/19
[9.a4± 0.57/17]
9...Be7 10.Qb4 -0.35/18
[10.Bf4= 0.15/19]
10...0-0



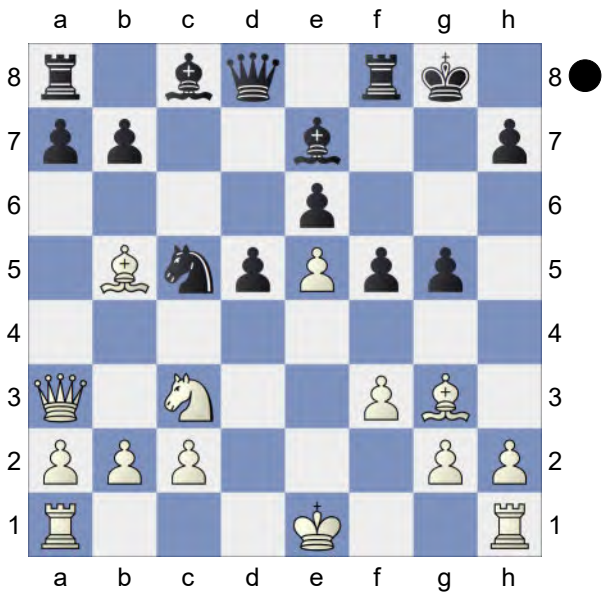
11.Qa4 -0.85/19
[11.Be3= -0.11/19 remains equal.]

11...Nc5∓ 12.Qa3 -1.20/19
[Better is 12.Qb4 -0.84/20]
12...f5 -0.03/17
[12...d5!∓ -1.20/19 aiming for ...Nd3+! 13.b4 Na6 14.Bxa6 bxa6]
13.e5? -1.83/20 Black continues to play with concentration.
[13.Be3= -0.03/17]
13...d5 -1.09/17
[13...dxe5-+ -1.83/20 White must now prevent ...Nd3+! 14.Ne2 e4]
14.Bf4? -3.39/20
[14.Ne2∓ -1.09/17 was called for.]

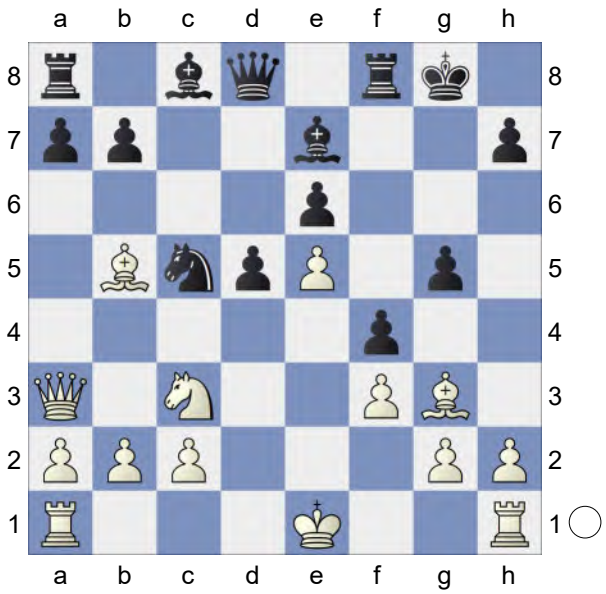


14...g5? -0.39/19
[Black should try 14...Nd3+!-+ -3.39/20 15.Bxd3 Bxa3 16.bxa3 Qa5]
15.Bg3? -5.92/21
[15.Bxg5!∓ -0.39/19 Nd3+ 16.Bxd3 *(16.cxd3 Bxa3 17.Bxd8 Bxb2∓)* 16...Bxa3 17.Bxd8 Bxb2 18.Kd2 Bxa1 19.Bf6 Bxc3+ 20.Kxc3]

(Diagram)

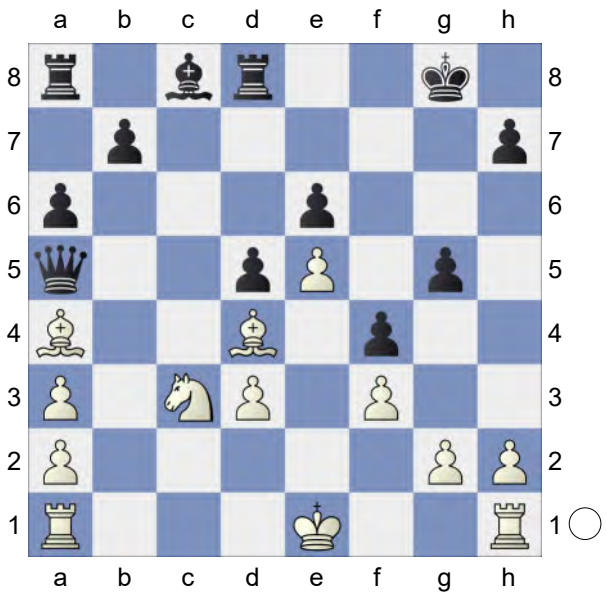


15...f4? -1.54/20
[15...Nd3+!-+ -5.92/21 16.Bxd3 Bxa3]

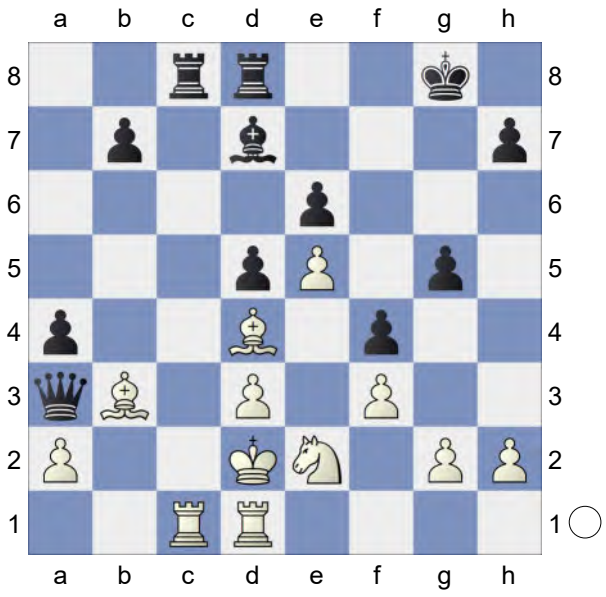


16.Bf2? -3.13/22
[16.b4∓ -1.54/20]
16...Nd3+!-+ 17.cxd3? -6.58/20
[17.Bxd3 -3.41/20 Bxa3 18.bxa3]
17...Bxa3 18.bxa3 Qa5 19.Bd4 a6 20.Ba4 Rd8

(Diagram)

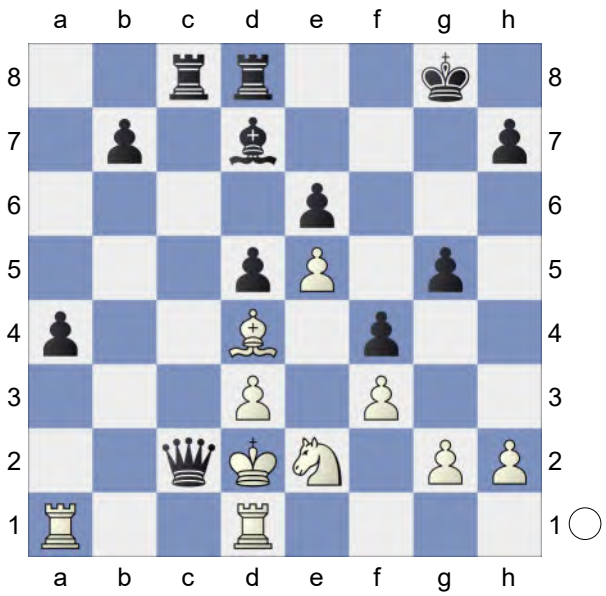


21.Kd2 Bd7 22.Bb3 Rac8 23.Rac1 Qxa3 ...Qb4 is the strong threat. Black is clearly winning. **24.Ne2 a5** Threatens to win with ...a4. **25.Rhd1 a4**



26.Bc2 Qxa2 27.Ra1 Qxc2+

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=1.43/ Black=0.95

0-1

92 **B54**

□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2862**

■ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2749**

Magnus-Alireza 27th Feb blitz (28)

[GM Arnaudov]

In this game we will see a new idea. White is playing with 0-0-0.

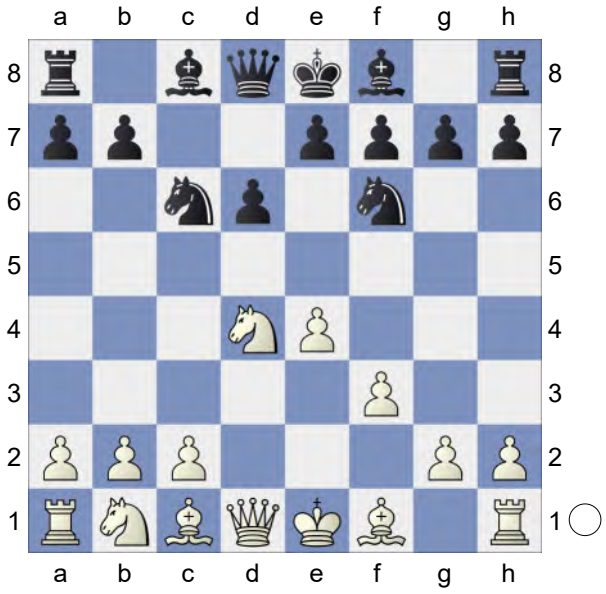
B38: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind with 5...Bg7 and 7...0-0

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N

[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012

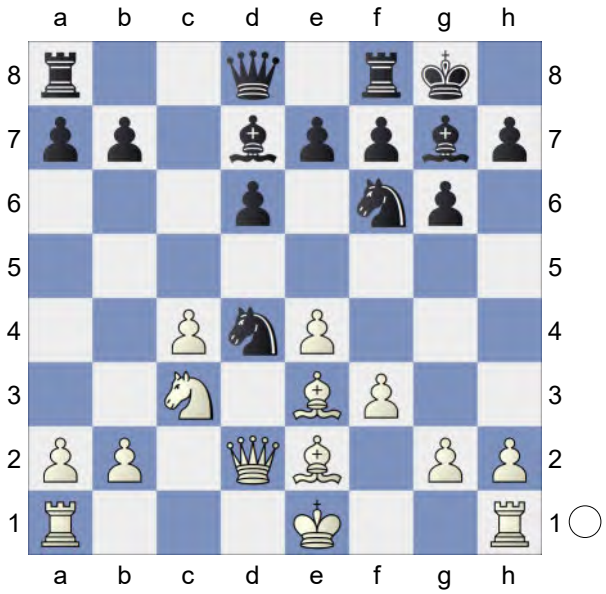
CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



6.c4 g6 7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 Bd7 10.Be2 Nxd4

(Diagram)



11.Bxd4 Bc6

[11...a5 I believe that this is the best move order because after 0-0-0.Black is not playing Bc6 but on e6 12.0-0-0 a4 13.a3 Qa5 14.g4 Be6]

12.0-0-0 a5

[12...Qa5 also doesn't help much 13.Kb1 Rfc8 14.g4 a6 15.h4! b5 16.h5 bxc4 17.Bxc4±]

[12...a6 the counterplay looks too slow 13.g4 b5 14.h4 b4 0.83/21 *(14...Rc8± 0.34/18* was preferrable.*)* 15.Nd5+-]

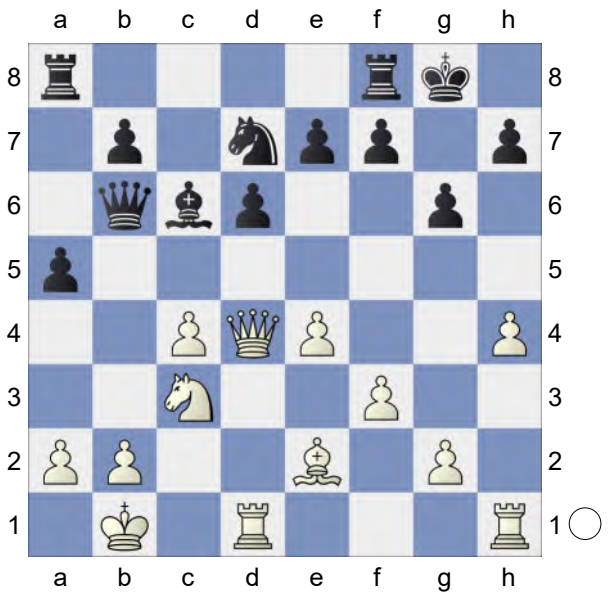
13.Kb1 Nd7 White is slightly better.

14.h4 0.43/20 &Bianco is more active.

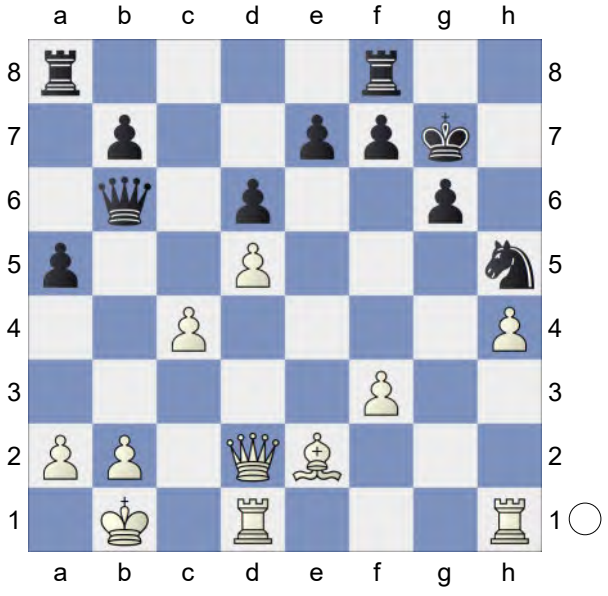
[14.Bxg7± 0.78/20 Kxg7 15.h4]

14...Bxd4± 15.Qxd4 Qb6

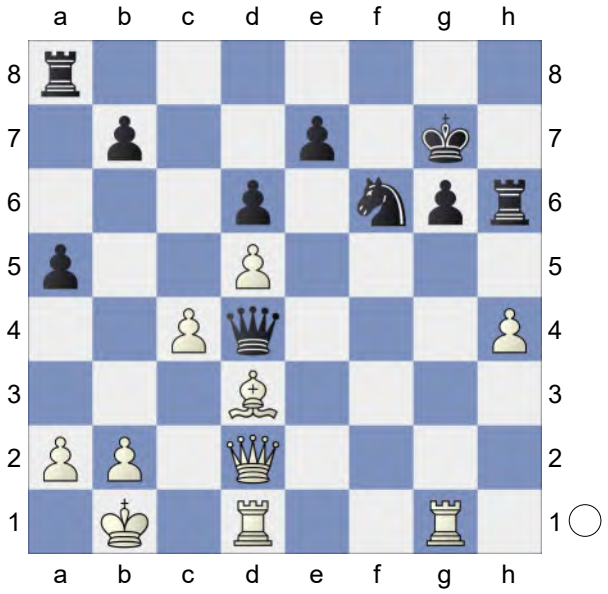
(Diagram)



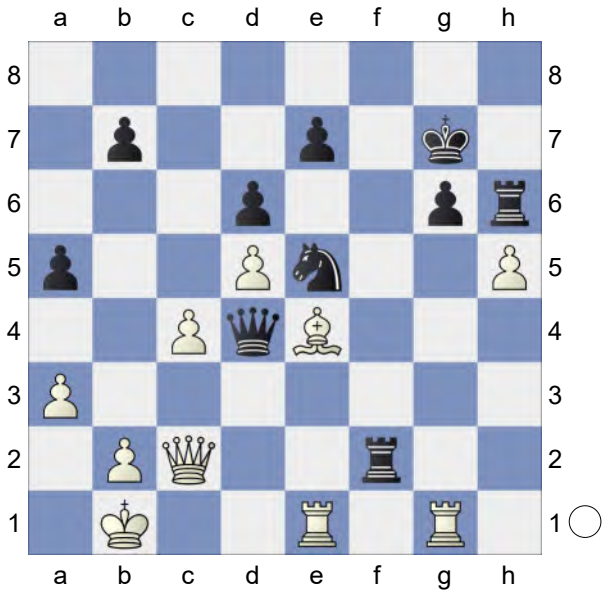
16.Qd2 h5 1.12/20
[16...a4 17.a3±]
[⌓16...f6 0.77/19]
17.g4!± Nf6 18.gxh5 Nxh5 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.exd5 Kg7 1.40/24
[Better is 20...Qf2± 0.64/19]



21.Rhg1 Rh8 22.f4! Nf6 23.f5 And now fxg6 would win. **23...Rh6** 1.94/20
[23...Rxh4± 0.91/21 24.fxg6 Rh2]
24.Bd3+- Qd4? 3.94/21
[24...Nd7 1.87/19 was necessary. 25.h5 f6 26.fxg6 Ne5]
25.fxg6 fxg6



26.Rde1 1.81/20
[⌓26.h5 3.10/19]
26...Re8 27.Qc2 Ng4 28.a3 0.30/21
[28.h5± 1.15/20 gxh5 29.Qd2]
28...Ne5= 29.Be4 Rf8 ...Rf2 is the strong threat. **30.h5** -0.84/22
[30.Rg2= 0.22/19 keeps the balance.]
30...Rf2∓

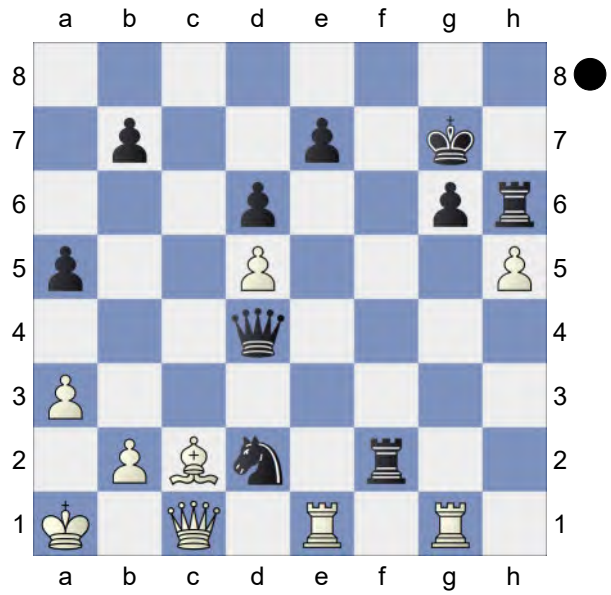


31.Qc1 Nxc4 -0.54/22
[31...Rxh5∓ -0.99/21 White must now

prevent ...Rhh2. 32.Bxg6 Nxg6 33.Rxe7+ Rf7]

32.Bc2!∓ Nd2+ 33.Ka1 -0.94/20

[33.Ka2!= -0.04/22 Qxd5+ 34.Ka1]



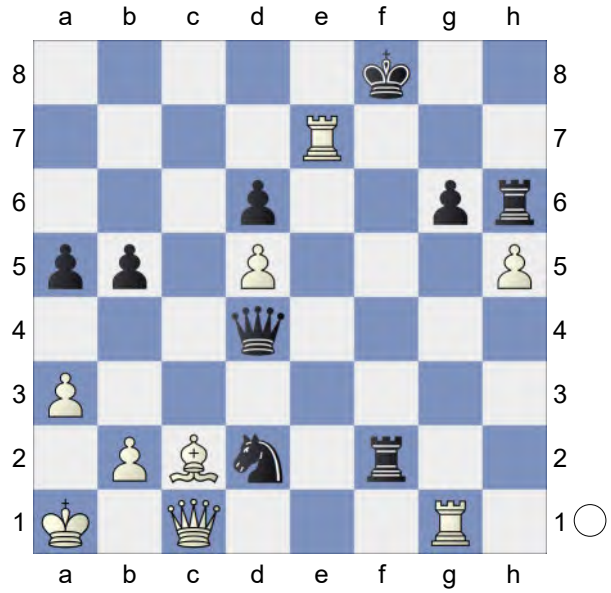
33...b5? 1.35/22

[33...Rf3!∓ -0.94/20 stays on course. 34.Ka2 *(34.Rxe7+? Kf8-+)* 34...Qxd5+ 35.Ka1 Qd4]

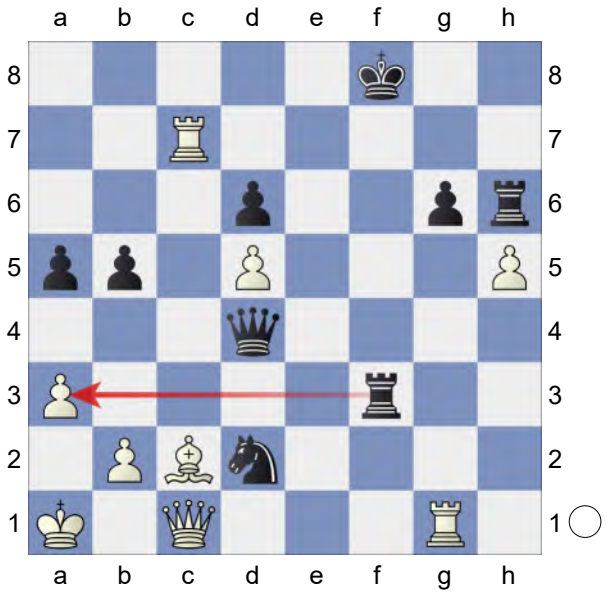
34.Rxe7+±

[34.hxg6 e5 35.Rg3 *(35.dxe6? Rh3-+)* 35...Rhh2∓]

34...Kf8



35.Rc7 Rf3



36.Ka2→ White has strong attack. Really sharp! **36...Qxd5+?** 4.34/23

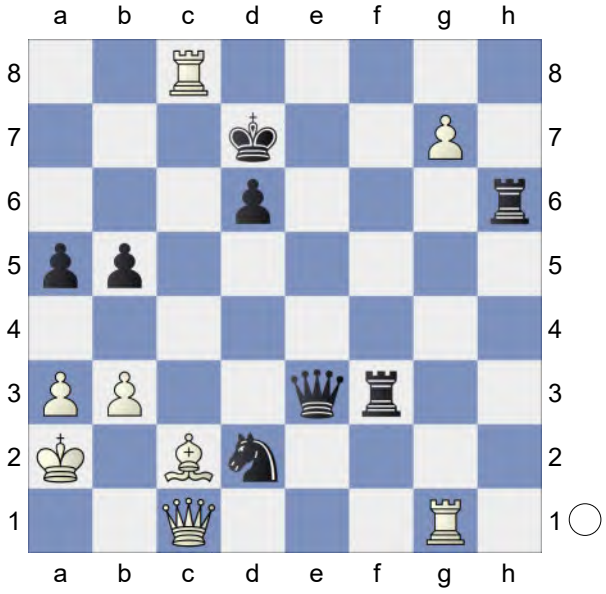
[36...Rxh5 2.03/21 37.Rc8+ *(37.Rxg6 Qxd5+ 38.b3 Nxb3=)* 37...Ke7]

37.b3+- Qd4? 32.14/17

[37...g5 3.60/21 38.Rc8+ Kg7 39.Qb2+ Rff6]

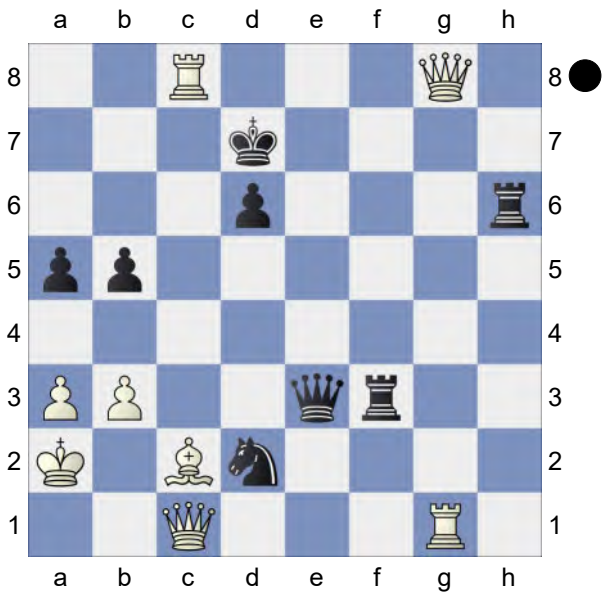
38.hxg6 White threatens g7+ and mate.

38...Qe3 39.g7+ Ke8 40.Rc8+ Kd7



41.g8Q

(Diagram)



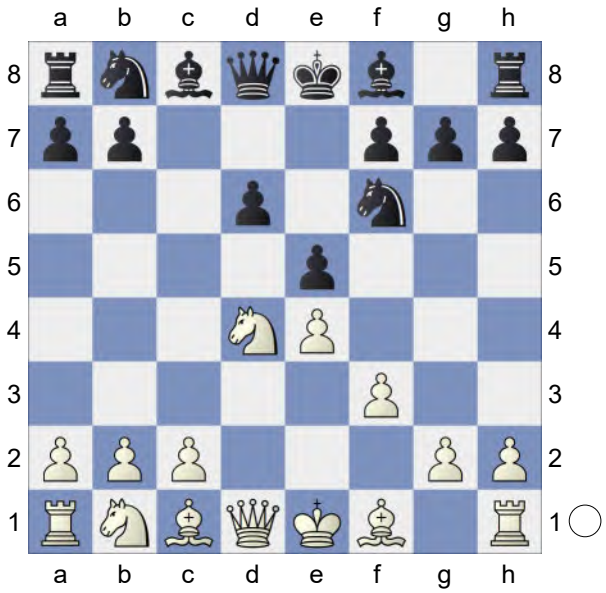
Weighted Error Value: White=0.26 (precise) /Black=0.93
1-0

93 **B55**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2855**
■ **Giri,Anish** **2785**
Bilbao Masters 9th (9) 22.07.2016
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

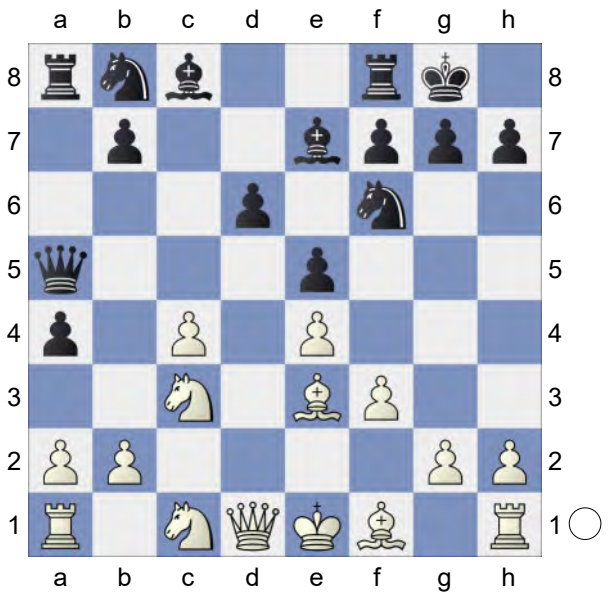
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/ Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/ Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

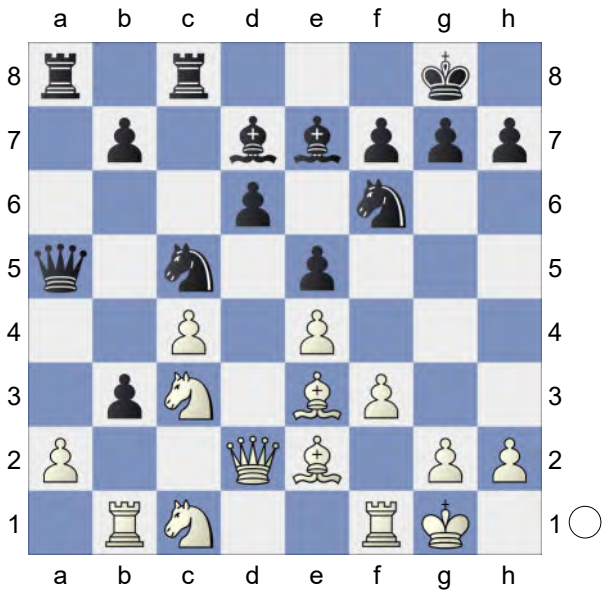


6.Nb3 Be7 7.c4 a5 8.Be3 a4 9.Nc1 0-0 10.Nc3 The position is equal.
10...Qa5

(Diagram)

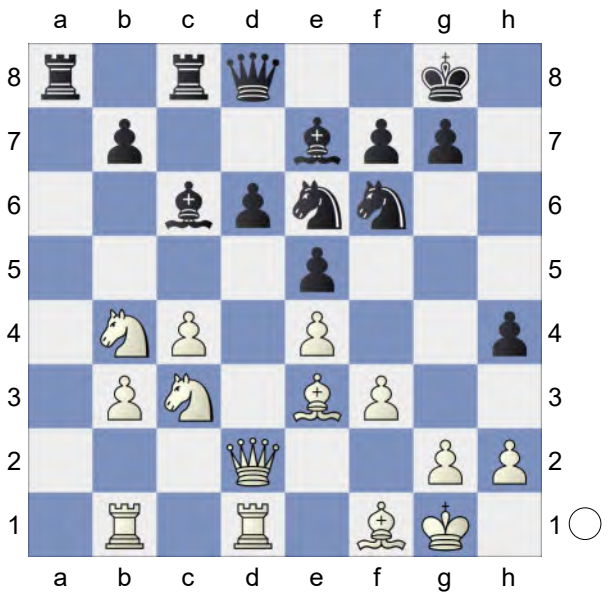


11.Qd2 Na6 0.44/21
[11...Be6= 0.01/19]
12.Be2± Nc5 13.0-0 Bd7 14.Rb1 Rfc8 15.b4 axb3!

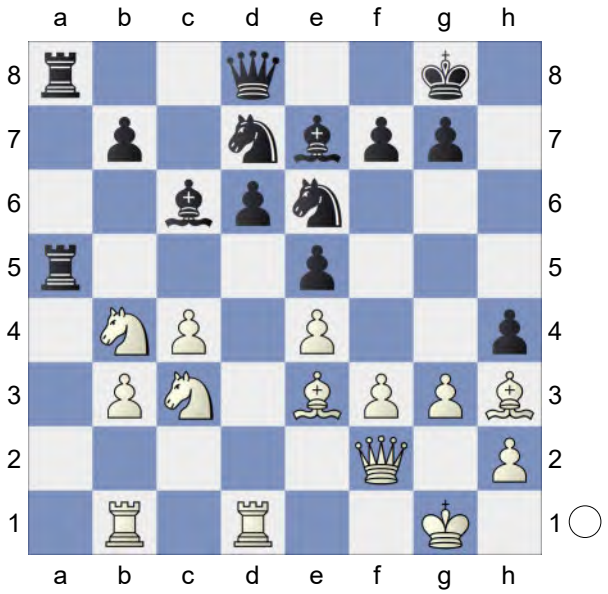


16.axb3 Qd8 17.Nd3 Ne6 18.Nb4 Bc6 19.Rfd1 h5 20.Bf1 h4

(Diagram)

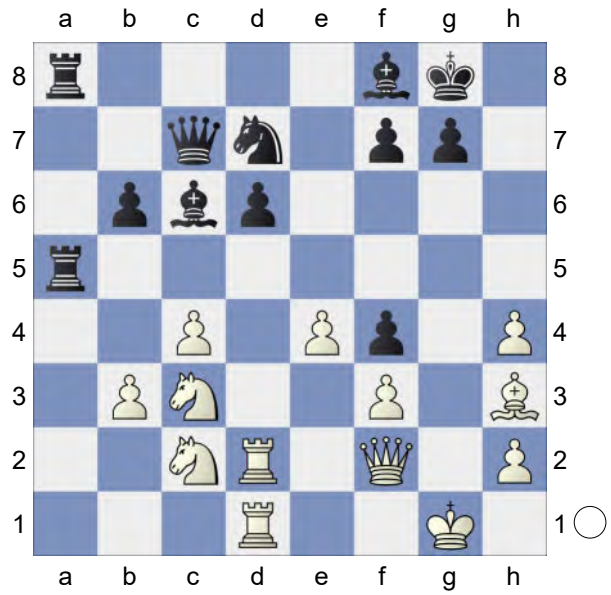


21.Qf2 Nd7 22.g3 0.10/20
[22.Nc2± 0.62/18]
22...Ra3 0.60/18
[22...Bg5= 0.10/20]
23.Bh3 Rca8 24.Nc2 Prevents Nd4.
24...R3a6 25.Nb4 0.01/18
[Better is 25.Bf5± 0.77/17]
25...Ra5 0.82/18
[25...Ra3!= 0.01/18]

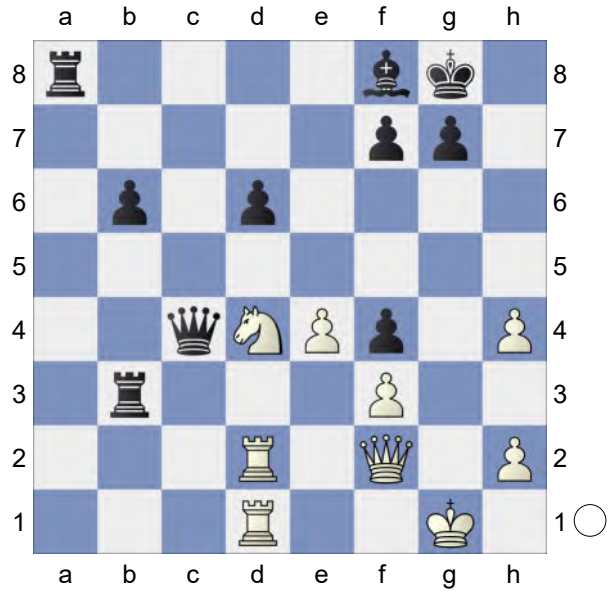


26.Nc2 0.01/18 &Bianco is more active.
[26.Kg2± 0.82/18]
26...b6 1.01/17

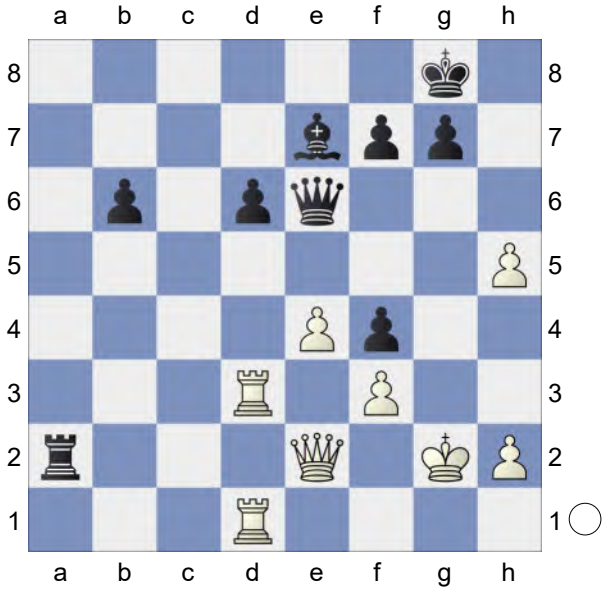
[26...R5a6!= 0.01/18]
27.Rd2 Qc7 1.33/19
[⌓27...R5a7 0.80/17]
28.Rbd1 Bf8 29.gxh4 Nf4 30.Bxf4 exf4



31.Bxd7 Qxd7 32.Nb4 0.48/19
[32.Qxb6± 1.19/19 aiming for b4. Bb7 33.Qf2]
32...Ra3 33.Nxc6 Qxc6 34.Nb5 Rxb3 35.Nd4
[Don't play 35.Nxd6 Rd8 36.e5 Qxf3 37.Qxf3 Rxf3∓]
35...Qxc4

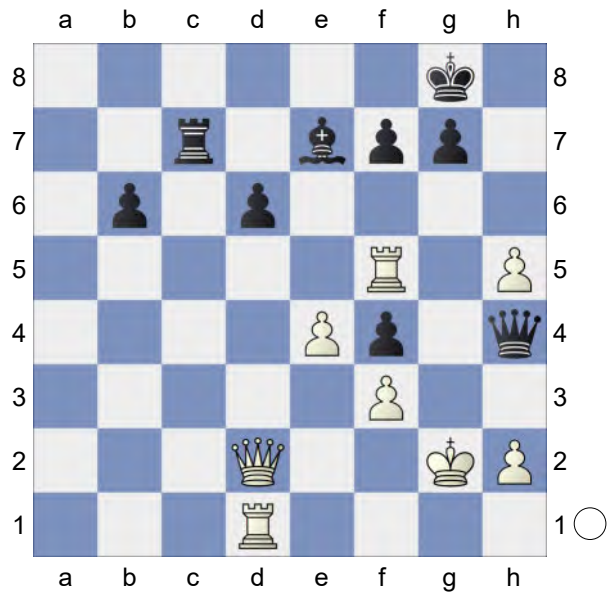


Strongly threatening ...Rba3. **36.Nxb3 Qxb3 37.Qe2 Be7 38.Kg2 Qe6 39.h5 Ra3** 1.26/21
[39...Qh6± 0.64/24]
40.Rd3 0.87/26
[⌓40.Rd5 1.26/21]
40...Ra2

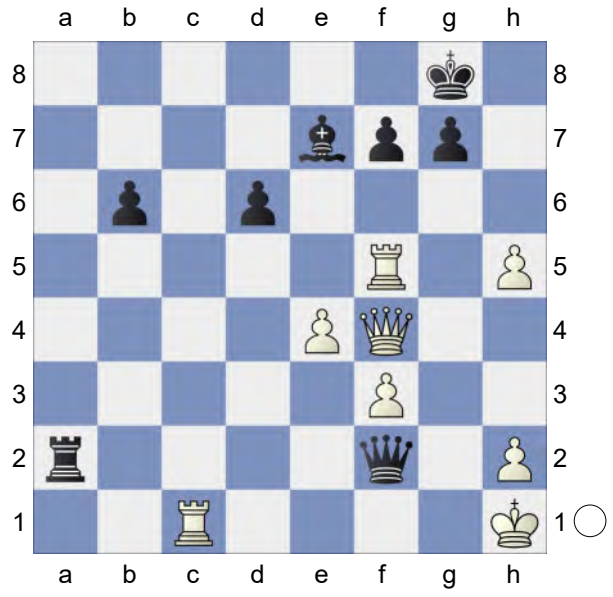


41.R3d2 0.01/21
[41.R1d2!± 0.91/27 Ra1 42.Rd5]
41...Ra3= 42.Rd3 0.01/20
[42.Rd5± 0.96/20]
42...Ra7 1.24/21
[42...Ra2= 0.01/20 remains equal. 43.R1d2 Ra4]
43.Rd5± Rc7 1.66/21
[43...Ra3± 1.23/21 44.Qf2 Re3]
44.Qd2+- Qf6 45.Rf5↑ White has strong initiative. **45...Qh4** 2.13/22
[⌓45...Qe6 1.75/20 46.Qxf4 Rc2+ 47.Rd2 Rc5]

(Diagram)

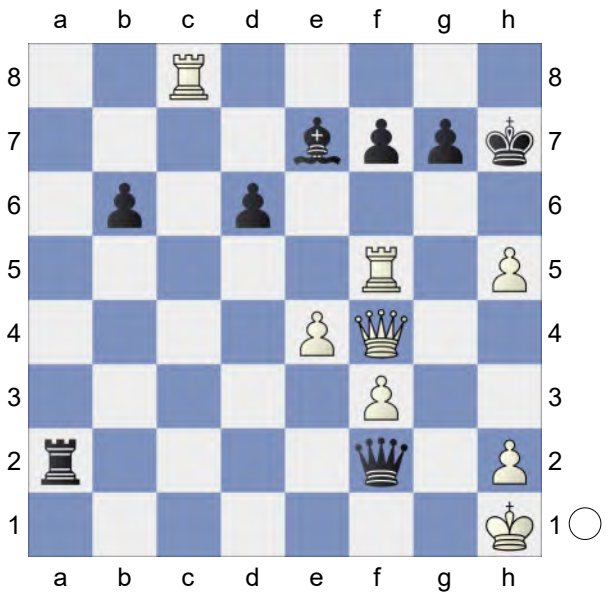


46.Rc1 Ra7 3.82/23
[46...Rc5 1.76/24 47.Rcxc5 bxc5]
47.Qxf4 2.19/24
[⌓47.Rc8+ 3.82/23 Bd8 48.h6]
47...Ra2+ 48.Kh1 Qf2? #8/18
[48...Qxf4+- 2.23/23 49.Rxf4 Bf6 50.Rc8+ Kh7]

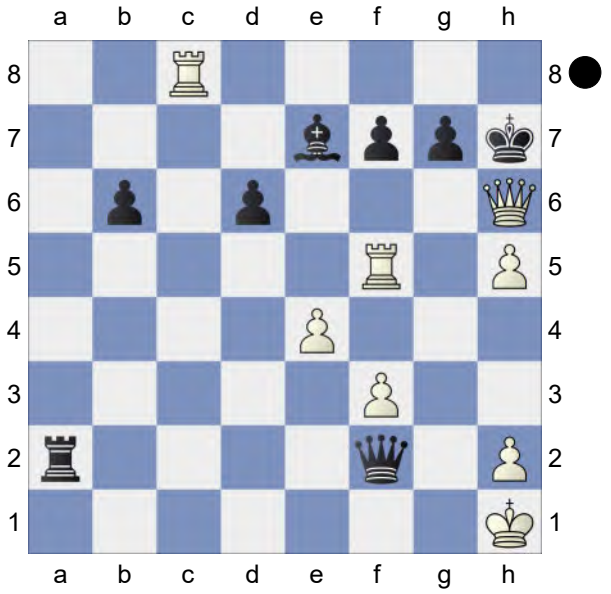


49.Rc8+! Kh7

(Diagram)



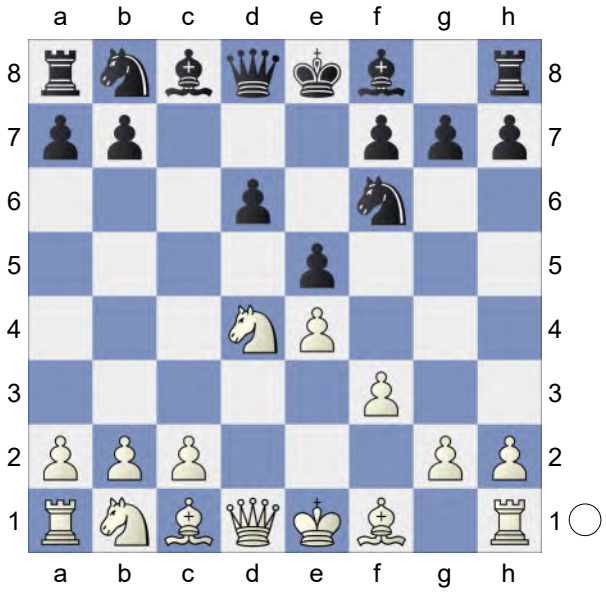
50.Qh6+!



Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.44
1-0

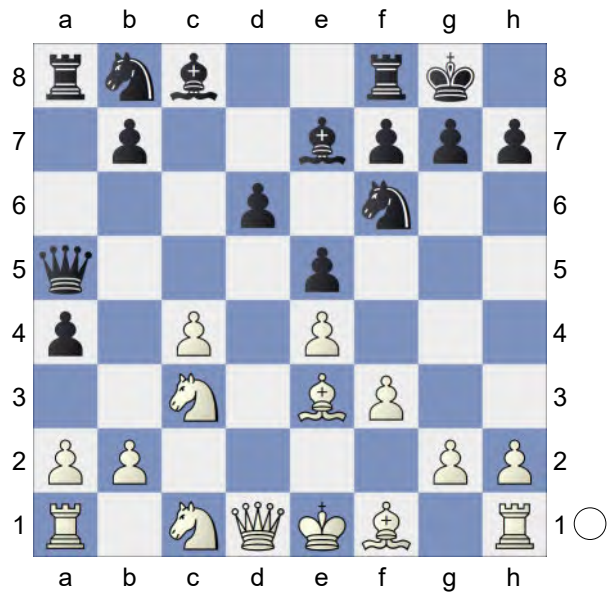
94 **B55**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2853**
■ **Karjakin,Sergey** **2772**
World Championship Playoff 30.11.2016
[Sam Collins]

I hope our readers will forgive me for presenting a rapid game, considering that it contains the most beautiful move in World Championship history!
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3!? As far as I can tell, this is a new move for Magnus. In addition to the element of surprise, it can lead to Maroczy Bind structures, and so was an excellent choice for the final rapid game.
5...e5N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



6.Nb3 Be7 7.c4 a5 8.Be3 a4 This was recommended by John Shaw and Richard Palliser in the Archives.
9.Nc1 0-0 10.Nc3 The position is equal.
10...Qa5

(Diagram)



11.Qd2 Na6 0.55/21

[During his commentary on chess24, Peter Svidler mentioned that 11...Nc6 had been played in a game in the Russian Championship this year, but Sergey was looking for something sharper. The game in question became famous in its own right, due to a bizarre decision by White in the late middlegame. 12.Rb1 Be6 13.b4 axb3 14.Nxb3 Qd8 15.Be2 h6 16.0-0 Ne8 0.58/17 *(16...Nd7=* 0.26/19 *)* 17.Qb2 Bg5 18.Bf2 h5 19.Rfd1 Qf6 1.00/19 *(19...h4!±* 0.51/18 *)* 20.c5± Bxb3 1.45/21 *(20...Bc8!±* 0.48/16 *)* 21.Qxb3± Nd4 22.Qxb7 Nxe2+ Giving up his best piece renders Black's position lost (instead of just "much worse"), but there he has a flawed tactical sequence in mind. 23.Nxe2 Rxa2 24.Nc3 Rxf2 25.Nd5 In a rather hopeless position, Black tried the bizarre. Against Be3 Be3!? Now taking on f6 and playing Kh1 would leave Black with two minor pieces and a pawn for a queen. Admittedly, the play is on one side of the board and White lacks minor pieces for an attack, but it's very hard to believe this promises any real drawing chances. Instead, the stunning 26.Nxe3?? 0.10/20 was essayed in D.Kokarev - G.Oparin, Novosibirsk 2016 (1/2-1/2 in 32), when Black played 26...Re2 and drew comfortably. *(White has to play 26.Nxf6++- 1.93/20 Nxf6 27.Kh1 Bxc5 28.h4)*]

[11...Be6

A) 12.Nb5 -0.23/20 12.b4 0.21 Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Rc8 Against Nc7 14.Na7 led to a repetition after 14...Re8 15.Nb5 in Z.Varga -M.Molner, Budapest (1/ 2-1/2 in 17), but Black would have the upper hand after Rd8 -0.10/19 *(14...Rc7∓* -0.45/18 *)* 15.Nb5= Nc6∓;

B) 12.Rb1 Rc8 13.b3 axb3! 14.axb3 Nc6 left Black comfortable since b4 was hard to achieve in V.Yandemirov - B.Damljanovic, Eupen 1999 (0-1 in 41).;

C) 12.b4!?

C1) 12...axb3 13.Nxb3 Qd8?! 0.31/20 *(13...Qa3=* -0.01/20 *is superior.)* 14.Be2± was comfortable for White in D. Andreikin - M.Tazbir, Kazan 2013 (1-0 in 59), but 13...Qb4 looks more active, with an unclear position.;

C2) 12...Qd8 13.Bd3 was pleasant for White in K. Piorun - B. Socko, Warsaw 2016 (1/2-1/2 in 117).]

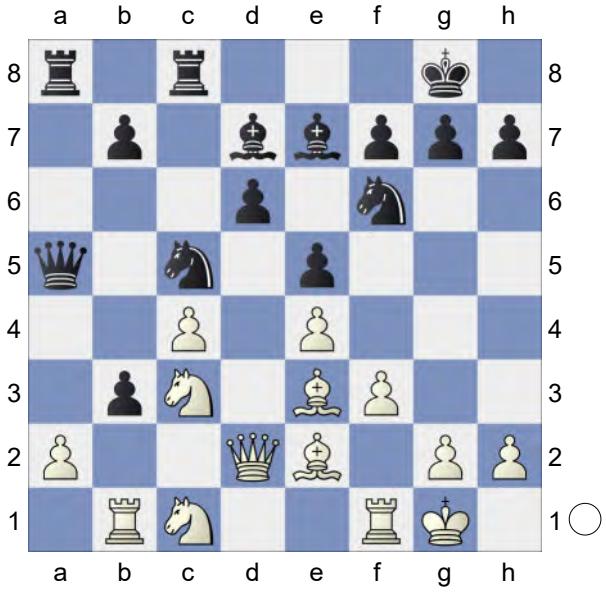
[11...Be6= -0.01/20]

12.Be2±

[12.Nd5 -0.01/22 12.Be2 0.55 Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Nxd5 14.cxd5 was very comfortable for Black in C.Storey - R.

Palliser, Scarborough 2004 (0-1 in 35). Richard obtained good play after 14...Bd7 but the immediate 14...f5!? is also tempting.]

12...Nc5 13.0-0 Bd7 14.Rb1 Rfc8 15.b4 axb3!

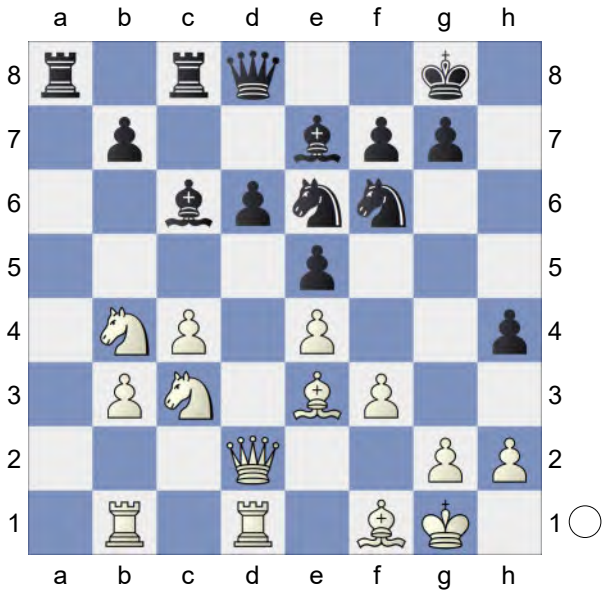


16.axb3 We can clearly see the downsides of Karjakin's novel piece placement. Unlike in the lines covered above (where White either can't push b4 or has to recapture with a piece on b3, leaving split pawns on the queenside), here b4 is a threat which forces the black pieces to retreat. **16...Qd8 17.Nd3 Ne6** 0.22/17

[17...Nxd3± 0.57/18 18.Bxd3 *(18.Qxd3 Ra3±)* 18...Ra3]

18.Nb4= Bc6 19.Rfd1 h5 It's hard to criticise this advance, which at least creates some prospects for play on the kingside. **20.Bf1 h4**

(Diagram)



21.Qf2 0.51/19

[Better is 21.Nbd5± 0.83/17]

21...Nd7 22.g3!? 0.07/20 I like this move, which gives the light-squared bishop access to h3 and creates tension on the kingside. One of the advantages of extra space is that it allows pieces to be transferred to the flanks more quickly, and here it's much more likely that the g- and/or h-files will be occupied by white rooks than by their black counterparts.

[22.Kh1± 0.70/18]

22...Ra3 0.63/19

[22...hxg3 23.hxg3 creates some potential problems on the h-file, but allows Bg5! which eases Black's defence, for example 24.Bh3 *(24.Rxd6? -0.54/20 24.Nc2 0.39 Qf8!)* 24...Bxe3 25.Qxe3 With the idea Bxe6. Nd4± and White is restricted to a small advantage.]

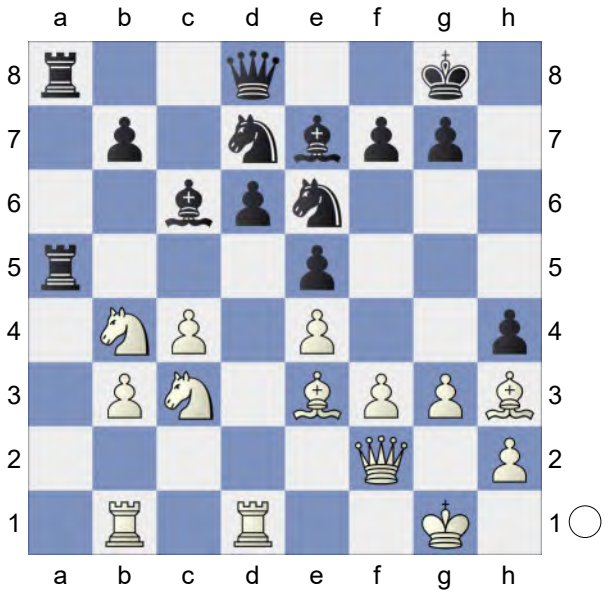
[22...Bg5= 0.07/20]

23.Bh3± Rca8 24.Nc2 R3a6 25.Nb4 0.01/17

[White should try 25.Kg2± 0.69/18]

25...Ra5 0.77/17

[25...Ra3!= 0.01/17]



26.Nc2 -0.01/18 Informed by the match situation (Karjakin had to win with Black to force a blitz play-off), Carlsen offers a repetition. In any other situation he'd never take a draw here - indeed, in the final classical game of his first match with Anand, he appeared to turn down a repetition when he had an edge. &Bianco is more active.

[26.Kg2± 0.77/17]

26...b6 0.94/17

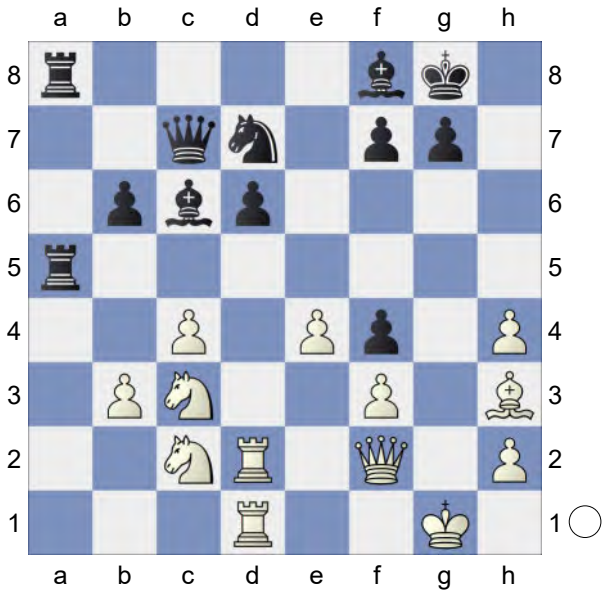
[26...R5a6!= -0.01/18]

27.Rd2 Qc7 1.39/19

[⌓27...R5a7 0.85/16]

28.Rbd1 Bf8 29.gxh4! Another strong and unstereotyped decision, winning a pawn and opening the kingside. **29...Nf4 30.Bxf4 exf4**

(Diagram)



31.Bxd7 Qxd7 Black has very limited attacking chances without knights, and his bishop pair is severely limited by the pawn structure. **32.Nb4** 0.81/20

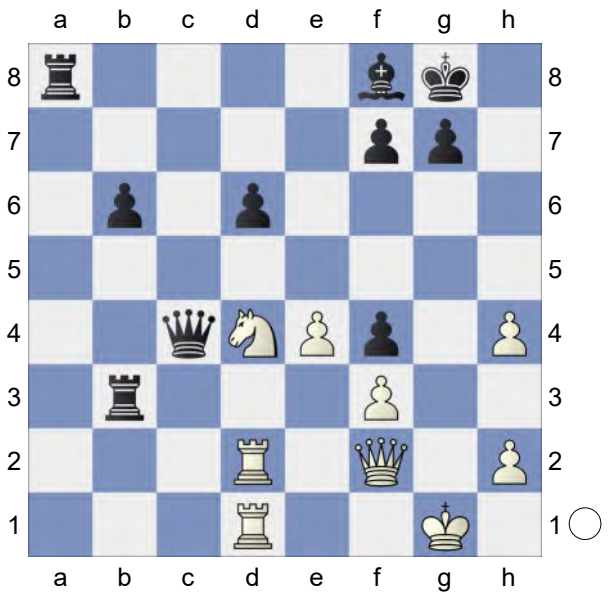
[⌓32.Qxb6 1.12/19 aiming for b4. Bb7 33.Qf2]

32...Ra3± 33.Nxc6 Qxc6 34.Nb5 Rxb3 As good or bad as anything else. Black's compensation for the exchange is clearly insufficient, but otherwise he'd be a pawn down with a poor position. **35.Nd4**

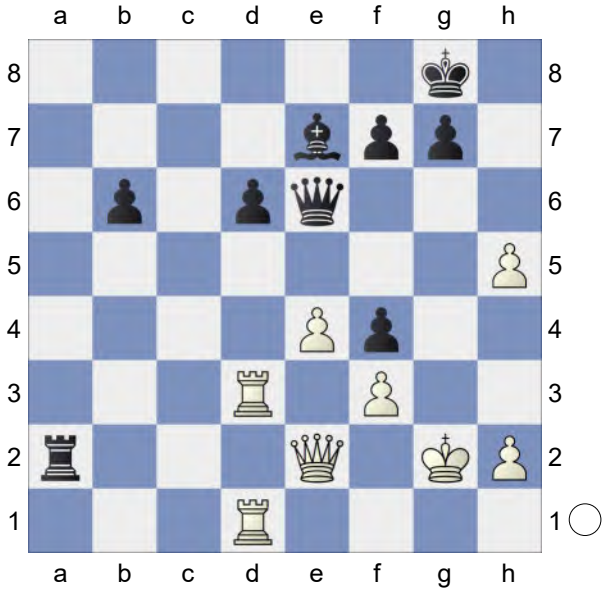
[But not 35.Nxd6 Rd8 36.e5 Qxf3 37.Qxf3 Rxf3∓]

35...Qxc4

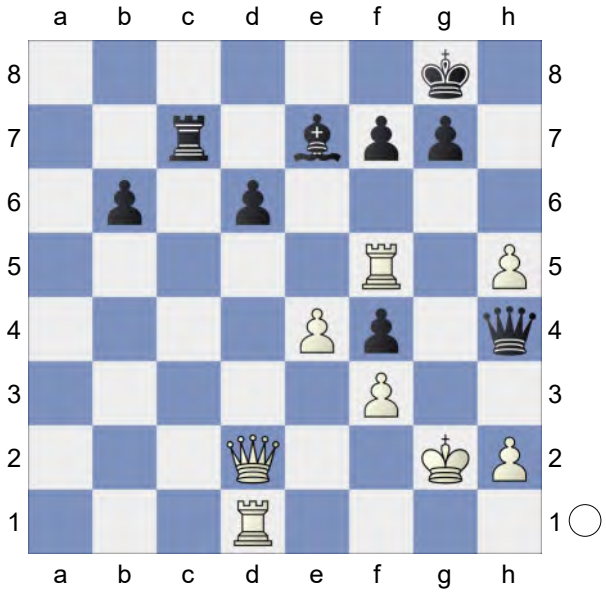
(Diagram)



Threatens to win with ...Rba3. **36.Nxb3 Qxb3 37.Qe2** 0.49/20
[37.Kg2± 0.88/19]
37...Be7 0.80/22
[37...Rb8± 0.49/20]
38.Kg2 Qe6
[38...Bxh4 1.03/19 38...Ra3 0.71 39.Qd3± doesn't worry White.]
39.h5 Inhibits Qg6+. **39...Ra3 40.Rd3 Ra2**

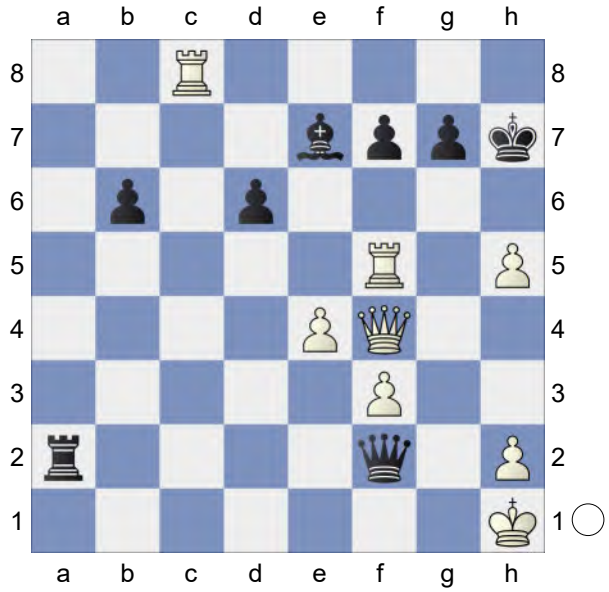


41.R3d2 0.01/21
[41.R1d2!± 0.98/29 Ra1 42.Rd5]
41...Ra3= 42.Rd3 -0.01/19
More matchplay.
[White should play 42.Rd5± 0.90/22]
42...Ra7 1.34/23
[42...Ra2= -0.01/19 keeps the balance. 43.R1d2 Ra4]
43.Rd5± Rc7 1.64/21
[43...Ra3± 1.31/21 44.Qf2 Re3]
44.Qd2+- Qf6 1.67/22
[44...Qh6± 1.29/22 is a better defense. 45.Ra1 Rc8]
45.Rf5↑ White is in control. **45...Qh4** 2.37/25
[45...Qe6± 1.55/20 was worth a try. 46.Qxf4 Rc2+ 47.Rd2 Rc5]

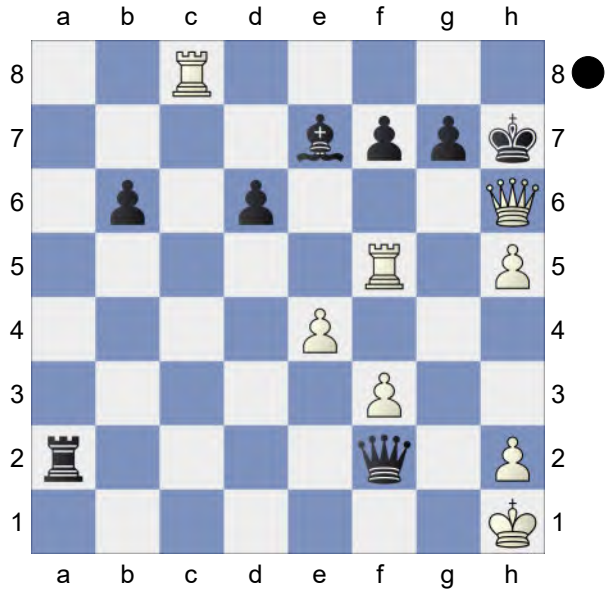


46.Rc1! Taking control of the c-file before commencing decisive operations.
46...Ra7 4.20/23
[46...Rxc1 1.92/24 47.Qxc1 Bf6]
47.Qxf4? 1.53/23
[47.Rc8++- 4.20/23 is the precise move to win. Bd8 48.h6]
47...Ra2+ 2.29/5
[47...Qxf4± 1.53/23 48.Rc8+ Kh7 49.Rxf4 Bf6]
48.Kh1 Qf2? #8/17 And now, as everyone knows, rather than 49.Qg3 with an easy win, Magnus made a little

history...
[48...Qxf4+- 2.47/21 49.Rxf4 Bf6 50.Rc8+ Kh7]
49.Rc8+! Kh7? #2/6
[49...Bf8 50.Rxf8+! is just mate.]
[49...Bf8+- 1.92/5 50.Rxf8+ *(50.Rg5 Ra1+ 51.Rc1 Rxc1+ 52.Qxc1 Qxf3+ 53.Rg2 Qxe4=)* 50...Kxf8 51.Rxf7+ Ke8 52.Rf8+ Kd7 53.Qf7+ Kc6 54.Rc8+ Kb5 55.Qc4+ Ka5 56.Ra8#]



50.Qh6+!



Everything else loses, but this is good enough.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.64
1-0

95	**B55**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus**	**2853**
■ **Karjakin,Sergey**	**2772**
WCh Rapid TB 2016 (4)	30.11.2016

[Jonas Hacker,TA]

Navara,David: 'It is very hard to win with Black on demand. On the other hand, it not easy to play such a game with White, either. The subconscious desire to make a draw might lead to concessions and gradually to a deterioration of one's position. Magnus coped with this task excellently. He played for the win while not avoiding a possible move repetition, thus forcing Sergey to make further concessions.
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Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: 'It is very hard to win with Black on demand. On the other hand, it not easy to play such a game with White, either. The subconscious desire to make a draw might lead to concessions and gradually to a deterioration of one's position.

Magnus coped with this task excellently. He played for the win while not avoiding a possible move repetition, thus forcing Sergey to make further concessions.

''' **1.e4** Colovic,Aleksandar Navara, David: 'Navara,D/Stohl,I' Navara,David: 'Navara,D/Stohl,I Colovic,Aleksandar Navara,D/Stohl,I Navara,D Navara,D/Stohl,I: 'Colovic,Aleksandar'' **1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3!?** Even Magnus Carlsen plays our move 5 f3!, showing that it is not just a tricky sideline.

In response Sergey Karjakin opts for a slow and positional approach, allowing 7 c4, and follows up with an early 7...a5, trying to disrupt White's coordination as well as threatening some tactical tricks. But Carlsen is well prepared and shows us how to handle the resulting positions.

5...e5 Navara,David: 'Navara,D/Stohl,I: 'The text move in the Najdorf spirit is the most common reply. However, Black has alternatives.''

[After 5...Nc6 Navara,D/Stohl,I

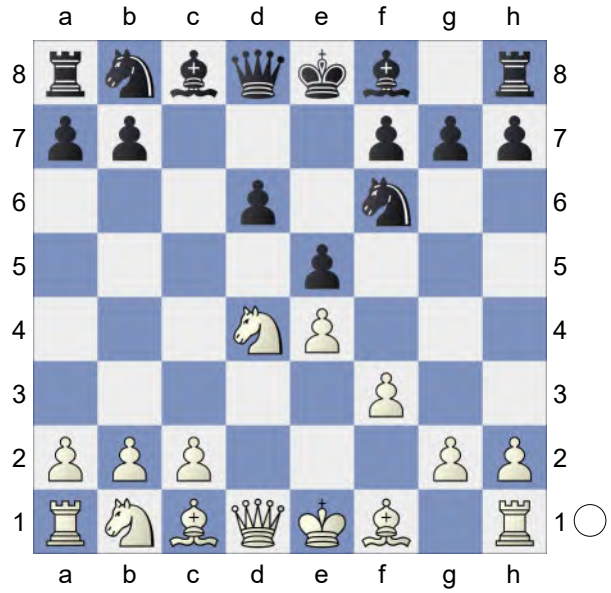
A) Black has to realise White can still go for positions from the English Attack with 6.Nc3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 Here the best way to get counterplay is a5!? 10.Bb5 Be6⇄ *(10...Na7!?* Navara,David: '∞!?' Navara,David: 'Navara,D/Stohl,I: '∞!?'' *11.Be2 Nc6⇄)* 11.0-0 Na7 12.Be2 Nc8 13.Bb5 Na7 14.Be2 Nc8 15.Bb5 ½, Carlsen,M (2840)-Grischuk,A (2737) Doha blitz 2016;

B) 6.c4 Black can aim for Hedgehog, or Maroczy setups. The most active try is 6...Qb6!? 7.Nc2 g6 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.Rb1 Ng4 *(* Aiming for complications; a more sedate try is *9...Nb4 10.Nxb4 Qxb4 11.Be3 Be6⇄)* 10.Qd2 Bh6 11.Qe2 Bxc1 12.Nd5! Qd8 13.Rxc1

B1) 13...Nge5 14.Qe3 *(14.Qd2!? e6 15.Nc3 Qh4+ 16.Qf2 Qxf2+ 17.Kxf2 Ke7 18.Be2 f5 19.f4 Ng4+ 20.Bxg4 fxg4 21.Rcd1 h5 22.Rd2 Rf8 23.Ke3 Nd8∞* ½, Gysi,A (2483)-Morgado,J (2605) email 2001*)* 14...f5!? 15.exf5 Bxf5 16.Nd4 *(16.Be2 e6 17.Nc3 Nxc4 18.Bxc4 Qh4+ 19.Kd2 Qxc4 20.b3 Qc5 21.g4 Bxc2 22.Qxe6+* Shaposhnikov,E (2525)-Kosintseva,N (2277) Kazan 2001 *Kf8 23.Qf6+ Kg8=)* 16...e6 17.Nxc6 *(17.Nxf5 gxf5 18.Nf4 Qa5+ 19.Qd2 Qxd2+ 20.Kxd2 Kf7 21.Be2 Ng6 22.Nh5 Nd4= /∓*, Stojanovic,D (2433)-Fontaine,R (2469) Novi Sad 2002 *)* 17...bxc6 18.Nc3 Qb6 19.c5! Qxb2 20.Be2 Nd3+ 21.Bxd3 Bxd3 22.Qxe6+ Kf8 23.Qf6+ Kg8 24.Qe6+ ½, Borgo,G (2448)-Stohl,I (2573) Baden 1999;

B2) Later Black came up with 13...e6!? 14.Nc3 Qg5 15.Rd1 *(15.Qd2 Qxd2+ 16.Kxd2 Nf6 17.Be2 Ke7 18.Rhd1 g5 19.Ke3 b6 20.Rd2 Bb7 21.Rcd1 Rhd8 22.Nb5 Ne8 23.g3 a6 24.Nc3 Rab8 25.Nd4 Nf6 26.Nxc6+ Bxc6=* Mastrovasilis,D (2541)-Melia,S (2372) Athens 2007*)* 15...Nxh2 16.Qf2 Nxf1 17.Kxf1 e5 18.Nb5 0-0 19.Qe3 Qxe3 20.Nxe3 Be6 21.Kf2 Rfd8 22.b3 a6 23.Nxd6 b6 24.c5 Nd4 25.Ndc4 bxc5 26.Nxe5 a5⇄ Kasparov,S (2484)-

Soltanici,R (2415) Donetsk 2010]



6.Nb3

[This newer move has almost replaced the older 6.Bb5+ Navara,D/Stohl,I (B55), where Black is doing fine:

A) 6...Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Nbxd7 *(7...Qxd7? 8.Nf5 d5 9.Bg5 dxe4 10.Bxf6 Qxd1+ 11.Kxd1 gxf6 12.fxe4 Nc6 13.c3 Rg8 14.g3 Rd8+ 15.Nd2 Ne7 16.Kc2 Kd7 17.Rad1 Kc6 18.Nf3 Rxd1 19.Nxe7+ Bxe7 20.Rxd1 Rd8 21.Rxd8 Bxd8 22.Nh4+-* Salov,V (2710)-Ljubojevic,L (2580) Buenos Aires 1994*)* 8.Nf5 d5! 9.exd5 Nb6 10.Bg5 *(10.d6 g6 11.Qe2 Nbd7 12.Ng3 Qb6 13.Nd2 Rc8 14.c3 Qxd6=* Ji,D (2342)-Zhou,J (2635) Xinghua Jiangsu 2009*; 10.Qe2 Qxd5 11.Nc3 Qe6 12.Qb5+ Nfd7 13.Ne3 Bc5 14.Ne4 Be7 15.Bd2 f5 16.Nf2 Rc8⇄* Yonathan,Y-Tseitlin,M (2415) Tel Aviv 1990*)* 10...Qd7 11.Bxf6 Qxf5 12.Bh4 Rc8 13.c3 *(13.Nc3!? Bb4=)* 13...Bc5 14.Bf2 Bxf2+ 15.Kxf2 0-0 16.b3 e4→ 17.Re1 Nxd5 18.c4 Qf6 19.Na3 Nf4 20.Rxe4 Rcd8 21.Qc2 Nd3+ 0-1, Rantalainen,S-Berglund,R Finland 1992;

B) Black can even go for the sharper 6...Nbd7!? 7.Nf5 d5! 8.exd5 a6⩱ A few recent examples confirm his compensation:

B1) 9.Ba4 b5 10.Bb3 Nb6 *(10...Nc5 11.Ne3 Nxb3 12.axb3 Nh5!?N 13.g3 Bc5 14.Nc3 f5 15.d6 Be6 16.Nxf5 Bxf5 17.Qd5 Bxd6 18.Bg5 Qxg5 19.Qxa8+ Kf7 20.Qd5+ Be6 21.Qxd6 Rd8 22.f4 Nxf4 23.Qc6 Qh5 24.h3 Bd5 25.Qc7+ Ke8 26.Rh2 Ng2+ 27.Rxg2 Bxg2 28.Qxg7 Qf5 29.Qg8+ Ke7 30.Qg7+ Ke8* ½, Rodriguez Vila,A (2444)-Delgado Ramirez,N (2604) Florianopolis 2015*)* 11.Ne3 Bc5 12.Nc3 0-0 13.Qd3 *(13.0-0 Bf5 14.Kh1 Bg6⩱)* 13...a5!? 14.a3 a4 15.Ba2 b4 16.axb4 Bxb4 17.0-0 Ba6 18.Nb5 Bc5 19.Rd1? *(19.Kh1∞)* 19...e4! 20.Qc3 *(20.fxe4 Ng4∓)* 20...Rc8 21.Qa5 Bxb5 22.Qxb5 exf3 23.gxf3 Nfxd5 24.Kh1 Qf6→ Rodriguez Vila,A (2532)-Shirov,A (2698) Buenos Aires 2012;

B2) 9.Bxd7+ Bxd7 10.Ne3 Bc5 11.Nc3 0-0 12.0-0 Qb6 *(More concrete than 12...Bf5 13.Kh1 Bg6⩱)* 13.Qd3 *(13.Re1 e4!↑)* 13...Bb5 14.Nxb5 axb5 15.Kh1 Rfd8 16.Bd2 Qa6 17.a3 Bxe3 18.Bxe3 Rxd5= Black has no problems

whatsoever: 19.Qe2 h6 20.Rae1 Re8 21.Rd1 Qc6 22.Rxd5 Nxd5 23.Bc1 Nf6 24.c3 e4 25.fxe4 Nxe4 26.Be3 Re6 27.Qf3 Rf6 28.Qd1 Qd5 29.Qe2? *(29.Kg1= /∓ is still fully tenable for White)* 29...Qh5! 0-1, Landenbergue,C (2334)-Sasikiran,K (2654) Novi Sad 2016]

6...Be7

[REMEMBER: If Black does not break in the centre immediately with 6...d5, we should be looking to play 7 c4 next. The only exception isNavara,David: 'There is a nice trap:' 6...a5 , which sets a trap against pushing the c-pawn automatically. As we saw in the first section of this chapter, Navara,David: 'Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D"

A) 7.Bb5+ Navara,David: 'Navara,D/Stohl,I: '⌓"

A1) 7...Bd7 Navara,D/Stohl,I 8.Bxd7+ *(A serious alternative is 8.a4!? d5 9.exd5 Bxb5 10.axb5 Nxd5 11.0-0±)* 8...Nbxd7 9.a4 *(9.c4 b5! 10.cxb5 a4 11.N3d2 d5 12.exd5 Bc5 13.Nc3 0-0 14.Nxa4* Vedmediuc,S (2422)-Lupulescu,C (2626) Aix les Bains 2011 *Nxd5C ↑)* 9...d5! 10.exd5 Nc5 11.Qe2 *(11.c4 Qb6⩱ ↑)* 11...Nxb3 12.Qxe5+ Be7 13.cxb3 0-0 14.0-0 Re8 15.Kh1 Nxd5 16.Nc3 Nxc3 17.bxc3 Bf6 18.Qb5 Bxc3 19.Rb1 Qe7 20.Bf4 Qb4 21.Qxb4 Bxb4 22.Rfd1 Re2 23.Bd6 Bxd6 24.Rxd6= Bokros,A (2458)-Bernasek,J (2506) Slovakia 2013 White can be glad for equality here.;

A2) 7...Nc6 8.Nc3 Be7 Navara,D/Stohl,I 9.Be3 0-0

A2a) 10.Qd2 Be6⇄ *(10...Na7!?∞)*;

A2b) Possibly more promising is 10.Na4!? Be6 11.Nb6 Rb8

A2b1) 12.0-0 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Bxd5 15.c4 Be6 16.Qxd8 Rfxd8 17.Bb6 Rdc8 18.Rfd1 *(18.a4 Bd8 19.Bxd8 Nxd8 20.Rfe1 f6 21.f4 Bxc4 22.Bxc4+ Rxc4 23.fxe5 Nc6 24.exf6 b5 25.Rac1* ½, Kudr,R (2247)-Hauff,A (2320) email 2012*)* 18...h5 19.a4± Bd8? 20.Bxd8 Nxd8 21.Nxa5± Kryakvin,D (2547)-Khismatullin,D (2623) Kolomna 2016 △b6 22.Rxd8+ Rxd8 23.Nc6;

A2b2) 12.c4!? Na7 *(12...Nd7 13.Nxd7 Bxd7 14.0-0 Be6 15.Qd2 Ra8 16.Qf2 Qb8 17.Nd2 Na7 18.a4 g6 19.b3 f5 20.exf5 gxf5 21.f4 Rf7* Banikas,H (2567)-Erdogdu,M (2423) Athens 2007 *22.Nf3↑)* 13.Ba4 *(13.a4 Nxb5 14.axb5 Nd7∞)* 13...Nc8 14.Nd5 Nxd5!? *(14...Bxd5 15.exd5 Nb6 16.Bb5 a4 17.Nd2 a3 18.bxa3 Nfd7 19.0-0 Bg5 20.Bf2 f5 21.Nb3 Rc8* Ponkratov,P (2478)-Evdokimov,A (2562) Novokuznetsk 2007 *22.Qd3±)* 15.exd5 Bf5⇄;

B) 7.c4? runs into Navara,David: '?!' '?!' 7...Nxe4! 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2 a4 and Black wins the piece back with interest.Navara,David:

'with Black's edge. To be honest, I failed to find 7...♘xe4 myself several years ago. But it would be too naive to expect Magnus to miss it. Navara,D/Stohl,I: 'with an edge for Black. To be honest, I failed to find 7...♘xe4 myself several years ago. But it would be too naive to expect Magnus to miss it." Navara, David: 'with Black's edge. To be honest, I failed to find 7...♘xe4 myself several years ago. But it would be too naive to expect Magnus to miss it. with Black's edge. To be honest, I failed to find 7...♘xe4 myself several years ago. But it would be too naive to expect Magnus to miss it. Navara,D/Stohl,I: 'with an edge for Black. To be honest, I failed to find 7...♘xe4 myself several years ago. But it would be too naive to expect Magnus to miss it."]

[6...d5 Navara,David: 'Colovic, Aleksandar: 'Navara,D''is a decent move, but White should not have too many problems after 7.Bg5 . The main continuation 7...Be6 *(7...d4!?* deserves serious attention. It has already been played by strong players like Vachier-Lagrave, Cheparinov and Navara. Black can achieve a double-edged position without making too many concessions.*)* 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Bxd5 11.Nc3 leads to an equal endgame which is fairly safe for White.]

[6...Be6 Navara,D/Stohl,I 7.c4 Nbd7 8.Be3 Rc8 allows the dangerous sacrifice 9.Nc3! *(9.Na3* or*; 9.N3d2* is less harmonious*)* 9...Bxc4 10.Bxc4 Rxc4 11.Qd3⩲ Rc6 *(11...Rc8 12.0-0-0 a6 13.g4 b5 14.Kb1 b4 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.Qxd5 Be7 17.Na5 Nf6 18.Qb7 Qd7 19.g5 Nh5 20.Qxa6 0-0 21.Nc4 Ra8 22.Nb6 Rxa6 23.Nxd7±* Michalik,P (2554)-Sethuraman,S (2633) Czech Republic 2016 *)* 12.0-0-0 Be7 13.g4 0-0 14.Kb1 a6 15.g5 *(15.h4!? Nc5 16.Nxc5 dxc5 17.Qxd8 Rxd8 18.Rxd8+ Bxd8 19.Rd1 Bc7 20.g5 Ne8 21.Rd7 Rd6 22.Re7 Kf8 23.Rxe5 b6 24.Kc2± /±*, So,W (2770)-Topalov,V (2761) Leuven blitz 2016*)* 15...Nh5 16.h4 Re8 17.Nd5 Bf8 18.Qd2 Qb8 19.Qg2 g6 20.Na5 Rcc8 21.Qg4 Nc5 22.Nc4 Rc6 23.Ncb6 Bg7 24.Rd2 Ne6 25.Nb4 Nd4 26.Nxc6 bxc6 27.Bxd4 exd4 28.Qd7**±** Anand,V (2779)-Jumabayev, R (2611) Doha rpd 2016]

7.c4 Of course this our main idea! When we have the chance to play c2-c4 and set up our strong and stable centre, we should almost always go for it.

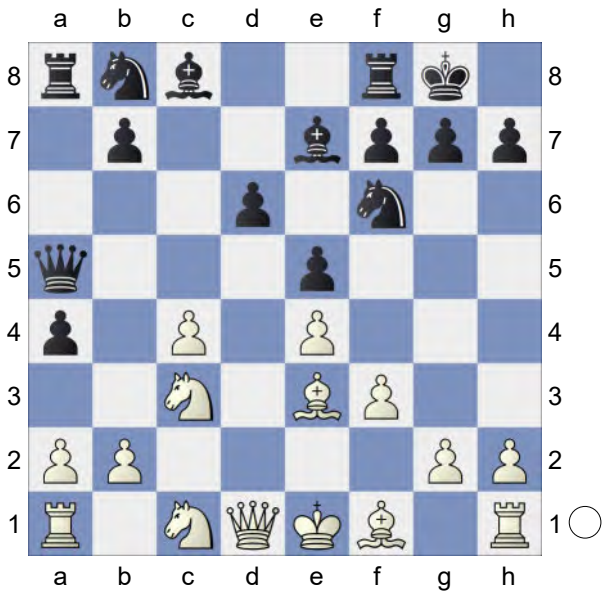
7...a5 With this typical advance Black gains space and intends to disrupt White's coordination with ...a5-a4, harassing the knight on b3, as well as clearing the a5-square again for his queen and gaining influence on the queenside.

When we consider the other possible pawn moves available to Black, we see that they simply do not work well:

a) ...d6-d5 is clearly impossible against our set-up.

b) ...f7-f5 after a preparatory ...0-0 and ...Nh5 is hard to achieve and is not really a satisfactory plan anyway, because Black will be left with his weak pawns on d6 and e5 after a potential exchange on f5, while White obtains perfect outposts on d5 and e4.

c) ...a7-a6 intending ...b7-b5 is a possible plan, but it takes a lot of time and Black almost never succeeds.
Concluding that none of these plans are anything to worry about can make us happy, since we do not need to worry about any pawn pushes too much. Black can instead try to get an active game by good piece play, but White remains slightly better.
Navara,David: 'Now White's bishop cannot go to b5 anymore. Both sides have created considerable weaknesses in their camps, viz. the squares d4 (White) or b5 and d5 (Black).
' Navara,David: 'Now White's bishop cannot go to b5 anymore. Both sides have created considerable weaknesses in their camps, viz. the squares d4 (White) or b5 and d5 (Black).
Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: 'Now White's bishop cannot go to b5 anymore. Both sides have created considerable weaknesses in their camps, viz. the squares d4 (White) or b5 and d5 (Black).
'" **8.Be3 a4 9.Nc1**
[9.N3d2 is a sensible alternative, reinforcing the c4-pawn and planning to develop the other knight to the natural c3-square. We'll see White adopt this set up in Game 27. However, it does have an annoying drawback. With the knight on d2, White's queen lacks a good square because c2 does not make much sense and other squares are just not available. Whereas after 9 Nc1, the queen will be placed excellently on d2. Navara,David: '(Navara,D/Stohl, I) (Colovic,Aleksandar) - 93/(155)']
9...0-0
[Referring to the "other pawn moves" mentioned above, note that 9...b5!? can be met by 10.Nc3! *(rather than 10.cxb5 d5)* 10...bxc4 11.Bxc4 and White keeps a grip on the d5-square.]
10.Nc3 Qa5



11.Qd2 Carlsen defends his c3-knight because ...a4-a3 was in the air.
11...Na6?! The knight is heading for the nice-looking outpost on c5 where it reinforces the a4-pawn; but this just encourages White's standard plan of Rb1 and b2-b4. Navara,David: 'Navara,D/Stohl,I: 'Colovic,Aleksandar: '?!' '?!'"
[So 11...Nc6 might be preferred, as in the next game; Navara,David: 'Navara, D/Stohl,I' Navara,David: '(Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic,Aleksandar: '- 130/(62)" Colovic,Aleksandar: '(Colovic, Aleksandar) - 130/(62)' 12.Rb1 Be6 13.b4 axb3 14.Nxb3 Qd8 15.Be2 h6 16.0-0 Ne8 17.Qb2 Bg5 18.Bf2 h5 19.Rfd1 Qf6 20.c5 Bxb3 21.Qxb3 Nd4 22.Qxb7 Nxe2+ 23.Nxe2 Rxa2 24.Nc3 Rxf2 25.Nd5 Be3 Kokarev,D (2636)-Oparin,G (2617) Novosibirsk 2016 26.Nxf6+ Nxf6 27.Kh1±]
[or else 11...Be6 as in Games 25 and

26. Navara,David: 'Colovic, Aleksandar: 'Navara,D''Navara,David: 'might have been a bit more flexible. I would like to play ♗e7-d8-b6 to exchange the bad bishop, but White can probably prevent it. Black should rather play ...♖c8, attacking the c4-pawn.' 12.b3!? axb3 13.Nxb3 might well be critical from the theoretical point of view.]

[Now after 11...a3? the simple Navara, David: '(Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar' 12.b3 is fully satisfactory, and the a3-pawn may prove to be a liability in the endgame. But we have an even stronger continuation available.

(QUESTION: Can you spot the specific answer White has in this exact position?

ANSWER: With *12.b4!* White immediately gains space on the queenside and pre-empts any blockade Black could set up on the b4-square with ...Nc6 next move. The tactical point is that *Qxb4??* loses instantly to *13.Rb1* Navara,David: '+-' Colovic,Aleksandar: '+-' *Qa5 14.Bb6 Qa6 15.c5* and the black queen is trapped. *)*]

12.Be2 Navara,David: 'Navara,D/Stohl,I: 'Colovic,Aleksandar: 'N' 'N'"

[12.Nd5 (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar]

12...Nc5 13.0-0 Bd7 14.Rb1

[14.Rd1 (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar]

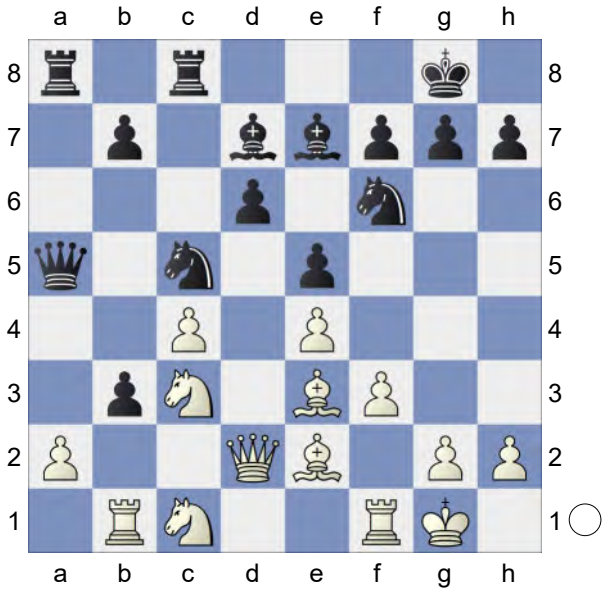
14...Rfc8 15.b4 This is the most natural plan here. White is expanding slowly on the queenside while Black has no real counterplay.

Navara,David: '!' '!' Navara,David: 'Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: '!'" Navara,David: 'It is important to protect the c4-pawn. White opens the a-file, but Black's rook cannot penetrate.

' Navara,David: 'It is important to protect the c4-pawn. White opens the a-file, but Black's rook cannot penetrate.

Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: 'It is important to protect the c4-pawn. White opens the a-file, but Black's rook cannot penetrate.

'" **15...axb3**



16.axb3 The fork on the queen and knight meant Black had to take en passant, and now he has to answer the threatened second fork.

[16.Nxb3!? (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar Nxb3 17.axb3]

16...Qd8 Solid but passive, so one might wonder what reasons Karjakin had for choosing it.

[QUESTION: What is wrong with the plan of 16...Qb4 and 17...Ra3, in order to block and pressurize the b3-pawn?

ANSWER: 16...Qb4 is quite okay, but Black cannot increase the pressure with 17...Ra3 because 18 N1a2 wins; e.g. 17.Rd1 Ra3? 18.N1a2 Qa5 *(*or if *18...Qb6 19.b4* , Black loses

the pinned knight*)* 19.b4 forks after all.]

17.Nd3 Navara,David: '± '±' Navara, David: 'Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: '±'" Navara,David: 'White has achieved a pleasant position. His pawn structure is better and Black does not have adequate counterplay.' Navara,David: 'White has achieved a pleasant position. His pawn structure is better and Black does not have adequate counterplay. Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: 'White has achieved a pleasant position. His pawn structure is better and Black does not have adequate counterplay.'''

17...Ne6 18.Nb4! A common theme with our c2-c4 pawn structure is to regroup our minor pieces towards the strong d5-outpost. The knights are best suited for such manoeuvres and you should keep this recurring pattern in mind!

18...Bc6

[18...Nf4!? Navara,David: 'Colovic, Aleksandar: 'Navara,D''might have been an option, the idea being 19.Bxf4 Qb6+ *(*or even *19...exf4 20.Nbd5 Nxd5 21.Nxd5 g5* Still, it is hard to imagine Black winning such a position. The text maintains more tension.*)* 20.Be3 Qxb4]

19.Rfd1

[19.Nbd5 is certainly possible but White is in no rush to force matters. With 19 Rfd1 Carlsen is improving the placement of his pieces before commencing concrete actions. Navara, David: '(Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar']

19...h5 Navara,David: '!' '!' Navara,David: 'Navara,D/Stohl,I: 'Colovic,Aleksandar: '[Δ h4, ♘h5]" Colovic,Aleksandar: '[Δ h4, ♘h5] Navara,D: '!'" Navara,David: 'I like this decision. Black starts counterplay on the dark squares around White's king. ' Navara,David: 'I like this decision. Black starts counterplay on the dark squares around White's king. Colovic, Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: 'I like this decision. Black starts counterplay on the dark squares around White's king.'"

[19...Ne8 Navara,David: 'Colovic, Aleksandar: 'Navara,D''followed by ♗g5 might have been objectively better, but it led to a worse endgame after 20.Nbd5 Bg5 21.Nb6 Qxb6 22.Bxb6 Bxd2 23.Rxd2 .]

20.Bf1 When we have a look at the diagram above, we see another recurring theme in our system: a limited light-squared bishop - in this case on f1 - closed in by our pawns on c4, e4 and f3. With so many minor pieces on the board this is nothing tragic, but there is the positional risk of ending up with only the light-squared bishop. So always keep in mind that we must avoid such a scenario!

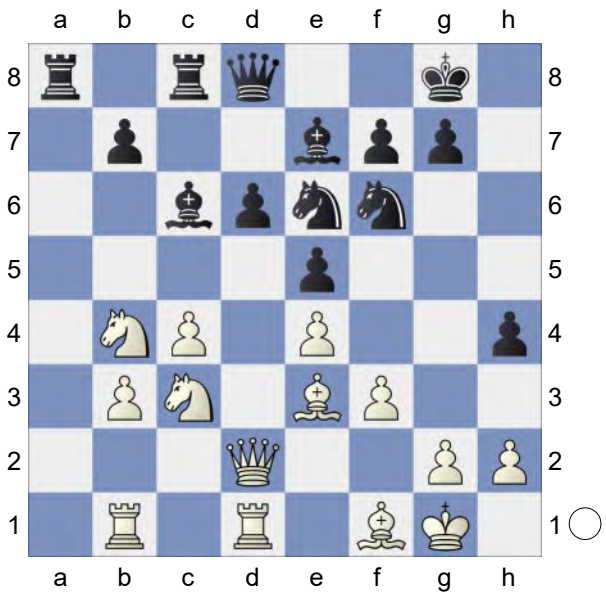
In the game we will see a way of activating the bishop by playing g2-g3 and Bh3. This regrouping is not always necessary, but sometimes it can be employed to great effect.

[20.Nbd5 (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar Bxd5 21.exd5 *(21.Nxd5?! Nxd5 22.Qxd5?! Bg5∓)*]

20...h4

[20...Nd4 (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar 21.Bxd4 exd4 22.Qxd4 Nd7 23.Qe3±]

(Diagram)



21.Qf2

[21.Nbd5 Navara,David: 'Colovic, Aleksandar: 'Navara,D'' Bxd5 22.exd5 Nf4 might objectively be better for White, but giving up the control of the d5-square looks unnecessary.]

21...Nd7

[21...Nh5 Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Colovic,Aleksandar'allows both Navara,David: 'allows both Colovic, Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: 'allows both''' 22.Ncd5 Navara,David: 'Navara,D/ Stohl,I: 'Colovic,Aleksandar: ' ± ' ± ' ±''' *(*and *22.Nxc6* Navara,David: 'Colovic, Aleksandar: 'Navara,D'' *bxc6 23.c5)*]

22.g3 Navara,David: 'The computer dislikes this move, but it is not easy to suggest anything better. Komodo's suggestion 22.♔h1 is too mysterious for me and' Navara,David: 'The computer dislikes this move, but it is not easy to suggest anything better. Komodo's suggestion 22.♔h1 is too mysterious for me and Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: 'The computer dislikes this move, but it is not easy to suggest anything better. Komodo's suggestion 22.♔h1 is too mysterious for me and'''

[direct continuations like 22.Nxc6 Navara,David: 'Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D'' bxc6 23.b4 also have their drawbacks, as the d4-square could eventually become weak after something like c5!? .]

[22.Nbd5 (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar Bg5 23.Bb6!?]

22...Ra3 Navara,David: '?!' '?!' Navara, David: 'Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: '?!'''

[22...Bg5 Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Colovic,Aleksandar'might have been a better try. White had better not take the d6-pawn: Navara,David: 'might have been a better try. White had better not take the d6-pawn: Colovic, Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: 'might have been a better try. White had better not take the d6-pawn: ' ' ' 23.Bxg5 Navara,David: 'Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D'' *(23.Rxd6?!* Navara,David: 'Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D'' *Qf8!; 23.Nc2* (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar *Bxe3 24.Qxe3±)* 23...Qxg5 24.Rxd6 *(24.Nc2!±)* 24...Qe7 25.Rbd1 Nd4 26.R6xd4! exd4 27.Ncd5∞]

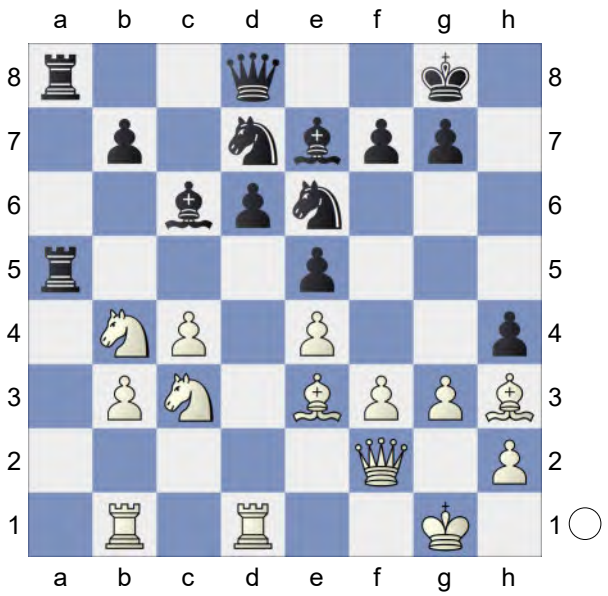
[22...Nd4 (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar 23.Bh3±]

23.Bh3

[23.Nc2!? (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar]

23...Rca8 24.Nc2 R3a6 25.Nb4 Ra5

(Diagram)



Navara,David: 'Sergey bravely avoids the repetition, but his position remains worse.
' Navara,David: 'Sergey bravely avoids the repetition, but his position remains worse.
Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: 'Sergey bravely avoids the repetition, but his position remains worse.
''' **26.Nc2** Well played by Carlsen! There is absolutely no need to exchange or challenge Black's "active" rooks on the a-file, as the white knights are doing an excellent job preventing the rooks from ever invading White's position.

26...b6 27.Rd2

[27.Nb4 (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar Bb7 28.Nb5±]

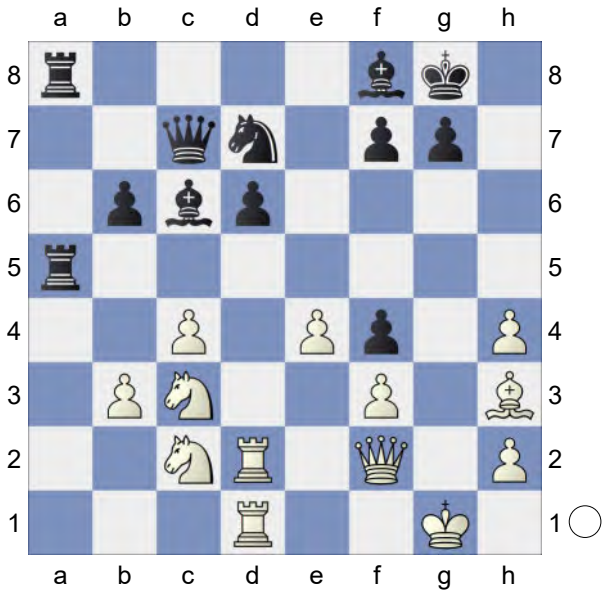
27...Qc7 28.Rbd1 Bf8 29.gxh4 Navara,David: '!?' '!?' Navara,David: 'Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: '!?''' Navara,David: 'A somewhat surprising decision. White opens the kingside, as Black cannot exploit the weakness of the f4-square.' Navara,David: 'A somewhat surprising decision. White opens the kingside, as Black cannot exploit the weakness of the f4-square. Colovic, Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: 'A somewhat surprising decision. White opens the kingside, as Black cannot exploit the weakness of the f4-square.'''

[29.Bf5 (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar]

29...Nf4 30.Bxf4

[The computer suggests 30.Bxd7 Navara,David: 'Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D'' Qxd7 31.Kh1 and takes on f4 later, but White's continuation is also fairly strong.]

30...exf4



31.Bxd7 Navara,David: '!' '!' Navara, David: 'Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: '!''' **31...Qxd7** Over the past few of moves Carlsen switched to concrete action, transforming his strategic advantage. The resulting position is very favourable for White because knights are tremendously strong against weak pawn structures. Here they have excellent outposts available on b5, d5 and f5 and we will see how Carlsen makes use of them. Meanwhile the still largely closed nature of the position makes it hard for the bishops to create any real counterplay.

[31...Bxd7 (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar 32.Nd5±]

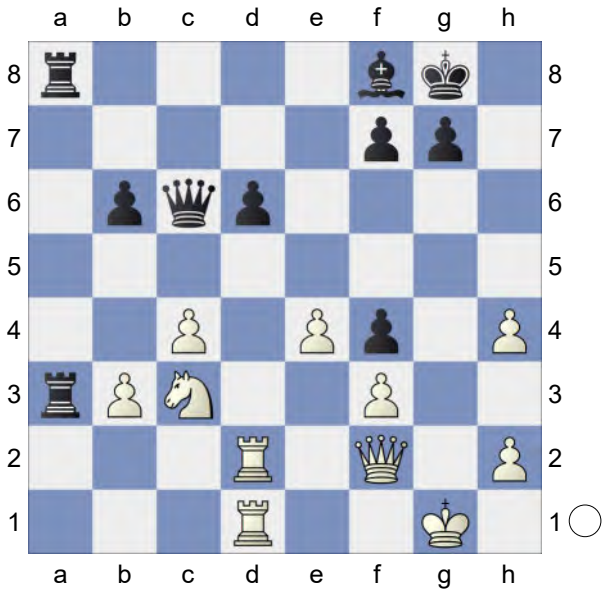
32.Nb4! Our familiar pattern of transferring a minor piece to d5. Now it is especially effective as Black only has one minor piece with influence on the light squares, so we can be sure to remain with a stable knight on d5!

[The computer wants to play 32.Qxb6 , but this is less attractive from a human point of view, as it would open files and remove the queen from defending the kingside, which might be a source of counterplay for Black. Navara,David: '+-' Navara,David: '(Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar' Colovic,Aleksandar: '+-']

32...Ra3

[32...d5 (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar 33.Nxc6 Qxc6 34.exd5 Qg6+ 35.Qg2 Bc5+ 36.Kh1+-]

33.Nxc6 Qxc6 Navara,David: 'Navara,D/Stohl,I: 'Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Diagram



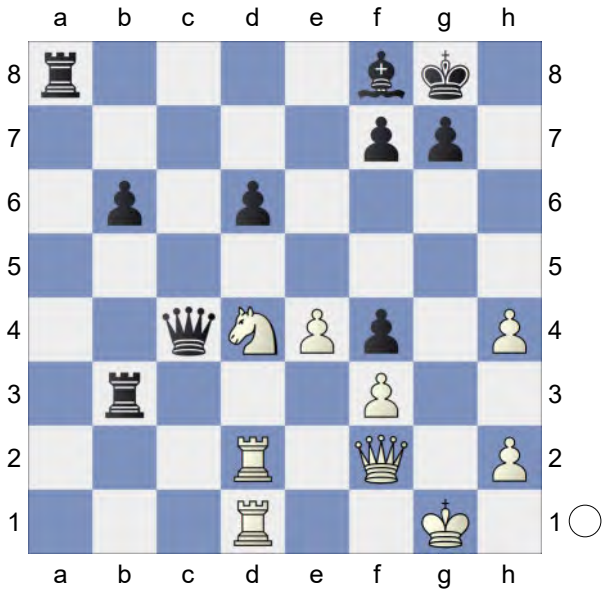
'" **34.Nb5** A very practical decision by the world champion. Karjakin was a point behind in the tiebreak and needed to win this game to keep the match alive. Now he is blackmailed by the prospect of a draw at best after 34...Ra1, or sacrificing the exchange in the small hope of complicating matters. Karjakin naturally goes for the latter.

34...Rxb3

[Black could hardly play for the win after Navara,David: 'Black could hardly play for the win after Colovic, Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: 'Black could hardly play for the win after'" 34...Ra1 Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Colovic, Aleksandar'. Navara,David: '. Colovic, Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: '.'" 35.Kh1± (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar]

[34...d5 (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar 35.exd5 Qf6 36.Nxa3 Bc5 37.Rd4 Rxa3 38.b4± Bxd4 39.Qxd4 Qxh4 40.Ra1 Rxa1+ 41.Qxa1±]

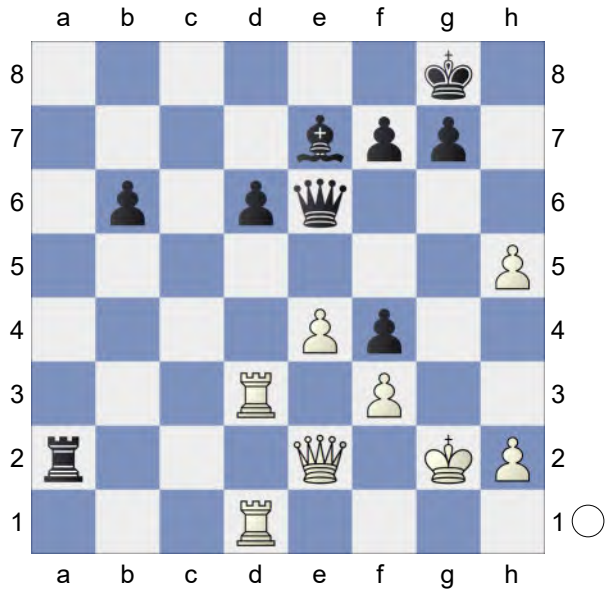
35.Nd4 Qxc4



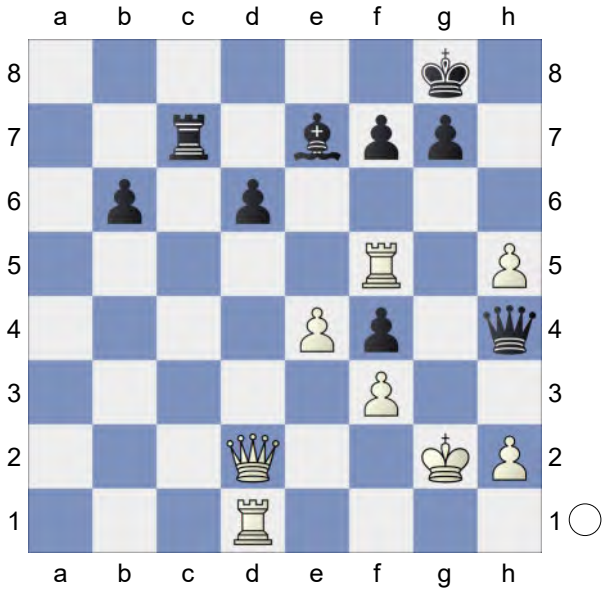
36.Nxb3 Qxb3 Navara,David: 'White has a material advantage. It is not easy to convert, as his king is a bit exposed. On the other hand, Black's bishop is passive and his king is not safe, either.

' Navara,David: 'White has a material advantage. It is not easy to convert, as

his king is a bit exposed. On the other hand, Black's bishop is passive and his king is not safe, either.
Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: 'White has a material advantage. It is not easy to convert, as his king is a bit exposed. On the other hand, Black's bishop is passive and his king is not safe, either.
''' **37.Qe2**
[37.Kg2 (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar Be7 38.Rd3±]
37...Be7 38.Kg2
[38.h5± (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar]
38...Qe6 39.h5 Ra3 40.Rd3
[40.Rd5± (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar]
40...Ra2
[40...Qc4 (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar 41.R1d2 Ra5 42.Rd5±]



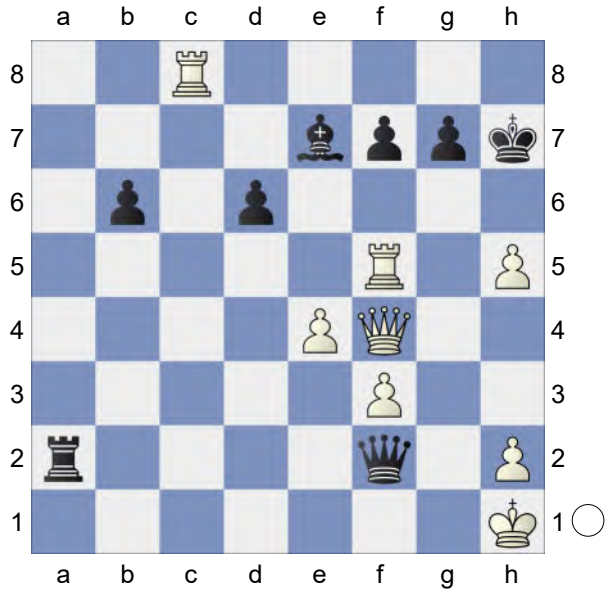
41.R3d2 Ra3 42.Rd3 Ra7?
[Objectively 42...Ra5 43.Rd5 Rxd5 44.Rxd5 Bf6 45.Qf2 Be5 was a much better defensive try than giving up the fifth rank without a fight. The bishop on e5 holds everything together and it is far from obvious how White will break through decisively. But a draw was no good to Karjakin.]
43.Rd5 Rc7 44.Qd2 Qf6
[44...Qh6 Navara,David: 'Colovic, Aleksandar: 'Navara,D'' 45.Rf5 Rc5 46.Qxf4 Qxf4 47.Rxf4 Rg5+ 48.Rg4 Rxh5 might have been a bit more tenacious, but it would have been equivalent to a resignation in the match.]
45.Rf5 Qh4



46.Rc1
[46.Qxf4 (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar Rc2+ 47.Kh1+-]
[46.Qf2+- (Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic, Aleksandar]
46...Ra7 47.Qxf4 Navara,David: 'Navara, D/Stohl,I: 'Colovic,Aleksandar: '!' '!''' **47...Ra2+ 48.Kh1 Qf2** QUESTION: Can you spot how White finishes the game in a very nice way?
ANSWER: **49.Rc8+! Kh7** Navara,David: 'Navara,D/Stohl,I: 'Colovic, Aleksandar: 'DiagramNavara,David: 'It looks as if Black were suddenly winning, but Magnus had foreseen everything and finished the match in style.

' Navara,David: 'It looks as if Black were suddenly winning, but Magnus had foreseen everything and finished the match in style.
Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: 'It looks as if Black were suddenly winning, but Magnus had foreseen everything and finished the match in style.
'"

[Or 49...Bf8 Navara,David: '(Navara,D/Stohl,I) Colovic,Aleksandar' 50.Rxf8+ Kxf8 51.Rxf7+ Ke8 52.Rf8+ Kd7 53.Qf7+ and mate is inevitable. Kc6 54.Rc8+ Kb5 55.Qc4+ Ka5 56.Ra8#]



'" Mate follows with either **50.Qh6+!** Navara,David: '!!' '!!' Navara,David: 'Navara,D/Stohl,I: 'Colovic,Aleksandar: '!' '!" Colovic,Aleksandar: 'Navara,D: '!!'" Navara,David: 'and Black resigned before an inevitable mate.
It was a fascinating conclusion to a very tense match. Sergey Karjakin deserves every credit for his strong play. He and his team prepared for the match excellently and could have won it. He showed that it is possible to play against Magnus on equal terms and that the Norwegian's throne isn't unshakeable. But I also believe that Magnus deserves the title. He has been the world's number 1 for many years and he is the strongest player in the world. He did not lose in the classical part of the match and eventually prevailed in rapid chess.' Navara,David: 'and Black resigned before an inevitable mate.
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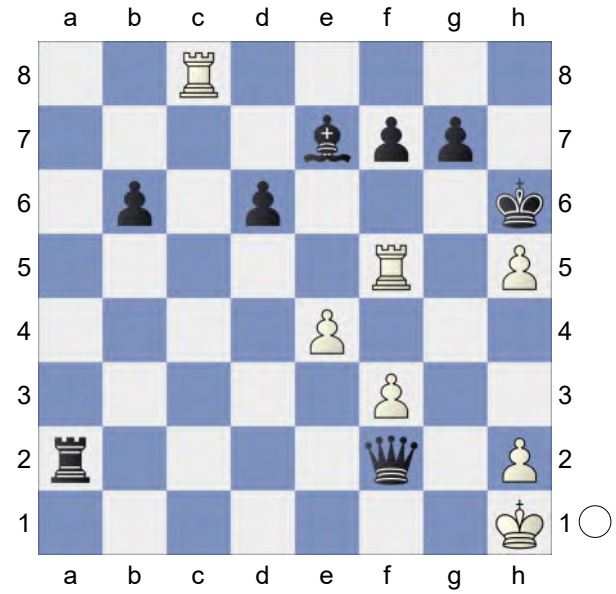
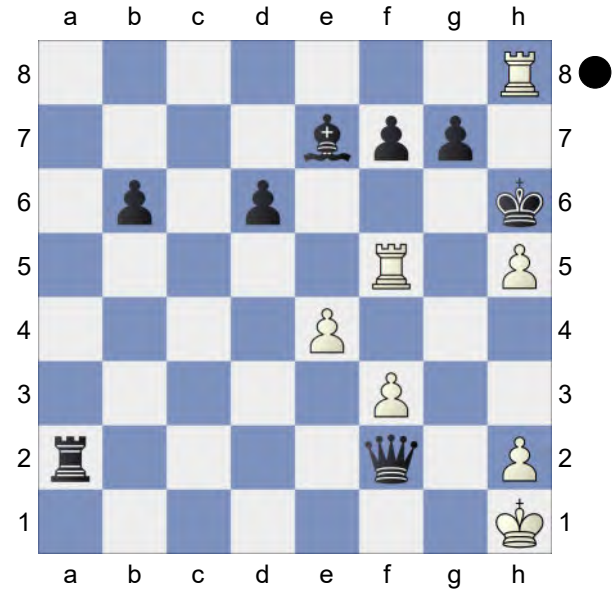
50...Kxh6

[or 50...gxh6 51.Rxf7#]



51.Rh8#



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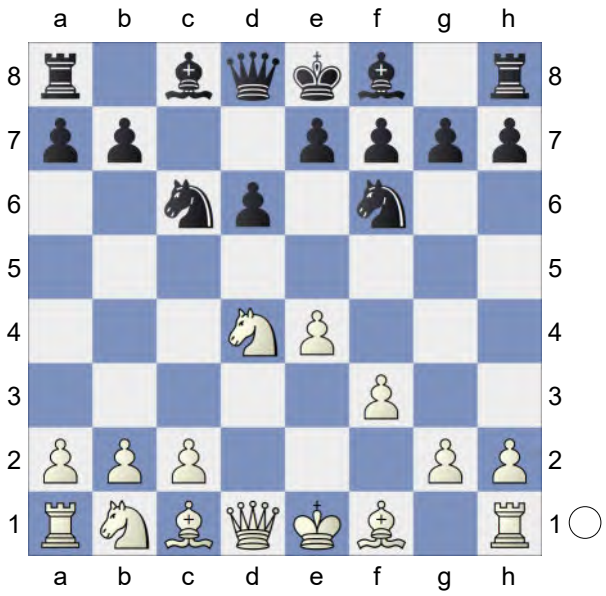
1-0

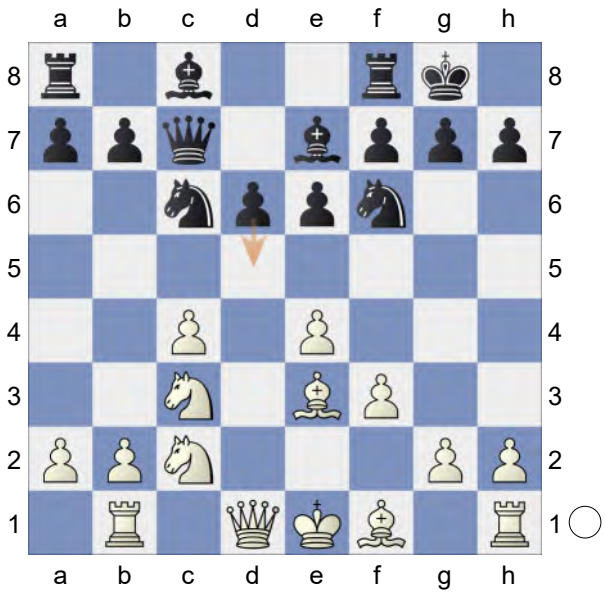
96 **B54**
□ **Negocia** **2852**
■ **Alexandr Khlebovich** **2858**
Blitz 23.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060

[Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.c4 Qb6 7.Nc2 e6 8.Nc3 Be7 9.Rb1 0-0 10.Be3 Qc7

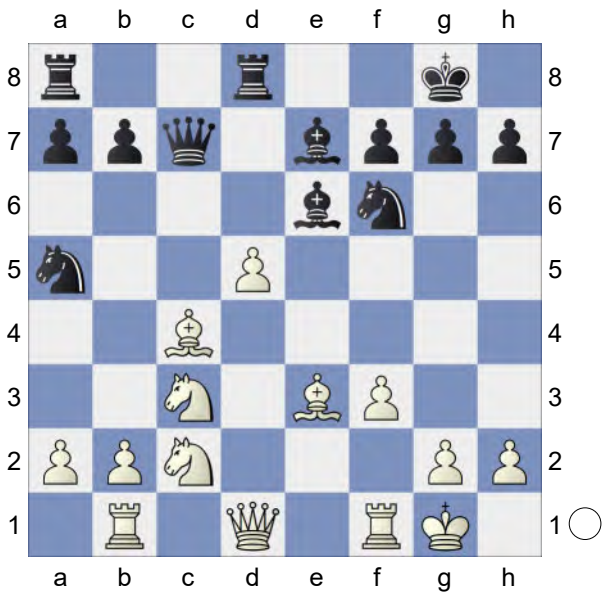


11.Be2 Rd8 12.0-0 d5! 13.cxd5 exd5 14.exd5 Be6 15.Bc4 -0.45/21

[15.dxe6= -0.04/21 feels stronger. Rxd1 16.exf7+ Kxf7 17.Rbxd1]

15...Na5

(Diagram)



16.Bd3 -1.12/20

[16.Qe2∓ -0.36/19]

16...Nxd5∓ 17.Nxd5 Rxd5 18.Qe2 Bd6 -0.43/18

[18...Rh5?! 19.g4 Rh4 20.Nd4=]

[18...Rad8∓ -1.15/18 19.Be4 R5d7]

19.h3 -0.97/20

[Better is 19.f4∓ -0.43/18]

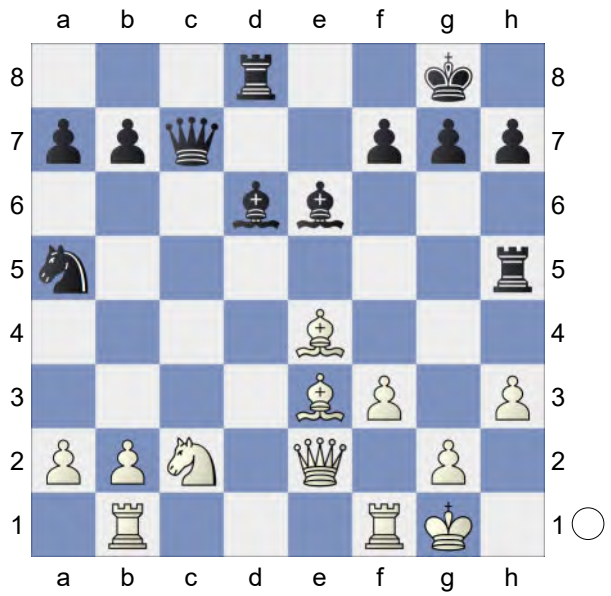
19...Rd8! White must now prevent ... Rxd3! **20.Be4** -1.52/19

[⌓20.Rfd1 -0.72/19]

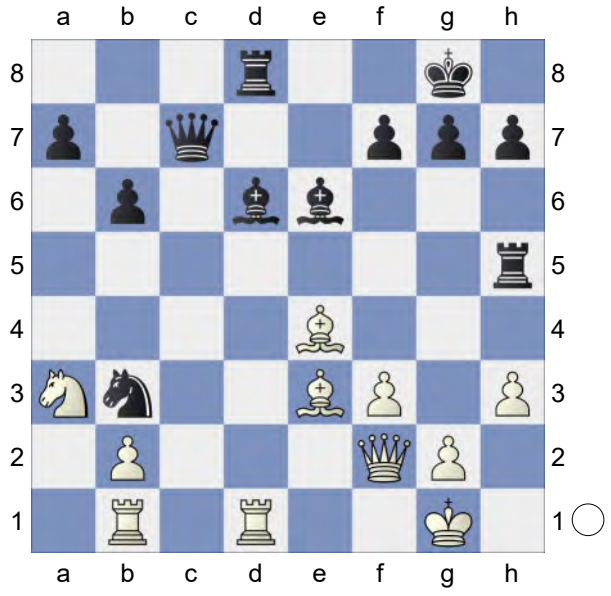
20...Rh5 -0.17/18

[20...Re5!∓ -1.52/19 ...Bc4 is the strong threat. 21.Qf2 Nc4]

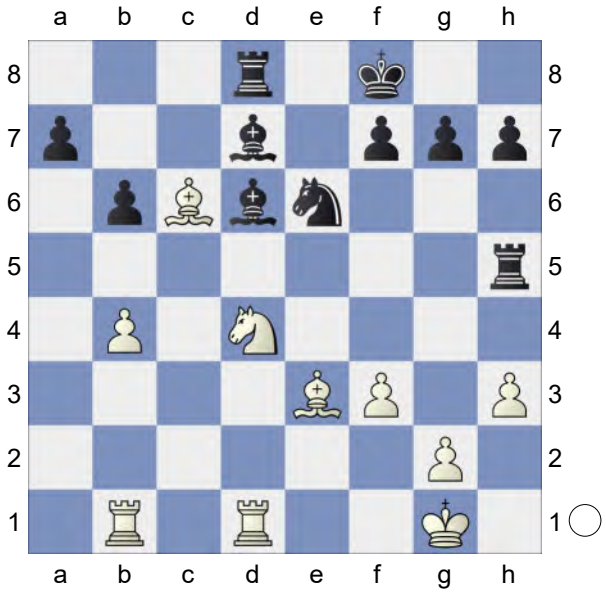
(Diagram)



21.Rfd1 -1.21/20
[21.b3= -0.17/18]
21...Bxa2 22.Ra1 Bc4 23.Qf2 -2.41/21
[23.Qe1∓ -0.89/19]
23...Nb3 24.Rab1 -3.35/21
[⌓24.Rxd6 -1.97/20 Qxd6 25.Rxa7]
24...b6? -1.33/21
[24...f5!-+ -3.35/21 25.Bxa7 fxe4]
25.Na3 Be6

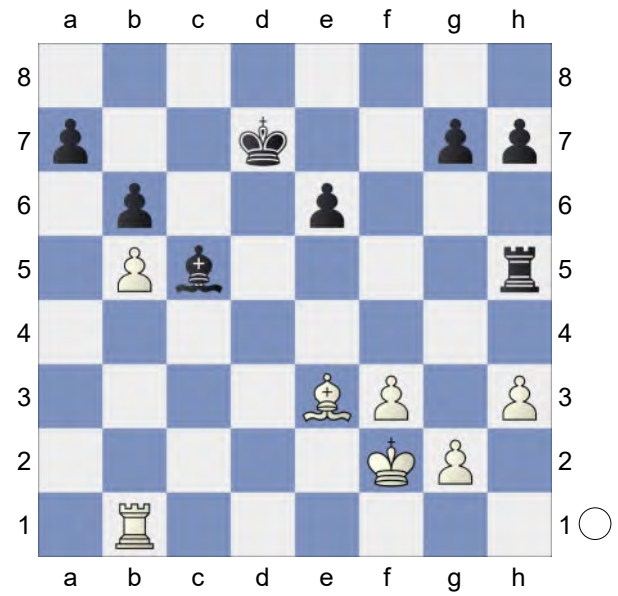


26.Qc2 -1.50/19
[⌓26.f4 -1.11/19]
26...Qxc2 -1.19/21
[⌓26...Bc5 -1.50/19 27.Bxc5 Rxc5 28.Rxd8+ Qxd8]
27.Nxc2 Nc5 -1.05/20 &Nero is more active.
[⌓27...Rb5 -1.38/20 28.Bc6 Re5]
28.Bc6 -1.93/21
[28.Nd4∓ -1.05/20]
28...Kf8? 0.19/20
[28...Bf5-+ -1.93/21 29.Rdc1 *(29.Rbc1? Bxc2 30.Rxc2 Bh2+ 31.Kxh2 Rxd1-+)* 29...Rc8]
29.Nd4 -0.39/20
[White should play 29.b4= 0.19/20 Na6 30.Rd2]
29...Bd7 0.01/22
[29...Bb3∓ -0.39/20 30.Nxb3 Nxb3]
30.b4 Ne6

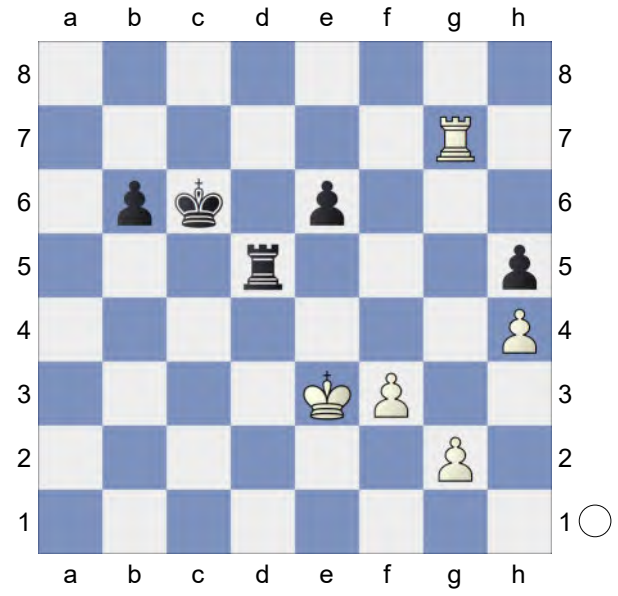


31.Bxd7 -0.32/22
[31.Nxe6+= 0.01/23 might be stronger. Bxe6 32.Ra1]
31...Rxd7∓ 32.Nxe6+ -0.79/20
[32.Nc6= -0.24/21 keeps the balance.]
32...fxe6∓ 33.b5 Ke7 34.Kf2 Bc5 -0.60/23
[34...Rc7∓ -1.18/18]
35.Rxd7+∓ Kxd7

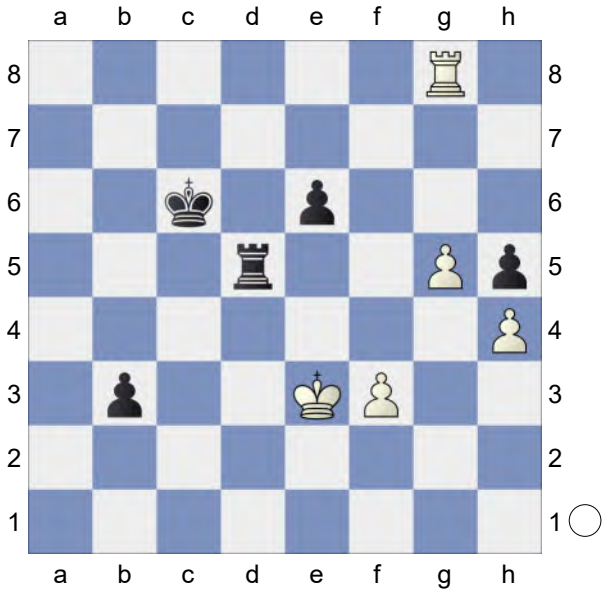
(Diagram)



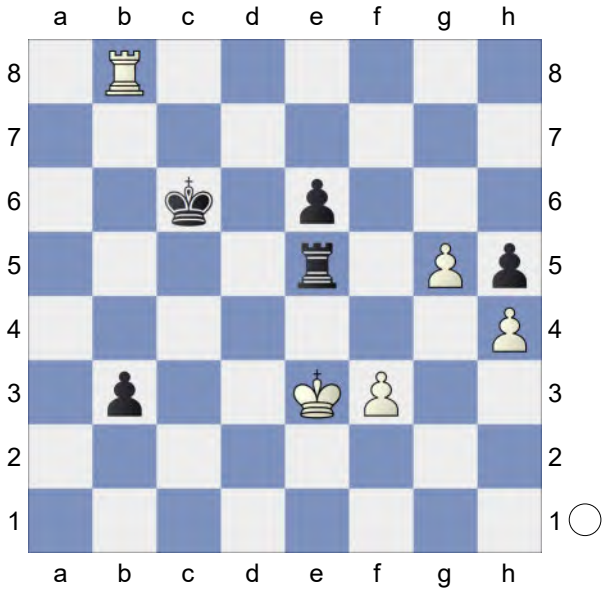
36.Ra1 Bxe3+ 37.Kxe3 Rxb5 0.01/20
[37...Ke7!∓ -0.62/21]
38.Rxa7+ Endgame KR-KR **38...Kc6**
39.Rxg7 h5 40.h4 Rd5 0.73/21
[40...Re5+= 0.25/20 41.Kf4 Rf5+ 42.Ke4 b5]



41.g4± b5 42.g5 0.01/22
[42.Rg8!± 0.87/20]
42...b4 0.96/21
[42...Re5+!= 0.01/22 remains equal. 43.Kf4 Rf5+ 44.Ke4 b4]
43.Rg8! b3 2.07/23
[43...Rb5± 0.96/20 keeps fighting.]

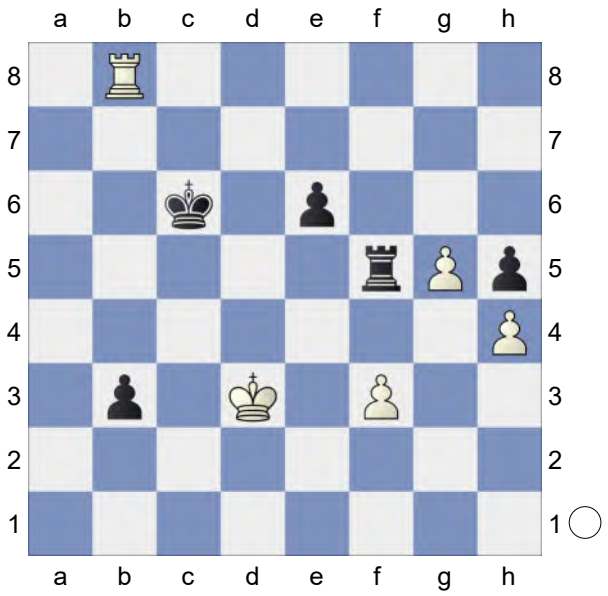


44.Rb8 0.73/24
[44.Rc8+!+- 2.07/23 is the precise move to win. Kb7 45.Rc1]
44...Re5+
[44...Rb5? 45.Rxb5 Kxb5 46.Kd2+- *(46.g6 b2=)*]

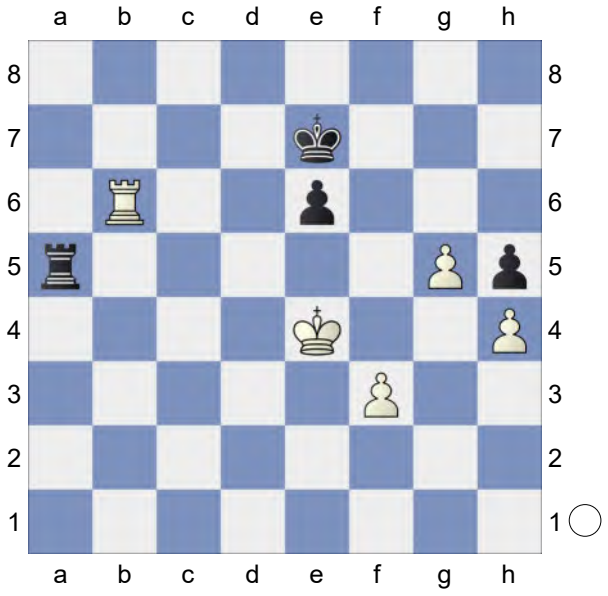


45.Kd3 0.11/24
[45.Kd2!± 0.91/26]
45...Rf5=
[45...Rb5 46.Rxb5 Kxb5 47.g6 Kc5

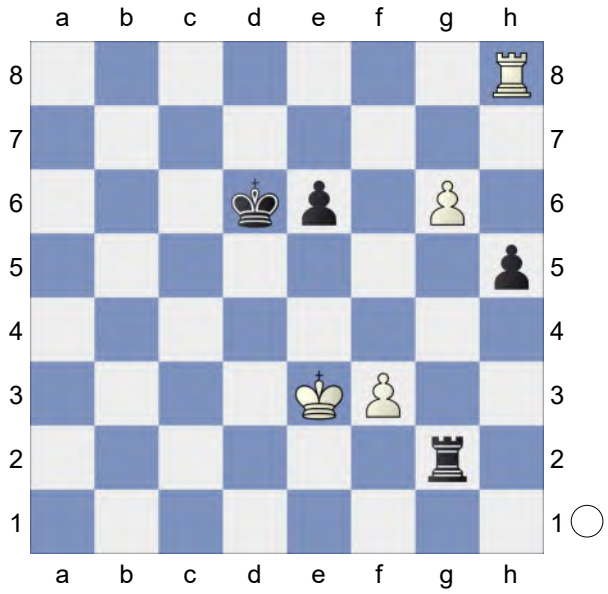
48.g7 Kd5 49.Kc3 b2 50.Kxb2]



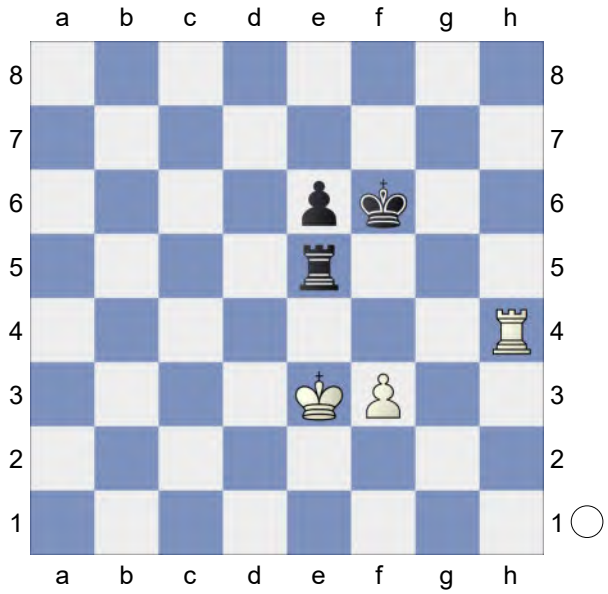
46.Ke3 Re5+!
[46...Rb5 47.Rxb5 Kxb5 48.Kd2+- *(48.g6 b2=)*]
47.Kd4 Rf5 4.16/21
[47...Rb5 gets mated. 48.Rxb5 Kxb5 49.Kc3 e5 50.g6 Kc6 51.g7 Kd6 52.g8Q]
[47...Rd5+!= 0.01/23 and Black stays safe. 48.Ke3 Re5+]
48.Rxb3+- Kd6 49.Ke4 Against Rf4+
49...Ra5 50.Rb6+ Ke7



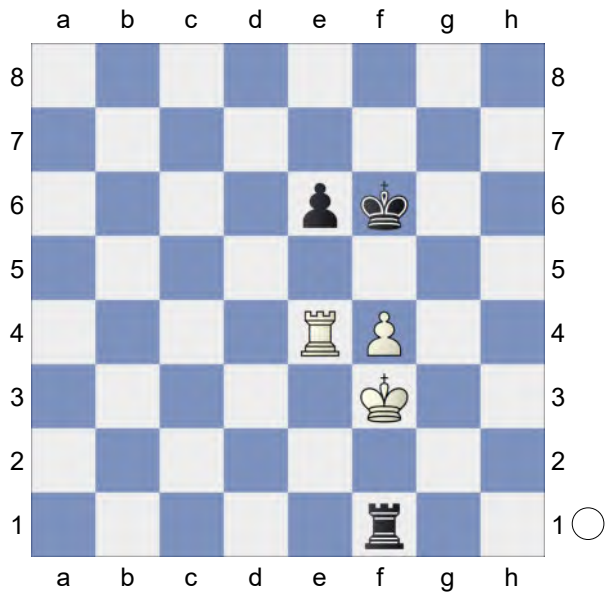
51.Rb7+ Kd6 52.Rh7? 0.22/22
[52.Kf4+- 4.26/23]
52...Ra4+= 53.Ke3 Rxh4 54.g6
Intending g7 and mate. **54...Rh2**
The position is equal. **55.Rh8**
Threatens to win with g7. **55...Rg2**



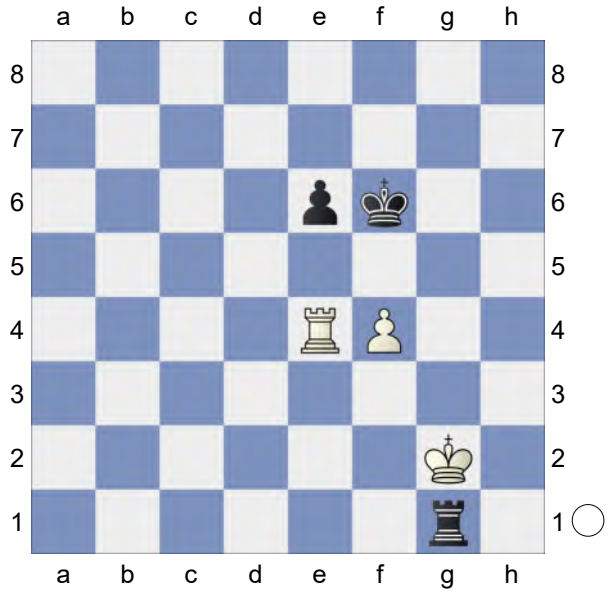
56.Rg8 Ke5 57.Rh8 Kf6 58.Rh6 Rxg6
[58...Rg5 is more complex. 59.g7+ Kf7 60.Kf4 Rxg7 61.Rxh5 Rg1]
59.Rxh5 Rg5 60.Rh4 Re5+



61.Re4 Rf5 62.f4 Ra5 63.Kf3 Ra3+ 64.Re3 Ra1 65.Re4 Rf1+
(Diagram)



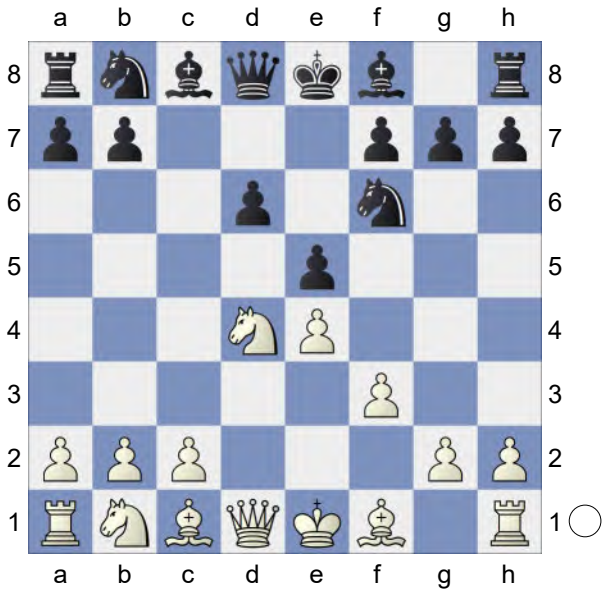
66.Kg2 Rg1+? #18/26



What a fight!
Weighted Error Value: White=0.46/ Black=0.37. Loss on time!?
0-1

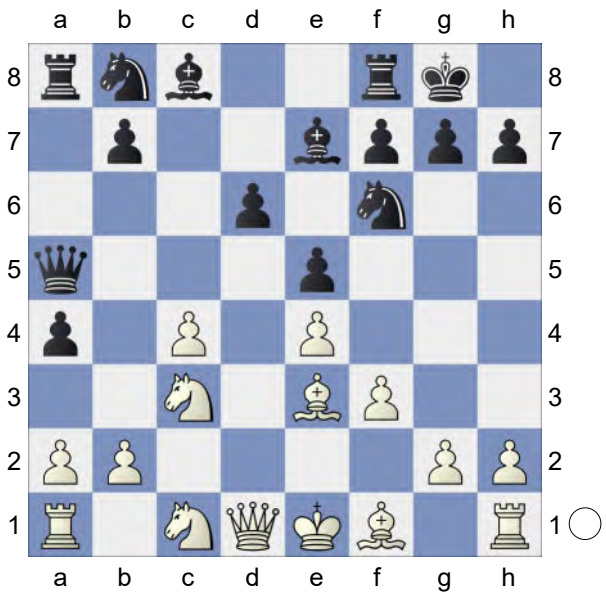
97 **B55**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2843**
■ **Navara,David** **2745**
Shamkir 136/45 2018
[Tadic,Branko, TA]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5



6.Nb3 Ashwin Jayaram: 'We covered this line in the previous update. The game Anand-Caruana went:' **6...Be7 7.c4 a5 8.Be3** Ashwin Jayaram: 'White is not afraid of c5-c4 and' **8...a4** Ashwin Jayaram: 'an interesting waiting move' **9.Nc1 0-0** Ashwin Jayaram: 'Black is willing to give up the bishop pair as it makes it easier to complete development' **10.Nc3 Qa5**

(Diagram)



11.Qd2 Na6N Ashwin Jayaram: 'It took me some time to understand the purpose of this move, as Black retreats the knight instead of a developing move like 11..Rc8. The point of the move is to put pressure on e5 and force White to play f2-f4 after he plays Nd4. Black then intends to use those weakened light squares for counterplay'

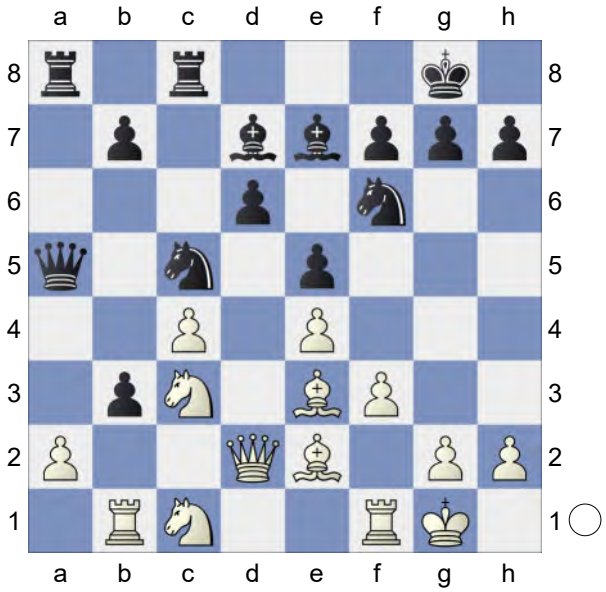
[11...Nc6= 12.Rb1 Be6 13.b4 axb3 14.Nxb3 Qd8 15.Be2 h6= 16.0-0 Ne8 17.Qb2 Bg5 18.Bf2 h5 19.Rfd1 Qf6 20.c5 Bxb3 21.Qxb3 Nd4 22.Qxb7 Nxe2+ 23.Nxe2= Rxa2!? 24.Nc3 Rxf2 25.Nd5 Be3 26.Nxe3]

[11...Be6 12.b4 *(12.Nb5 Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Rc8 14.Na7 Rd8 15.Nb5 Nc6; 12.Rb1 Rc8 13.b3 axb3 14.axb3 Nc6=)* 12...Qd8 *(12...axb3= 13.Nxb3 Qd8 14.Be2)* 13.Bd3]

12.Be2

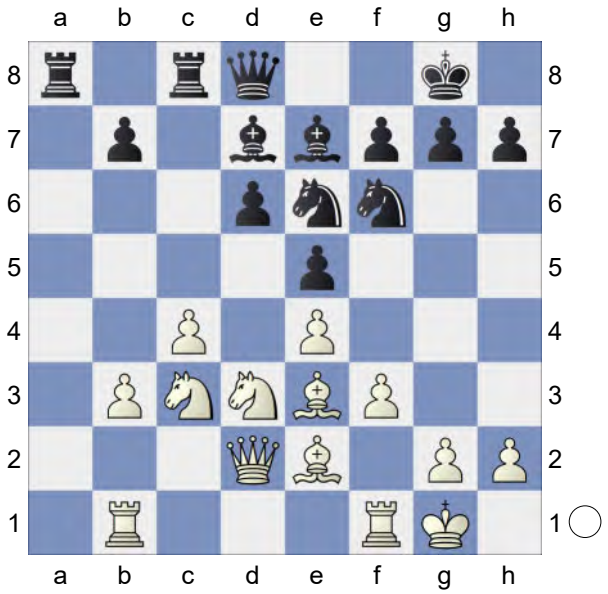
[12.Nd5 Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Nxd5 14.cxd5]

12...Nc5 13.0-0 Bd7 14.Rb1 Rfc8 Ashwin Jayaram: '?!' Ashwin Jayaram: 'This move is too committal. It's not clear if the knight should go to c6 or f5. It also gives White a lot of options. Black should have improved his position, and then traded on c6 or f5 at the right moment' **15.b4** Ashwin Jayaram: 'White's intension was to get a structure where the d-pawn was solidly blockaded and White could create a passed pawn on the kingside. I think this move made Black's life a little easier, as he had some better ways to put pressure' **15...axb3**

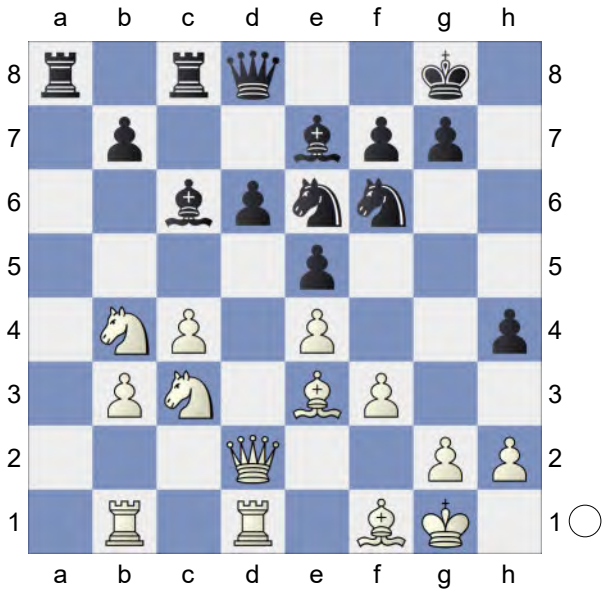


16.axb3 Qd8 17.Nd3 Ashwin Jayaram: 'This capture was probably a little premature. White still had a pleasant position after' **17...Ne6** Diagram

(Diagram)



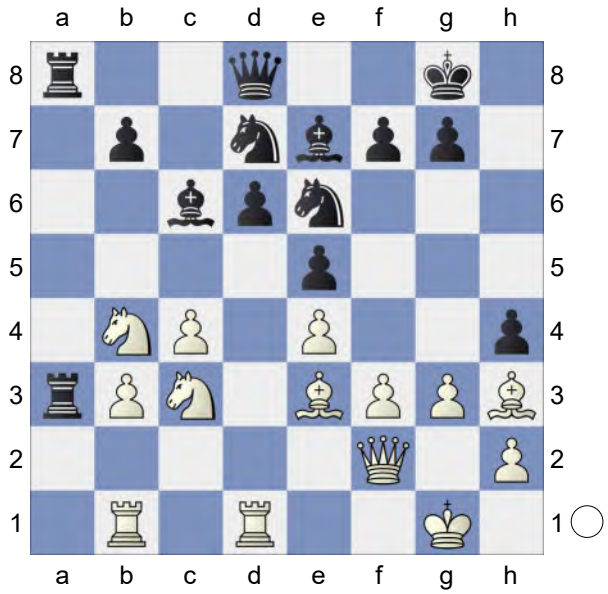
18.Nb4 Ashwin Jayaram: '?!' Ashwin Jayaram: 'This seems to have been Carlsen's intention, but he needed to have first dealt with Black's (only) ... f7-f6 idea.' **18...Bc6 19.Rfd1 h5! 20.Bf1 h4**



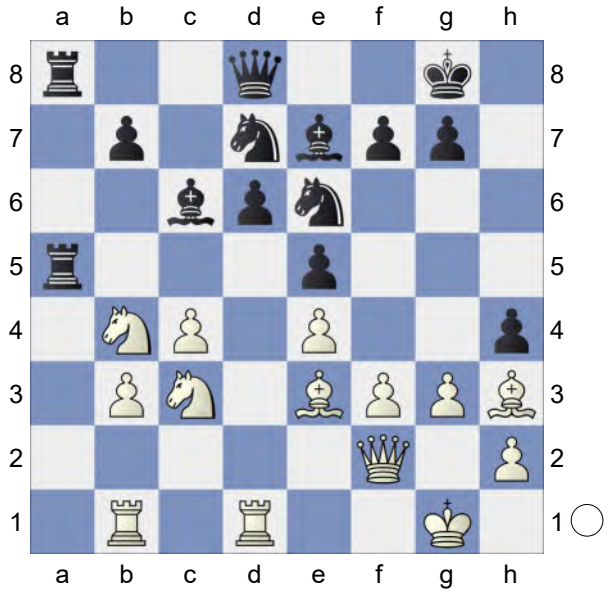
Ashwin Jayaram: '=' Ashwin Jayaram: 'and Black has enough counterplay to give White no advantage' **21.Qf2 Nd7 22.g3 Ra3**

[22...hxg3 23.hxg3 Bg5 24.Bh3 *(24.Rxd6= Qf8)* 24...Bxe3 25.Qxe3 Nd4]

23.Bh3 Rca8! Diagram

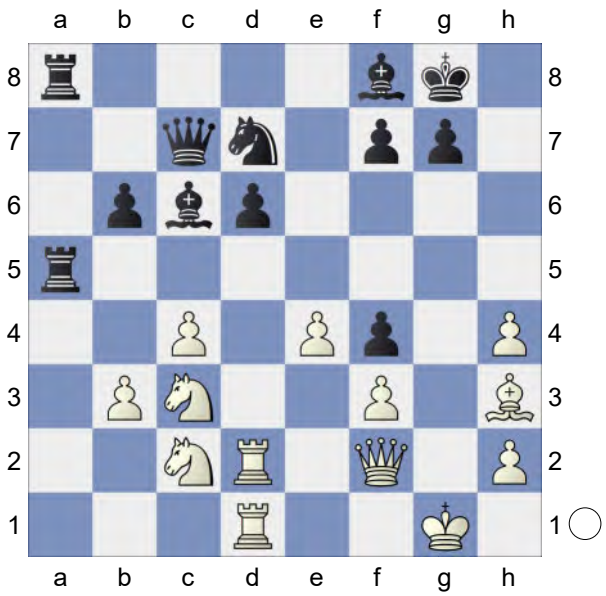


24.Nc2 R3a6 25.Nb4 Ra5

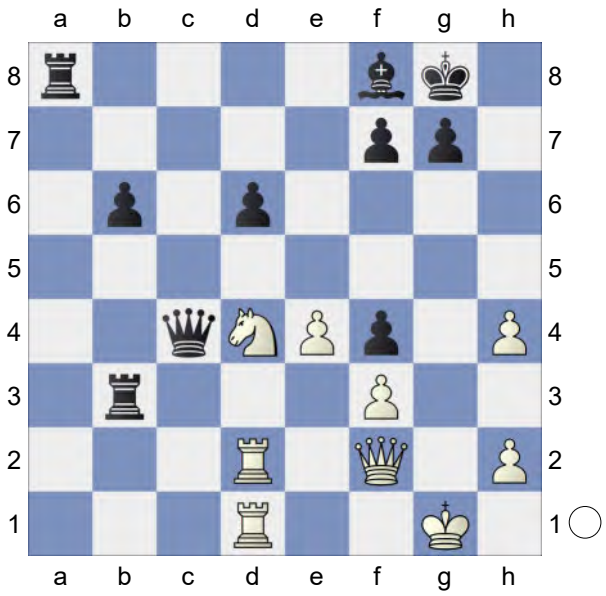


26.Nc2!? b6 27.Rd2 Qc7 28.Rbd1 Bf8 29.gxh4 Nf4! 30.Bxf4 exf4

(Diagram)



31.Bxd7 Qxd7 32.Nb4 Ra3 33.Nxc6!= Qxc6 34.Nb5 Rxb3 35.Nd4 Qxc4

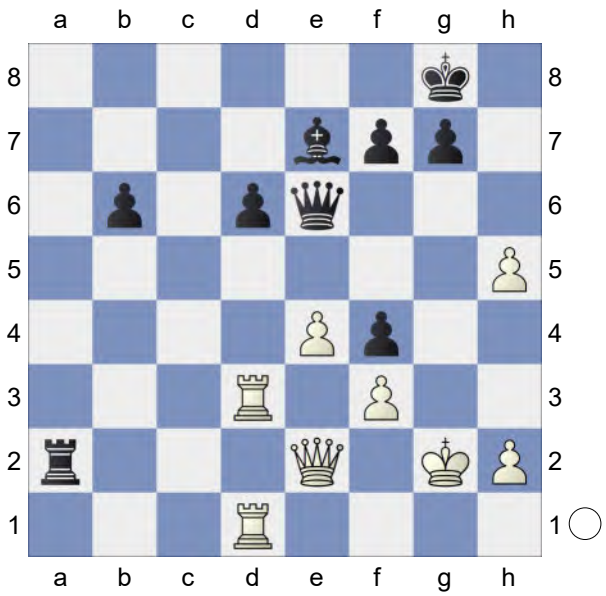


36.Nxb3 Qxb3 37.Qe2 Be7 38.Kg2 Qe6

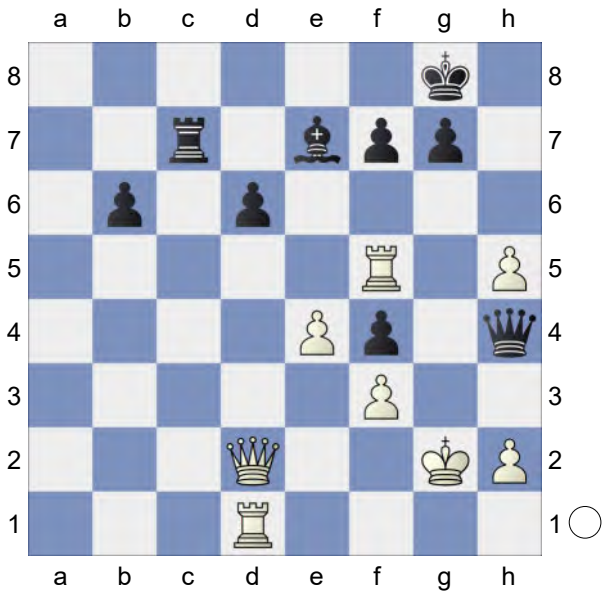
[38...Bxh4?! 39.Qd3∓]

39.h5 Ra3 40.Rd3 Ra2

(Diagram)



41.R3d2 Ra3 42.Rd3 Ra7 43.Rd5 Rc7 44.Qd2 Qf6 45.Rf5 Qh4

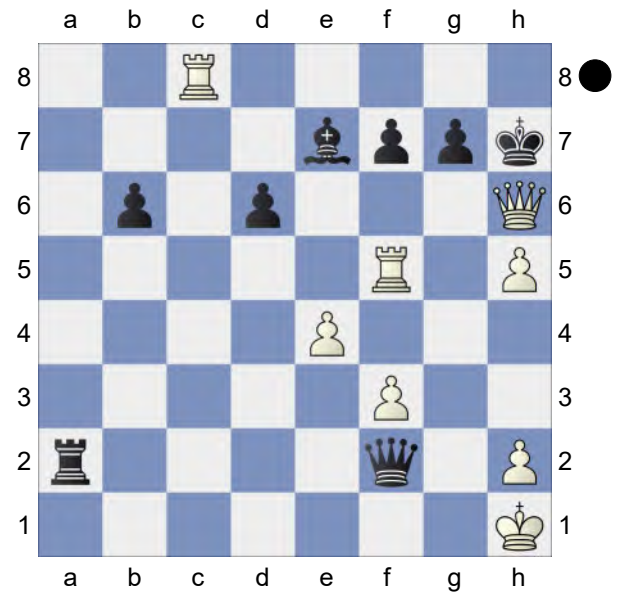


46.Rc1 Ra7 47.Qxf4 Ra2+ 48.Kh1 Qf2 49.Rc8+ Kh7

[49...Bf8? 50.Rxf8+±]

50.Qh6+

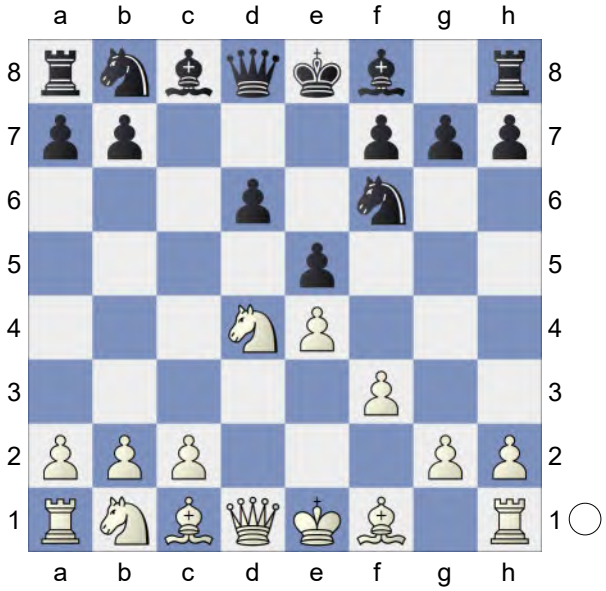
(Diagram)



½-½

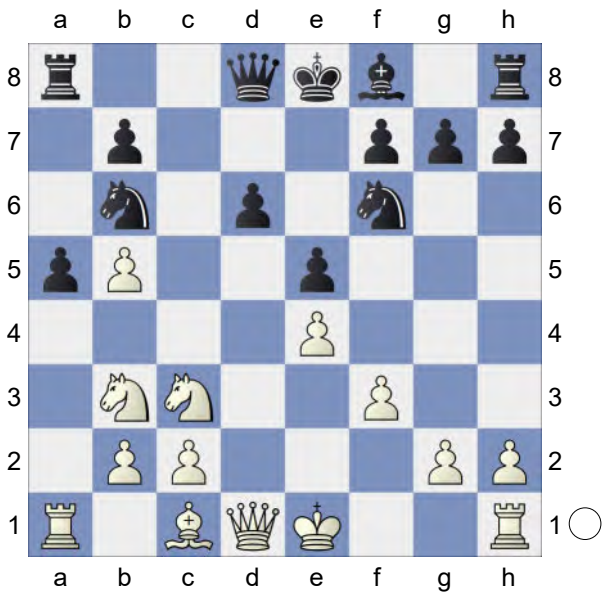
98 **B54**
☐ **Drawdenied Twitch** **2808**
■ **Mrlion3000** **2768**
Blitz 31.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 a5 7.Bb5+ Bd7 8.a4 Bxb5 The position is equal. **9.axb5 Nbd7** 0.49/18
[9...d5= 0.10/20]
10.Nc3± Nb6

(Diagram)



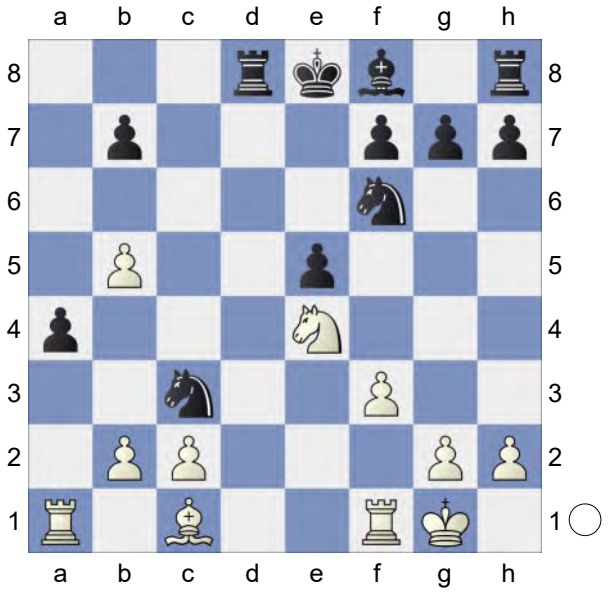
11.0-0 a4 12.Nd2 d5 13.exd5 Nbxd5 0.25/22

[13...Nfxd5∓ -0.33/20 14.Nde4 f5 15.Nxd5 *(15.Bg5 Be7∓)* 15...Qxd5 16.Qxd5 Nxd5]

14.Nde4= Nxc3

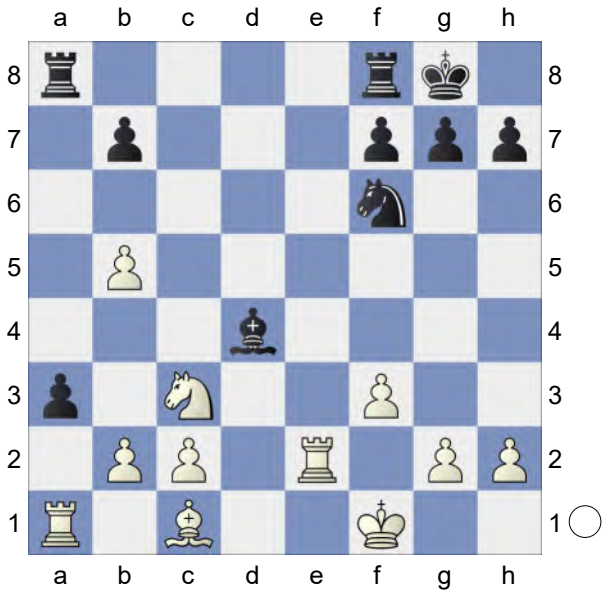
[14...Nxe4 looks sharper. 15.Nxd5 Bc5+ 16.Be3 Bxe3+ 17.Nxe3 Qb6]

15.Qxd8+ Rxd8



16.Nxc3 a3 17.Re1 Bc5+ 18.Kf1 0-0 19.Rxe5 Bd4 20.Re2 Ra8

[20...Bxc3? 21.bxc3 h6 22.Rxa3± *(22.Bxa3 Ra8±)*]



21.Rb1 -0.69/22

[21.Rd2!= 0.25/21 Be3 22.Rd6 Bxc1 23.Rxc1]

21...a2∓ 22.Ra1 Bxc3 23.bxc3 Rfc8 24.Bb2 -1.07/21

[⌓24.c4 -0.71/21]

24...Nd5 0.01/20

[24...Ne8∓ -1.07/21 25.c4 h6]

25.Ke1 -1.14/20

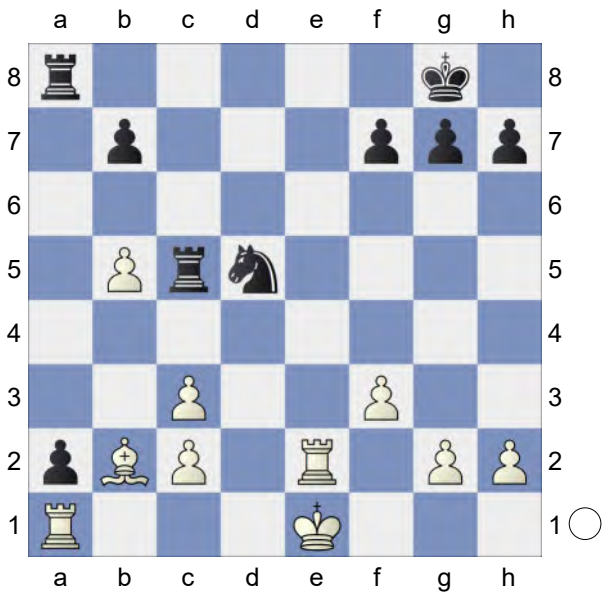
[25.c4!= 0.01/20 Nf4 26.Re7]

25...Rc5? 0.72/22

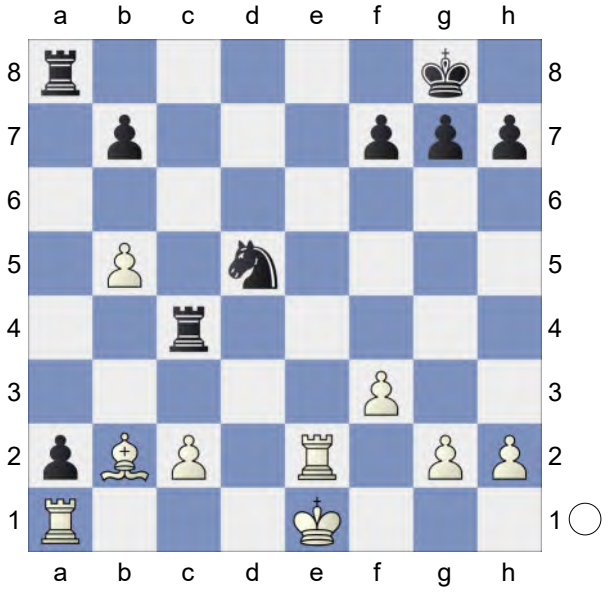
[25...Nxc3 26.Bxc3 Rxc3 27.Rxa2!!±]

[25...h6∓ -1.14/20 26.Re4 Nb6]

(Diagram)

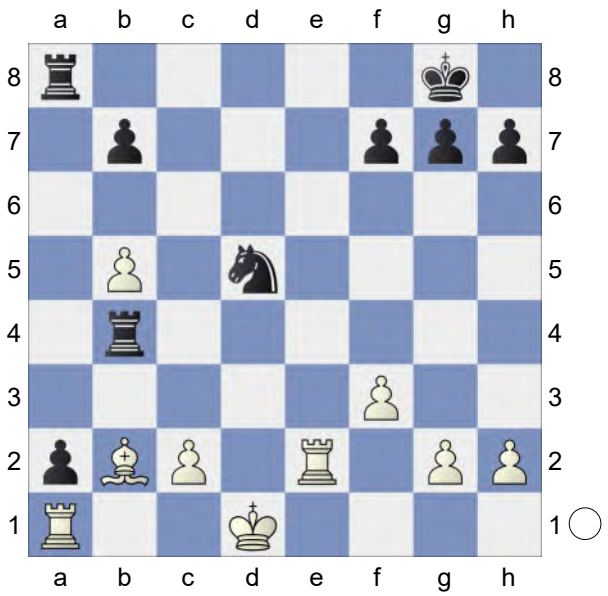


26.c4 0.22/21
[26.Rxa2!± 0.72/22 Rac8 27.Ra7]
26...Rxc4 0.66/21
[26...Nc7!= 0.22/21]

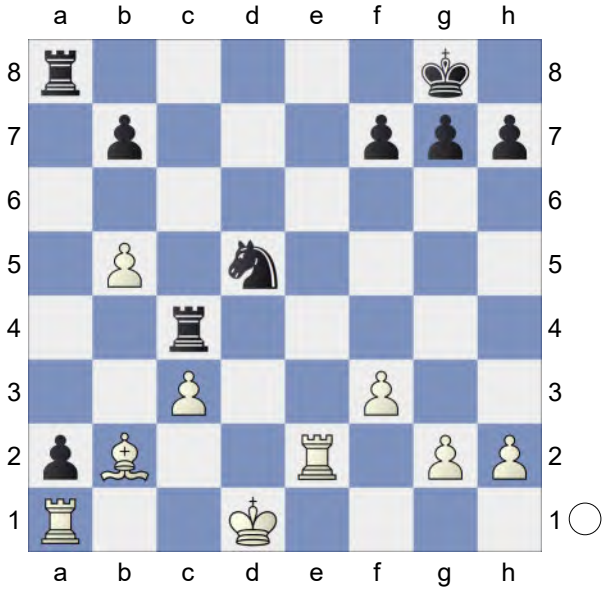


27.Kd1? -1.46/20
[27.Rxa2!± 0.66/21 stays ahead. Rac8 28.Rd2]
27...Rb4? 0.18/23
[27...f6∓ -1.46/20 White must now prevent ...Rb4. 28.Re4 Rc7]

(Diagram)

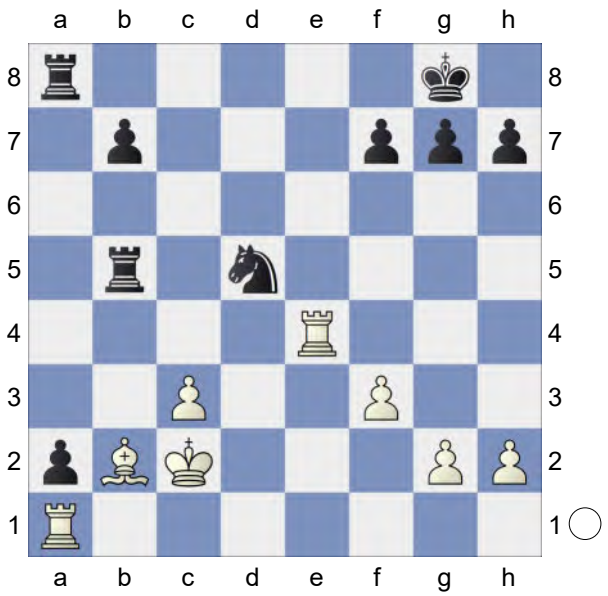


28.c3? -1.56/22
[28.Rxa2!= 0.18/23 Rd8 29.Ke1]
28...Rc4? 0.21/22
[28...Rxb5∓ -1.56/22 And now ...h6 would win. 29.c4 Ne3+! 30.Kc1 Nxc4 31.Rxa2 Rc8]

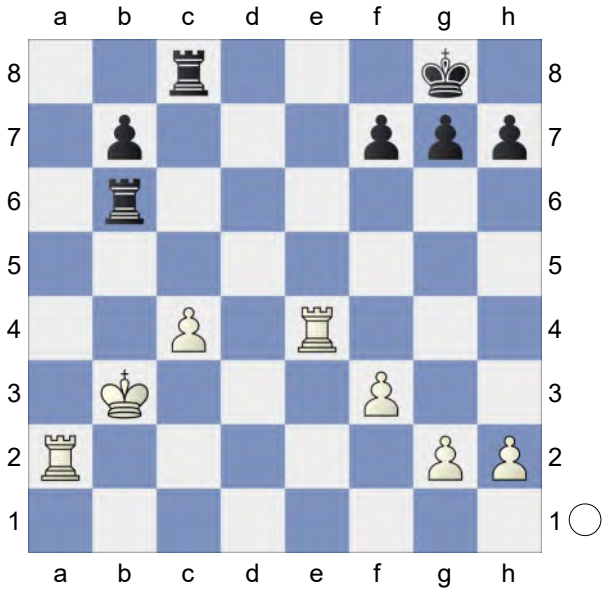


29.Kc2 -0.93/21
[29.Rxa2!= 0.21/22 Rd8 30.Ke1]
29...Rc5∓ 30.Re4 Rxb5 -0.59/23
[30...f5∓ -1.50/21 31.Rd4 Rxb5]

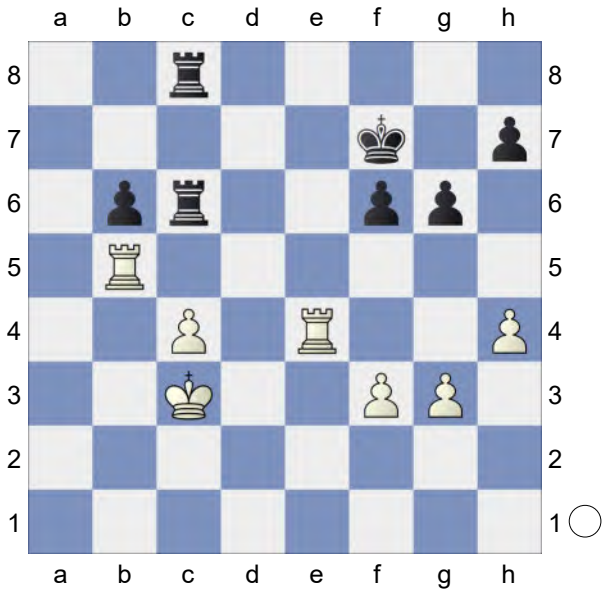
(Diagram)



31.c4 Rc5 -0.07/22
[31...Rc8∓ -0.55/20 was preferrable.]
32.Kb3!⇄ White has counterplay
32...Nb6
[32...f5? 33.Re5+-]
33.Bd4 Rc6 34.Rxa2 Rac8 35.Bxb6
[35.Rae2 keeps more tension. Kf8 36.Bc3 g6 37.Bb4+]
35...Rxb6+

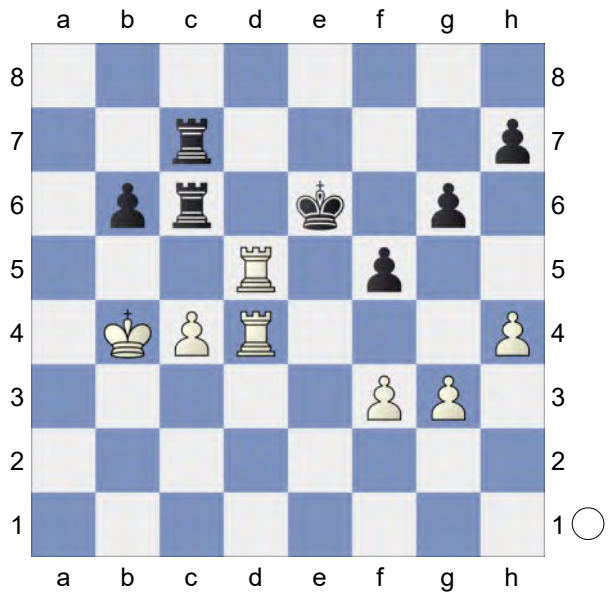


Endgame KRR-KRR **36.Kc3 Rbc6**
37.Rb2 b6 38.Rb5 f6 0.29/20
[⌓38...Ra8 -0.27/17]
39.g3 Kf7 0.58/20
[Black should try 39...Ra8= 0.01/19]
40.h4 0.01/19
[40.Rd5!± 0.58/20]
40...g6 0.36/22
[40...Ra8= 0.01/19]

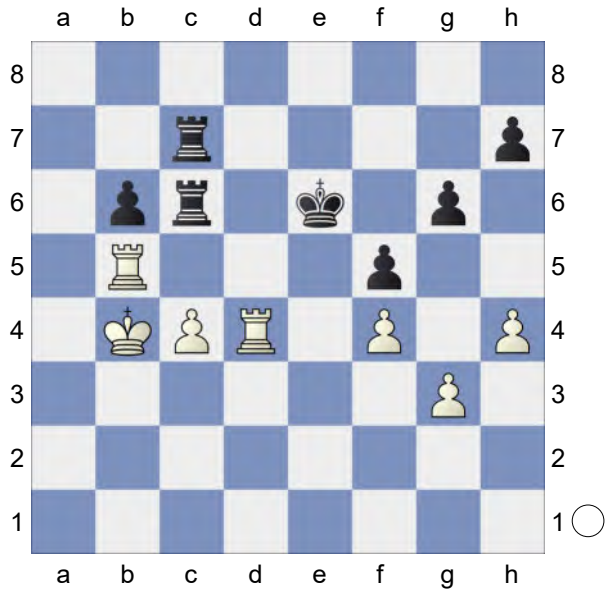


41.Rd4 Ke7 42.Rbd5 R8c7 43.Re4+ Kf7 44.Red4 -0.01/19
[⌓44.Kb4 0.30/20]
44...f5 0.48/21
[44...Ke7!= -0.01/19 feels stronger.]
45.Kb4 Ke6 0.95/22
[45...Ke7!± 0.38/22]

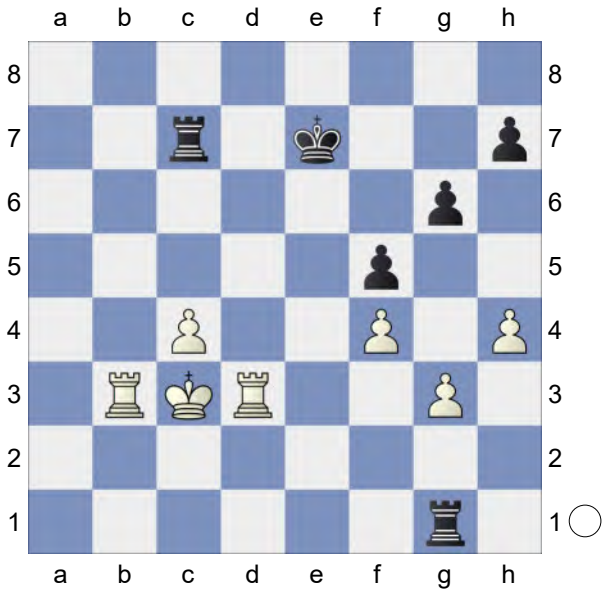
(Diagram)



46.f4 0.08/24
[46.g4± 0.95/22]
46...Kf6 1.04/27
[46...h5= 0.08/24 remains equal.]
47.Rd6+± Ke7 48.R6d5 -0.01/24 &Bianco is more active.
[48.Rxc6± 1.08/29 Rxc6 49.Kb5]
48...Ke6 49.Re5+ Kf6 50.Rb5 Ke6

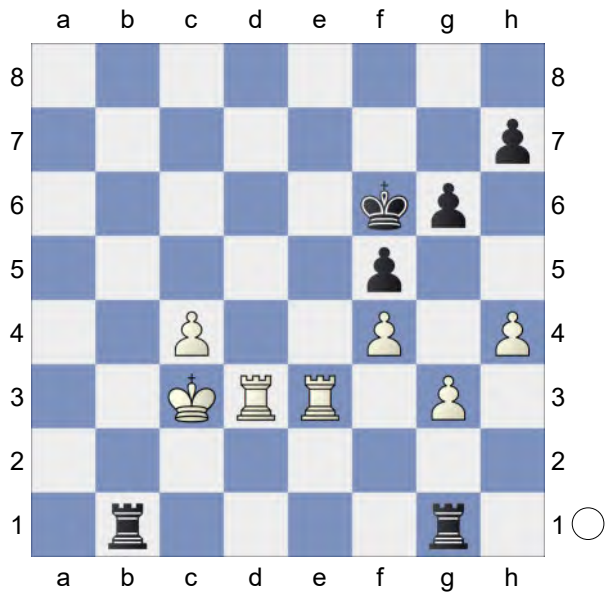


51.Kc3 Rc5? 2.07/25
[51...Ra7= 0.01/20 and Black stays safe.]
52.Rxb6++- Ke7? 3.55/21
[52...Kf7 1.87/26 keeps fighting. 53.Kb4 Kf8]
53.Rb4? 0.79/21
[53.Kb4+- 3.55/21 is more deadly.]
53...Ra5± 54.Rd3 Ra1 55.Rb3 -0.01/21
[55.Re3+± 0.67/20 Kd7 56.Kb2]
55...Rg1 1.11/25
[55...Rc1+= -0.01/21 keeps the balance. 56.Kd2 R1xc4]

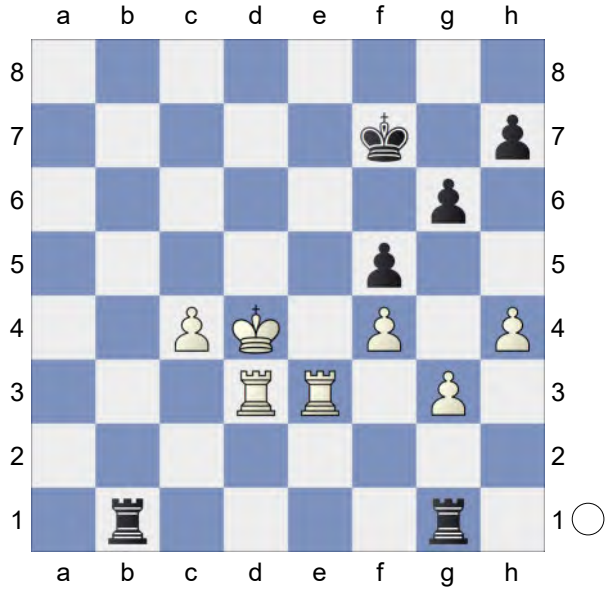


56.Kb4 Ra7? 3.16/23
[56...Rc1± 0.91/24 was necessary.]
57.Re3+ 1.89/23
[⌓57.Kb5 3.16/23]
57...Kf6 3.29/21
[⌓57...Kd8 1.89/23 58.Rbd3+ Rd7]
58.Rbd3? 0.01/23
[58.c5+- 3.29/21]
58...Rb7+= 59.Kc3 Rbb1? 2.73/24
[59...Rc1+= -0.28/23 and Black has nothing to worry. 60.Kd2 *(60.Kd4 Rd7+ 61.Kc5 Rc7+ 62.Kb5 R1xc4=)* 60...Rxc4]

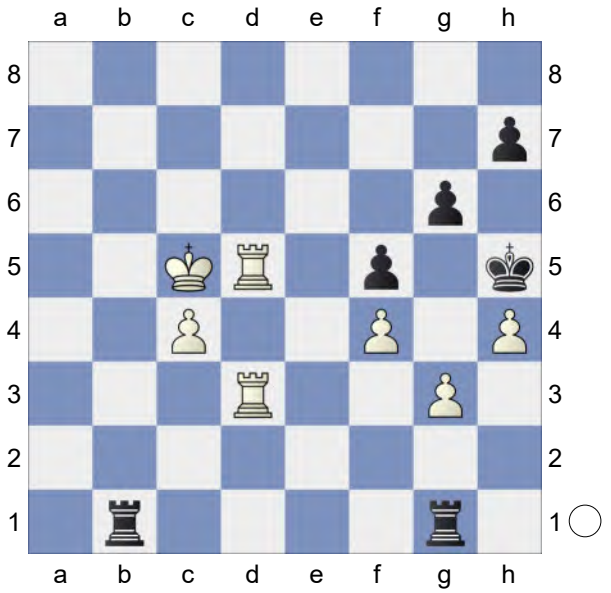
(Diagram)



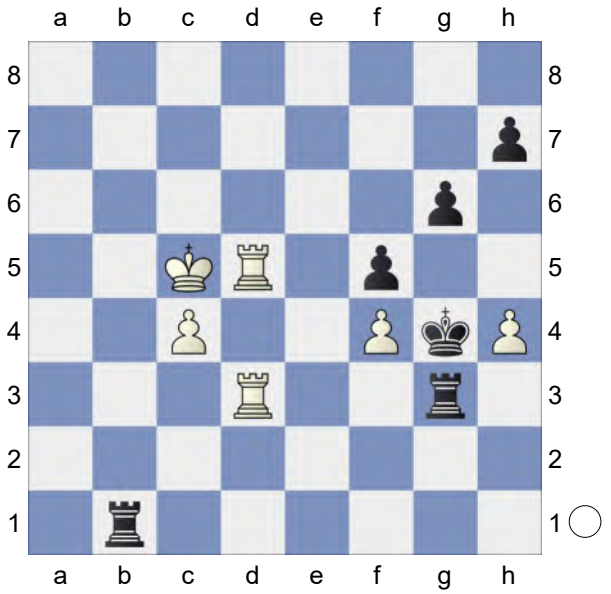
60.Kd4!+- Kf7 3.41/22
[⌓60...Rgc1 2.13/21 61.Rb3 Rxb3 62.Rxb3 Rd1+ 63.Kc5 Ke7 64.Rb7+ Kf6 65.Rxh7 Rd3]



61.Re5? 1.36/20
[61.c5+- 3.41/22 and White stays clearly on top.]
61...Kg7 2.61/21
[61...Rb7± 1.36/20 was worth a try. 62.c5 Rc1]
62.Rd5? 0.99/21
[62.Rb5+- 2.61/21]
62...Kh6? 2.76/22
[62...Rb8± 0.99/21]
63.Kc5? 1.04/24
[63.Rb5+- 2.76/22 Threatens to win with Rxb1. Rbc1 64.Rbb3]
63...Kh5 1.74/23
[63...Rgc1± 1.04/24 is a better defense.]

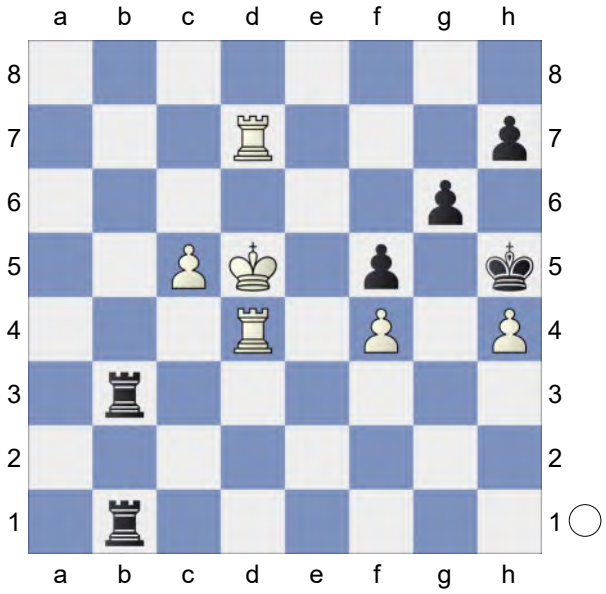


64.R3d4? -0.04/23
[64.Rc3!+- 1.74/23]
64...Kg4 65.Rd3 Rxg3

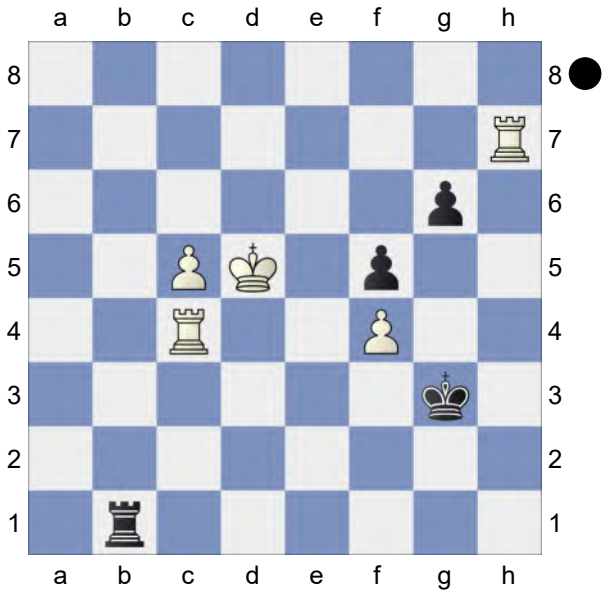


66.R3d4 -1.03/21

[66.Rxg3+= -0.01/22 Kxg3 67.Kd6]
66...Rc3 -0.34/22
[Black should play 66...Kxh4∓ -1.03/21 Hoping for ...Kg4. 67.Kd6 Rc1]
67.Rd6 -0.92/21
[67.Rd7∓ -0.34/22]
67...Rcb3 -0.27/21
[67...Kxh4∓ -0.92/21 ...Kg4 is the strong threat. 68.Rd7 h5]
68.Rd7= Kf3 0.16/20
[68...h6!∓ -0.41/21]
69.Kd5 Kg4 70.c5 Kh5? 2.69/21
[70...Rc1= 0.01/20 and Black is okay.]



71.Rc4? 0.96/23
[71.Rxh7++- 2.69/21 Kg4 72.Rh6]
71...Kxh4 1.87/20
[71...Rd3+± 0.96/23 72.Kc6 *(72.Rd4 Rxd4+ 73.Kc6 Rxd7-+)* 72...Re3 73.Rxh7+ Kg4]
72.Rd4? -0.01/21
[Better is 72.c6+- 1.87/20]
72...Rb4 73.Rg7 -0.77/22
[But not 73.Rxh7+?! Kg4±]
[73.Rxb4= 0.24/21 Rxb4 74.Rxh7+ Kg4 75.c6]
73...Rc4? 14.31/26 **74.Rxh7++- Kg3 75.Rxc4**

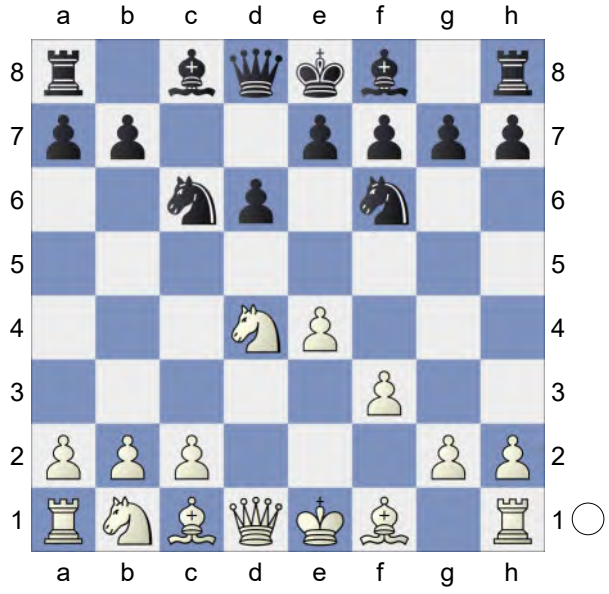


Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/ Black=0.67
1-0

99 **B56**
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2807**
■ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2819**
4th Sinquefield Cup 2016 (5.4) 09.08.16
[Tactical Analysis 5.2 (4s)]

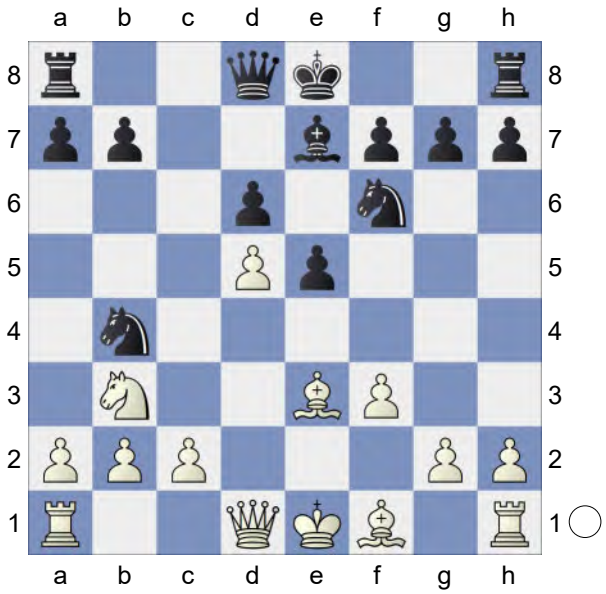
B56: Classical Sicilian: Unusual Lines
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/ Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1

Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

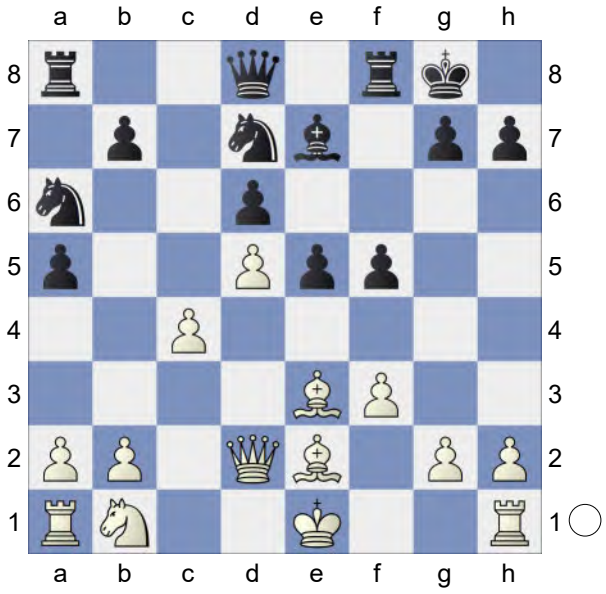


6.Nc3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 Be6 9.Nd5 Bxd5 10.exd5 Nb4

(Diagram)

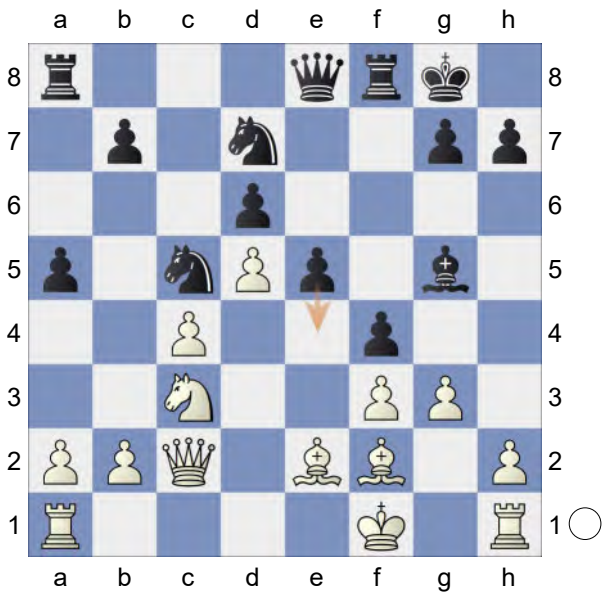


11.c4! a5 12.Be2 Na6 13.Nd2 White has an edge. **13...0-0 14.Nb1 Nd7 15.Qd2 f5**

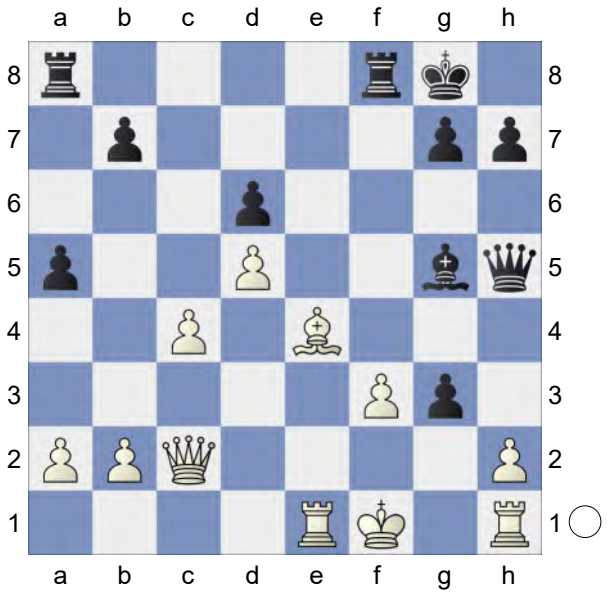


16.Nc3 Bh4+ 17.g3 f4 18.Bf2 Bg5 19.Qc2 Nac5 20.Kf1 Qe8

(Diagram)

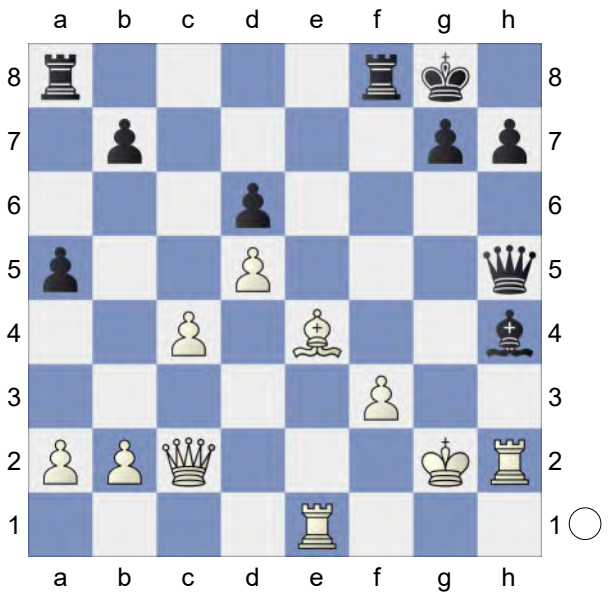


21.Re1 e4 0.59/17
[21...Bd8= 0.20/18 is superior.]
22.Bxc5 Nxc5 0.16/19
[Black should try 22...Qh5± 0.73/20 23.Bxd6 exf3]
23.Nxe4= Nxe4 24.Bd3 Pin **24...fxg3**
25.Bxe4 Qh5 1.20/19
[25...g2+!= 0.23/19 26.Kxg2 *(26.Qxg2 Qh5±)* 26...Qh5]

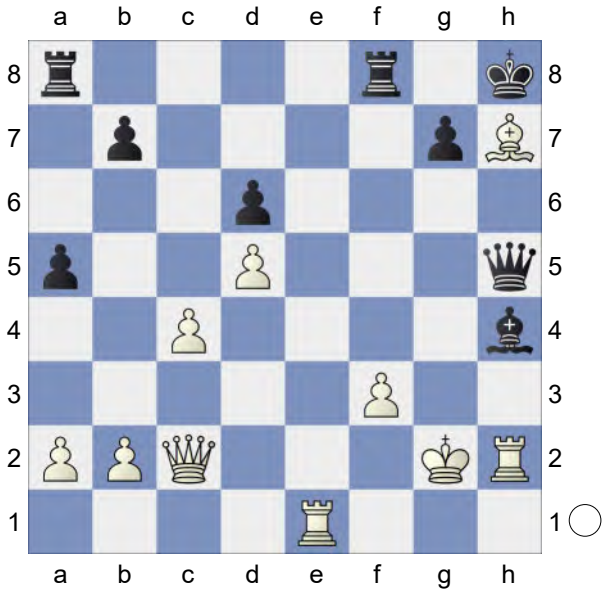


26.Kg2!± gxh2 27.Rxh2 Bh4

(Diagram)

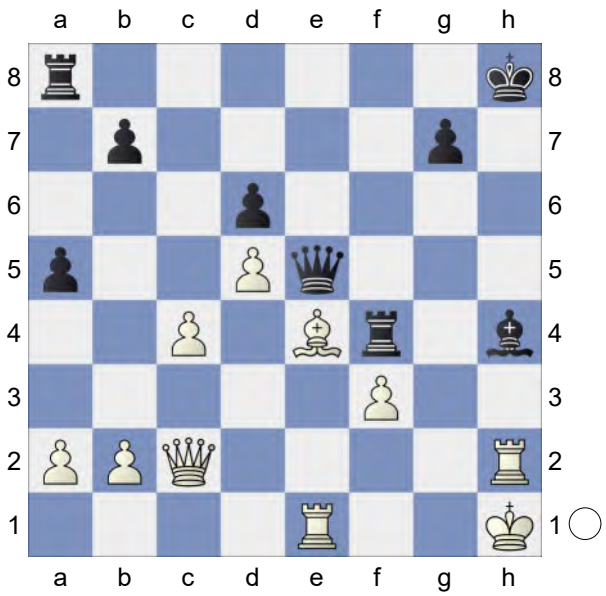


28.Bxh7+! Kh8

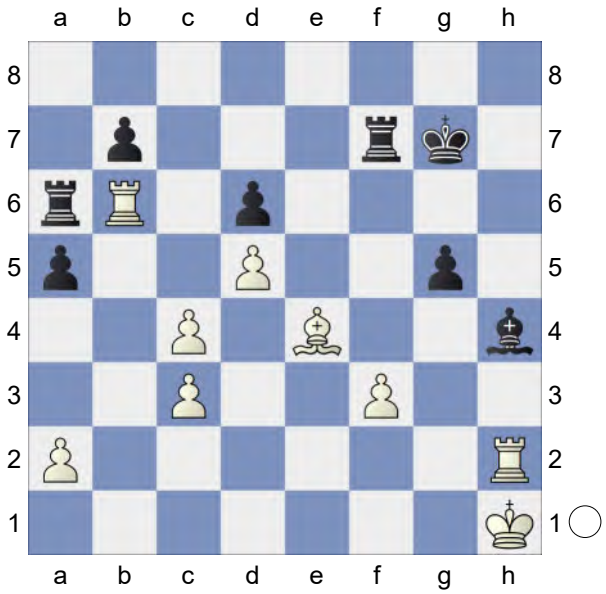


29.Be4 And now Rxh4! would win. Chess con chili. **29...Rf4 30.Kh1 Qe5** 2.04/19
[30...Re8± 1.02/19]

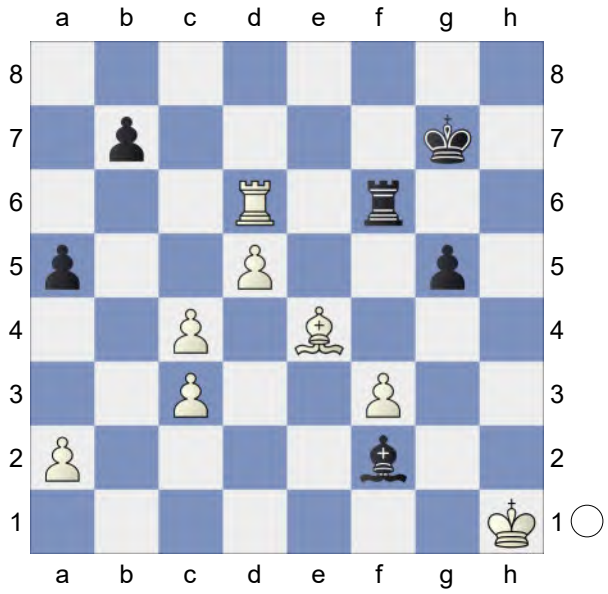
(Diagram)



31.Rg1 1.15/19
[31.c5+- 2.04/19]
31...g5 1.82/18
[31...Re8± 1.15/19 32.Bg6 Rd8]
32.Qc3 1.42/22
[32.c5+- 1.82/18]
32...Qxc3 33.bxc3 Hoping for Rxg5.
33...Kg7 34.Rb1 Rf7 35.Rb6 1.12/21
[⌓35.c5 1.49/22]
35...Ra6

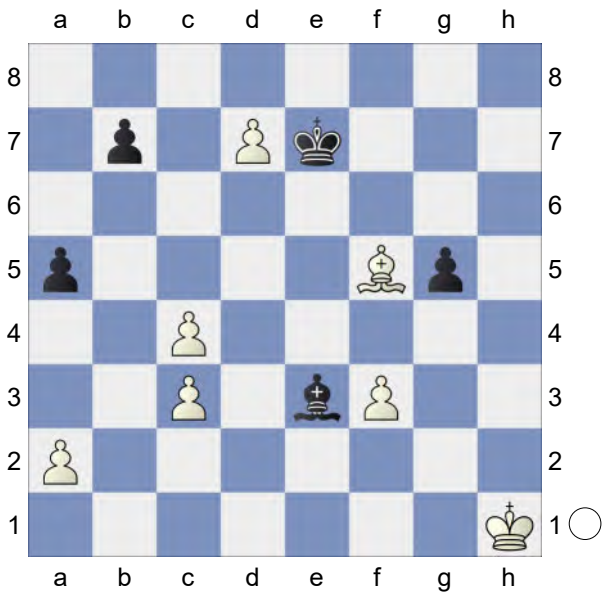


36.Rhb2 1.72/20 &Bianco is more active.
[36.Rb5± 1.27/19]
36...Rxb6+- 37.Rxb6 Endgame KRB-KRB **37...Bf2** 1.82/22
[37...Bg3± 0.98/21]
38.Rxd6 Rf6 Against Rg6+ **39.Rd8** aiming for d6. **39...Rf8 40.Rd6** 0.01/19
[Better is 40.Rxf8+- 1.97/25 Kxf8 41.Kg2]
40...Rf6!=

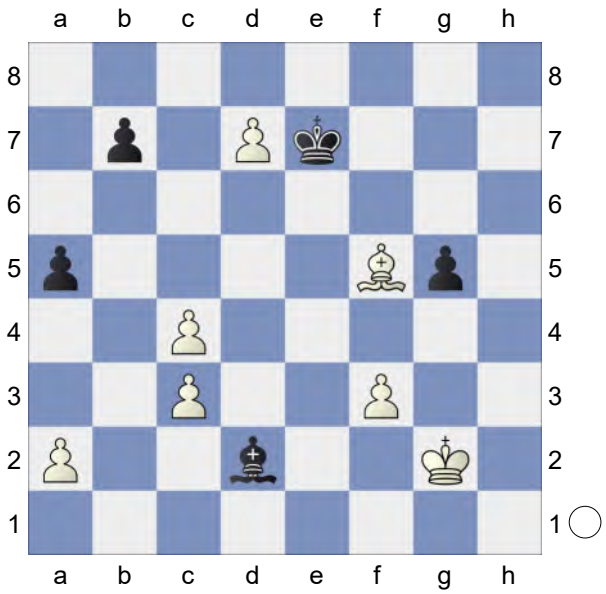


41.Rd8 -0.01/20
[41.Rd7+± 1.59/25 Rf7 42.Rd8]
41...Rf8! This costs Black the game.
42.Rxf8 Kxf8 43.d6 Bc5 2.07/24
[⌓43...Ke8 1.71/26 44.Bf5 *(44.Bxb7 Kd7±; 44.Kg2 Bc5±)* 44...Bg3]
44.d7 Ke7 45.Bf5 1.28/26
[But not 45.Bxb7?! Kxd7 46.Kg2 Be3±]
[White should play 45.Kg2+- 1.90/24]
45...Be3

(Diagram)

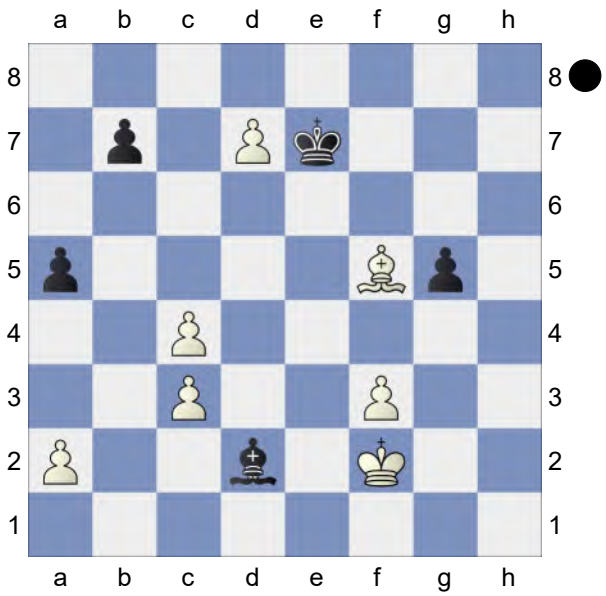


46.Kg2 Bd2 2.13/26
[46...b6± 1.44/27 is a better defense. 47.Kg3 Bd2]



47.Kf2 1.01/31
[47.Kg3!+- 2.13/26 is more deadly.]

(Diagram)

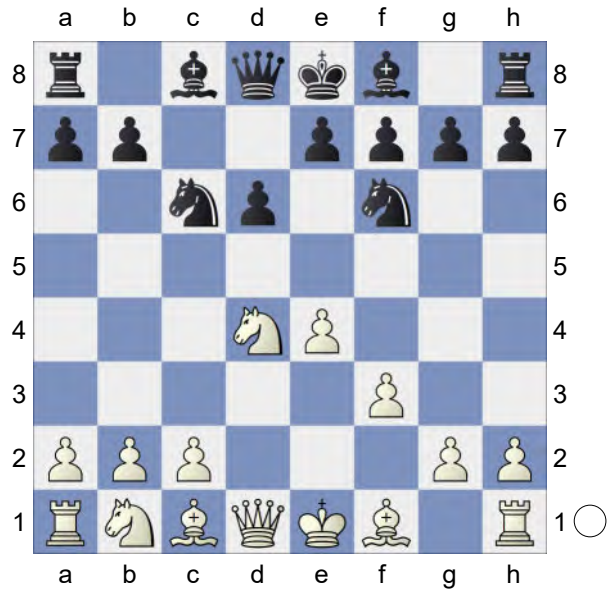


Weighted Error Value: White=0.26 (precise) /Black=0.15 (very precise)
½-½

100	**B56**
□ **Caruana,Fabiano**	**2807**
■ **Giri,Anish**	**2769**
Saint Louis 129/124	2016
[Kitty Kat]	

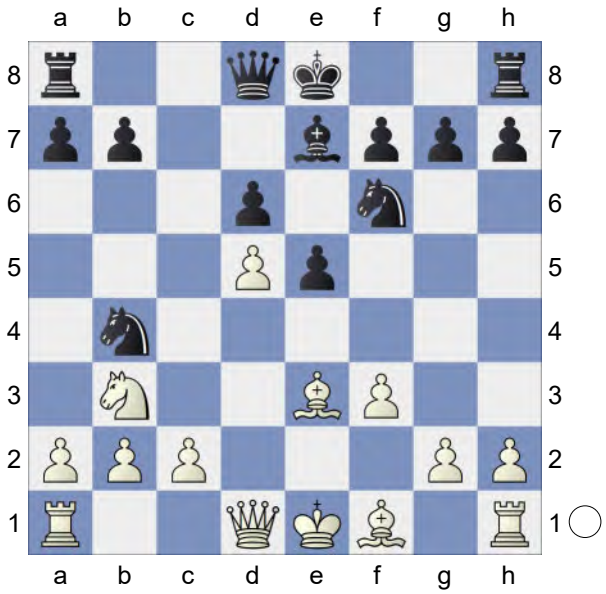
B56: Classical Sicilian: Unusual Lines
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]) 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-

Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]

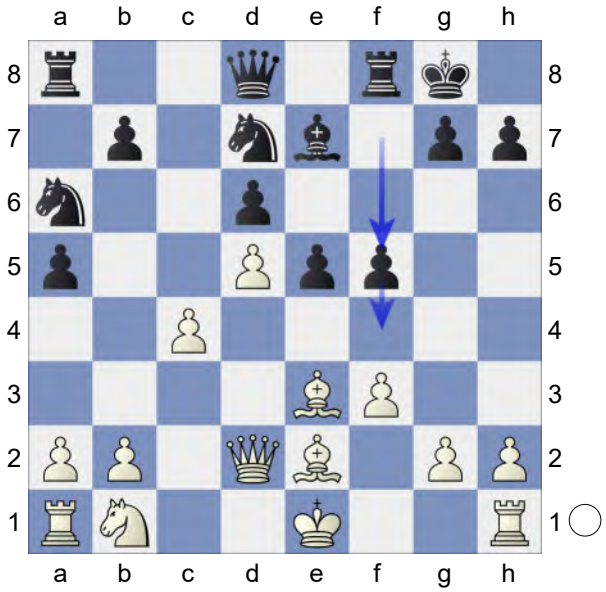


6.Nc3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 Be6 9.Nd5 Bxd5 10.exd5 Nb4

(Diagram)

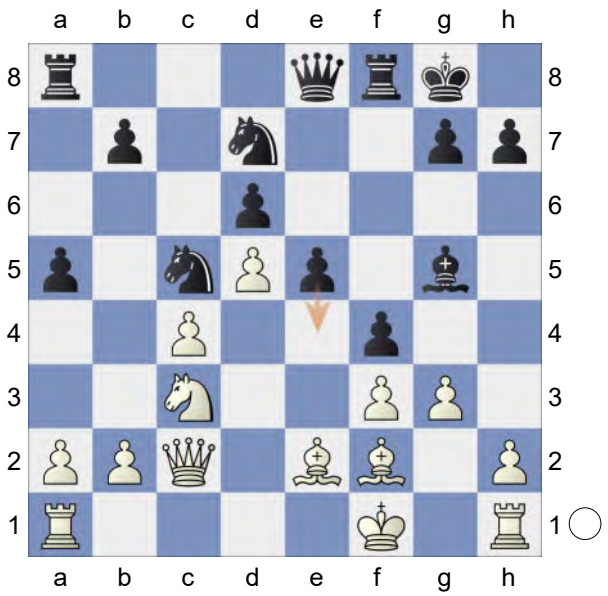


11.c4! a5 12.Be2 Na6 13.Nd2 White has an edge. **13...0-0 14.Nb1 Nd7 15.Qd2 f5**



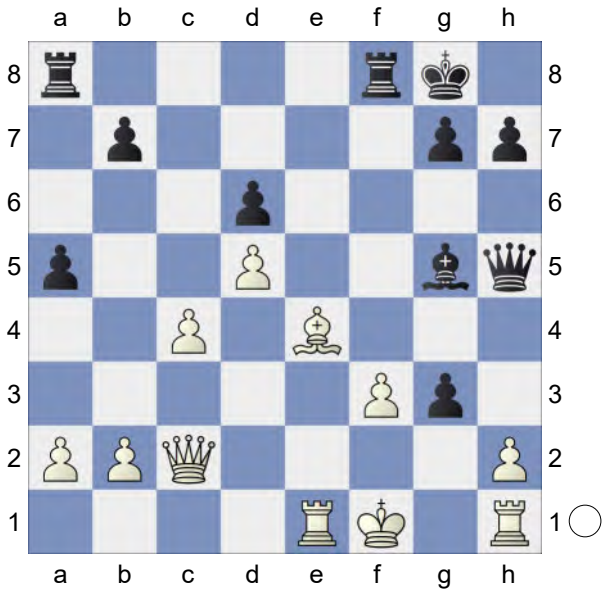
16.Nc3 Bh4+ 17.g3 f4! 18.Bf2 Bg5 19.Qc2 Nac5 20.Kf1 Qe8

(Diagram)



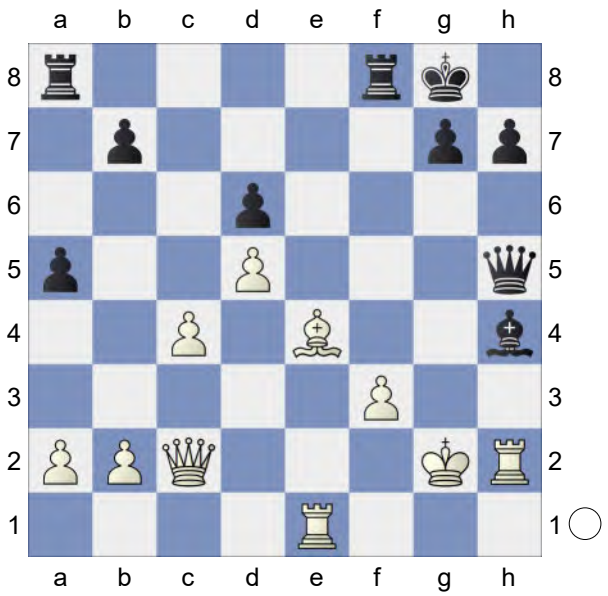
21.Re1 e4 22.Bxc5 Nxc5 23.Nxe4 Nxe4 24.Bd3 Pin **24...fxg3 25.Bxe4 Qh5** 1.34/20

[25...g2+± 0.36/22 26.Kxg2 *(26.Qxg2 Qh5±)* 26...Qh5]

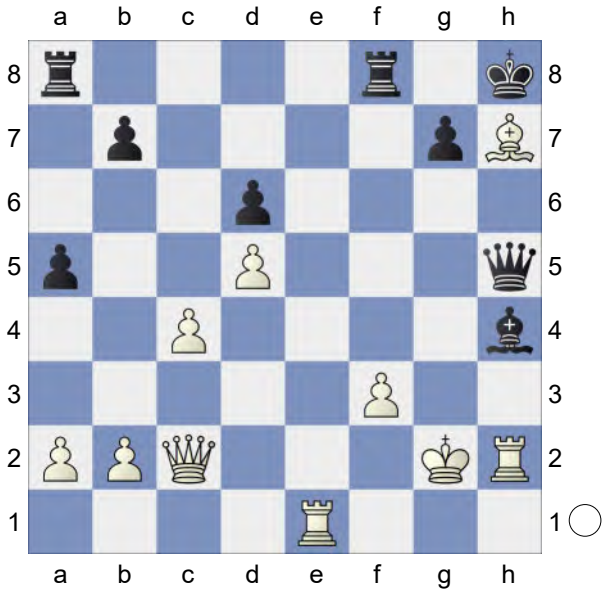


26.Kg2!± gxh2 27.Rxh2 Bh4

(Diagram)



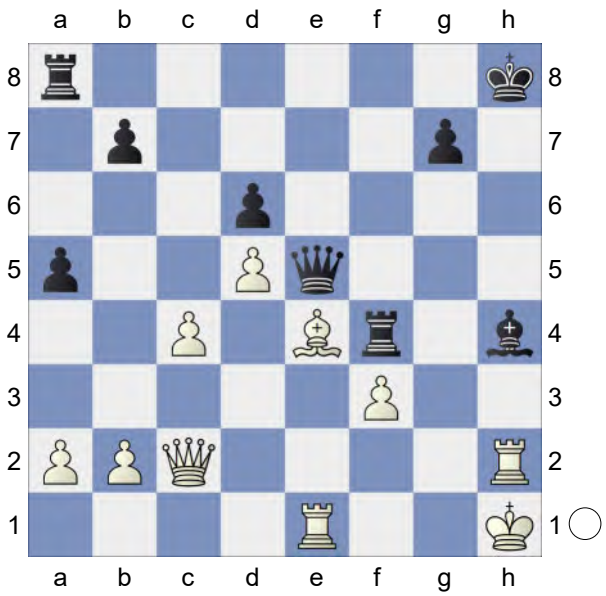
Hoping for ...Qg5+. **28.Bxh7+! Kh8**



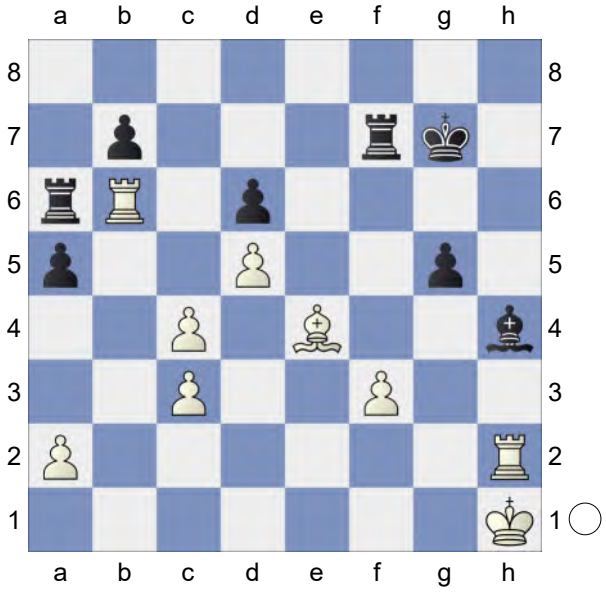
29.Be4 Strongly threatening Rxh4! Dancing on a razor blade. **29...Rf4 30.Kh1 Qe5** 1.95/19

[30...Rc8± 1.23/18 31.Rg1 Kg8]

(Diagram)

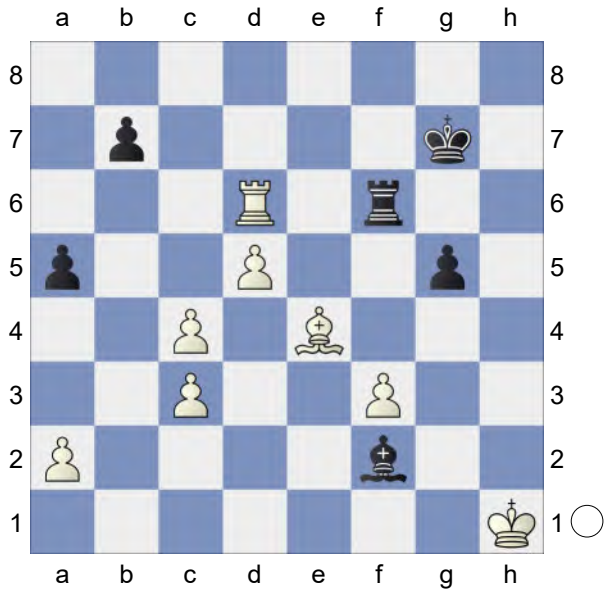


31.Rg1 1.15/18
[31.c5+- 1.95/19]
31...g5 1.66/20
[31...Rd8± 1.15/18 32.Qg2 Kg8]
32.Qc3 Qxc3 33.bxc3 Rxg5 is the strong threat. **33...Kg7 34.Rb1 Rf7 35.Rb6 Ra6**

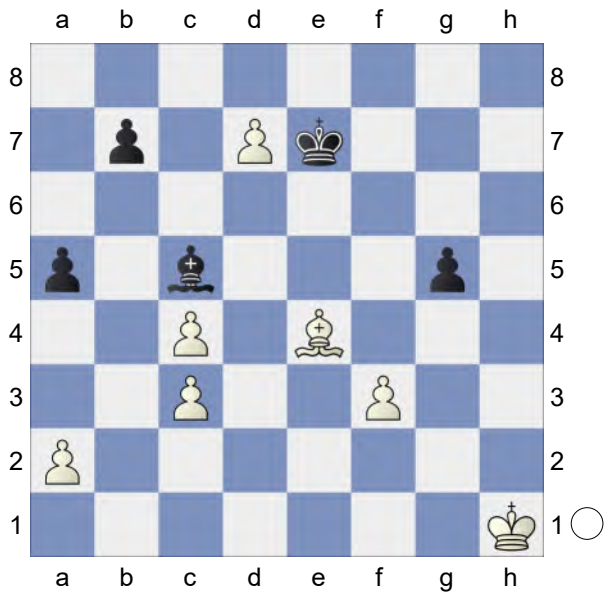


36.Rhb2 0.88/21 &Bianco is more active.
[⌓36.Rb5 1.20/21]
36...Rxb6 37.Rxb6 Endgame KRB-KRB **37...Bf2?** 2.55/23
[37...Bg3± 0.98/22]

38.Rxd6+- Black must now prevent Rg6+. **38...Rf6** Prevents Rg6+. **39.Rd8** Threatens to win with d6. **39...Rf8 40.Rd6** 0.01/19
[40.Rxf8+- 2.53/24 Kxf8 41.Kg2]
40...Rf6!=



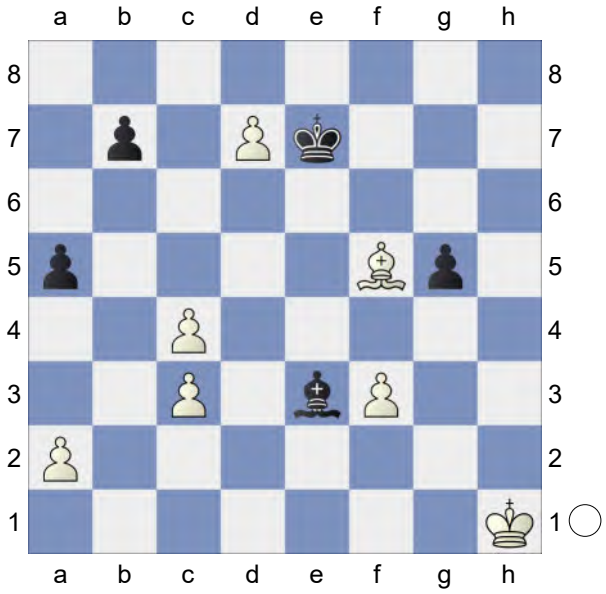
41.Rd8 -0.01/20
[Better is 41.Rd7+± 1.09/23 Rf7 42.Rd8]
41...Rf8! 42.Rxf8 Kxf8 43.d6 1.00/25
[⌓43.Kg2 1.47/24 Be3 44.d6]
43...Bc5± White is better. **44.d7 Ke7**



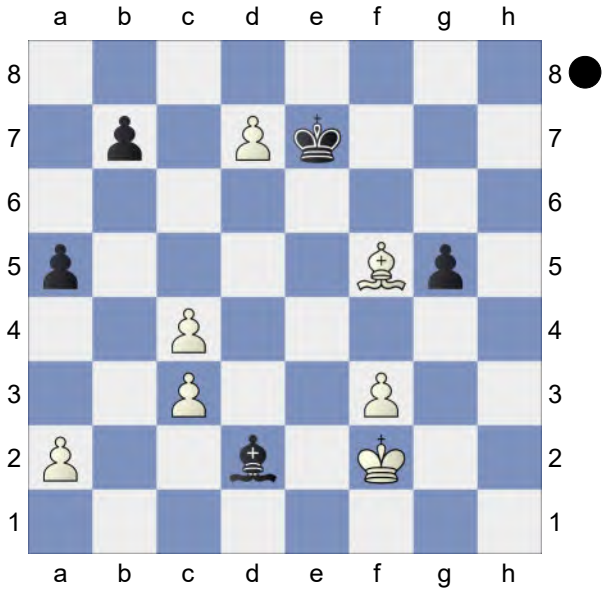
45.Bf5!

[Resist 45.Bxb7 Kxd7 46.Kg2 Be3±]

45...Be3



46.Kg2 Bd2 47.Kf2



Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.12 (very precise)

1-0

101 **B55**

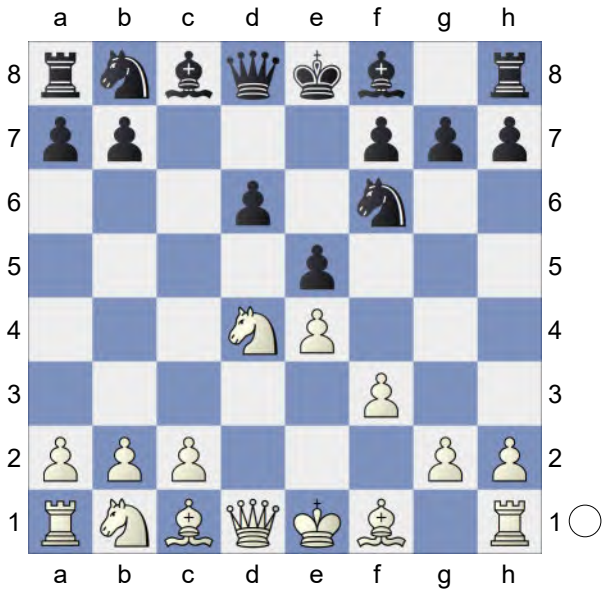
□ **Grischuk,A** **2780**

■ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2754**

KM FIDE GP 2015 (3.2) 16.05.2015

[Ftacnik,Lubomir, TA]

1.e4 6 **c5** 3 **2.Nf3** 8 **d6** 2 **3.d4** 5 **cxd4** 4 **4.Nxd4** 6 **Nf6** 5 **5.f3** 4 **e5** 3:59



6.Nb3 1:47 **d5!?** 1:54 Black is meeting the modest idea of 5.f3 with the most radical central advance. White has to live with the consequences of lesser control of the d5-square. **7.Bg5** 2:13 **d4** 7 White would have a hard time trying to prove, that Black is not holding the balance after both alternatives to the text move. Personally I believe that 7... ♗e6 can be played with full confidence by Black.

[7...dxe4 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.fxe4 Nbd7 10.Bc4 Ke8 11.0-0 Nb6 12.Bd3 Be7 13.Nc3 a6 14.Be3 Nbd7 15.Bc4 b5 16.Bd5 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Bd8 18.a4 bxa4 19.Rxa4± 0-1 (50) Horvath,T (2386)-Beikert,G (2420) Germany 2015]

[7...Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5

10.Qxd5 Bxd5 11.Nc3 Be6
A) 12.Nb5 Na6 13.c3 Ke7 14.Rd1 Bh6 15.Nd6 Nc7 16.Na5 Nd5 *(16...Rhd8 17.Naxb7 Rd7 18.Bd3 Ne8 19.Nxe8 Rxb7 20.Be4 Rab8 21.Bxb7 Rxb7 22.Nd6 Rxb2 23.0-0=)* 17.Rxd5 Bxd5 18.Nf5+ Ke8 19.Nxh6± 1-0 (56) Sadikhov,U (2414)-Oganisjan,R (2304) Moscow 2015;
B) 12.0-0-0 Nc6 13.Bb5 a6 14.Bxc6+ bxc6 15.Ne4 f5 16.Nd6+ Ke7 17.Na5 Kf6 18.Nxc6 Rg8 19.g3 a5 20.Rhe1 Bxd6 21.Rxd6 Ra6 22.Rxe5+- 1-0 (50) Yildiz,B (2318)-Annaberdiev,M (2432) Cesme 2015]

8.c3 11 **Nc6** 4:30 **9.cxd4** 3:36
The games played with the immediate move 9. ♗b5 are very interesting. Black often sacrifices the d4-pawn for the initiative, but White's chances should remain somewhat better. The current battle of the two top players indicates, that the direct exchange on d4 is making life easier for the defender.

[9.Bb5
A) 9...Qb6 10.Bxc6+ *(10.Qd3 Be7 11.cxd4 0-0 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.dxe5 Ng4 14.Bxe7 Qf2+ 15.Kd1 Qxg2 16.fxg4 Bxg4+ 17.Kc1 Qxh1+ 18.Kc2 Qxh2+ 19.N1d2 Rfe8 20.Bd6± 1/2 (33) Drozdowski,K (2458)-Robson,R (2628) Las Vegas 2014)* 10...bxc6 11.cxd4 Ba6 12.dxe5 *(12.Na3 Rd8 13.Bd2 exd4 14.Ba5 Bb4+ 15.Bxb4 Qxb4+ 16.Qd2 Qb6 17.Rc1 0-0 18.Qa5 Rd6 19.Kf2 Nd7 20.Rhd1 c5∓* 1-0 (45) Panarin,M (2558)-Smirnov,A (2453) Sochi 2015 *)* 12...Nd7 *(12...Rd8 13.Qc1 h6 14.Be3 Qb5 15.Qc2 Nd7 16.f4 Bb4+ 17.Nc3 Bxc3+ 18.bxc3 c5 19.Rb1 Qc4 20.Na5+-* 1-0 (55) Khavin,A-Veresov,G Moscow 1944*)* 13.Qd4 *(13.Qd2 Nxe5 14.Be3 Qc7 15.Kf2 Bd6 16.g3 0-0 17.Qa5 Qxa5 18.Nxa5 f5 19.Kg2 fxe4 20.fxe4 Ng4 21.Re1 Bb4* 0-1 (21) Nieto,E (2332)-Piceu,T (2350) Belgium 2010 *)* 13...Qxd4 14.Nxd4 Nxe5 15.Kd2 h6 16.Bh4 g5 17.Bg3 Bg7 18.Na3 0-0-0 19.Kc3 Nxf3 20.gxf3 Rxd4 0-1 (20) Kraus,T (2402)-Navara,D (2751) Havlickuv Brod 2015;
B) 9...Be6 10.cxd4 Bxb3 *(10...Bb4+ 11.N1d2 Qb6 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.0-0 exd4 14.Rc1 Nd7 15.f4 Bxd2 16.Nxd2 f6 17.Bh4 0-0 18.Nc4 Bxc4 19.Rxc4 c5 20.b4 Qe6 21.Qe2=* 1/2 (33) Koch,B-Van Scheltinga,T Helsinki 1952*)* 11.Qxb3 Qxd4 12.Be3 Bb4+ *(12...Qb4+ 13.Nc3 Qxb3 14.axb3 a6 15.Nd5 Rc8 16.Nb6 Rc7 17.Ba4 Bb4+ 18.Kf2 0-0 19.Rac1 Rd8 20.Rc2 h6 21.Rhc1± 1/2 (97) Paehtz,E (2331)-Kosteniuk,A (2459) Mainz 2002)* 13.Nd2 *(13.Kf2 Qd6 14.Rd1 Qe7 15.Nc3 0-0 16.Bxc6 bxc6 17.Na4 Nh5 18.Qc4 Nf4 19.Nc5 Bxc5 20.Bxc5 Qh4+ 21.Kg1 Rfd8=* 1-0 (53) Gasanov,E (2369)-Cherevatenko,R (2410) Kharkov 1999 *)* 13...Bxd2+ 14.Bxd2 0-0 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.Be3 Qd7 17.0-0 Rab8 18.Qc3 Qc7 19.Rac1 Rfc8 20.Rf2± 1-0 (27) Mastrovasilis,D (2559)-Chocenka,D (2306) Warsaw 2007;
C) 9...Bd7 10.cxd4 exd4 11.Bxc6

Bxc6 12.Qxd4 Be7 13.Qxd8+ Rxd8 14.Nc3 b6 15.Be3 0-0 16.Nd4 Bd7 17.0-0-0 Rc8 18.Kb1 Bb4 19.Nce2 Rfd8 20.Nc2 Be7 21.Nc3± 1-0 (56) Pantani (2389)-Connor (2382) playchess.com INT 2006;

D) 9...h6

D1) 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.cxd4 Bb4+ 12.Nc3 0-0 13.0-0 *(13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.dxe5 Qxe5 15.Qd4 Qe7 16.a3 Bd6 17.0-0-0 Bf4+ 18.Kc2 Rb8 19.Nc5 Be6 20.g3 Be5 21.Qe3 Bd6=* 0-1 (56) Hartman,C (2210)-De Firmian,N (2515) Copenhagen 1984*)* 13...Nxd4 14.Nd5 Qd6 15.Nxb4 *(15.Nxd4 Bc5 16.Kh1 Bxd4 17.Qe2 Be6 18.Bc4 Rac8 19.Bb3 Qc5 20.Qd2 Kh8∓* 1/2 (57) Bruzon Batista,L (2664)-Cheparinov,I (2681) Tromso 2014*)* 15...Qxb4 16.Nxd4 Rd8 17.Qe2 Qxd4+ 18.Kh1 Be6 19.Rfd1 Qb4 20.b3 Rac8∓ 0-1 (33) Blazeka,M (2276)-Saric,A (2573) Zagreb 2015;

D2) 10.Bh4 Qb6

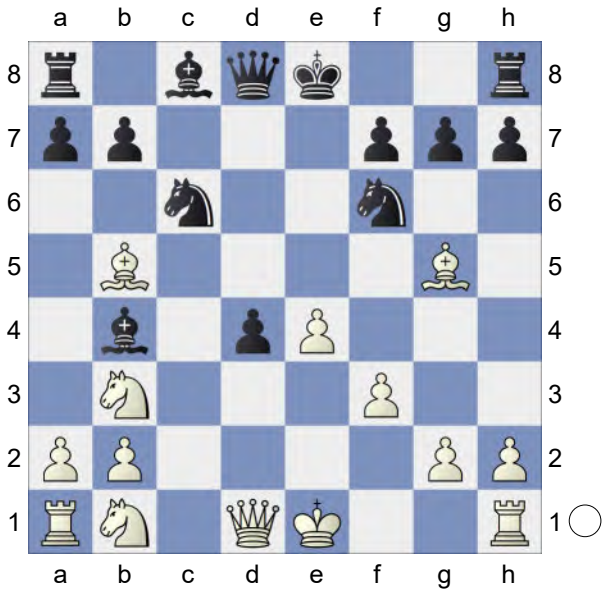
D2a) 11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.cxd4 exd4 *(12...Bb4+ 13.N1d2 Ba6 14.Bf2 exd4 15.Bxd4 c5 16.Be3 Rd8 17.Kf2 Rd3 18.Re1 0-0 19.a3 Bxd2 20.Nxd2 Qxb2 21.Qc1 Qe5∓* 0-1 (36) Kasparov,S (2470)-Kobese,W (2343) Cape Town 2013 *)* 13.Qxd4 c5 14.Qe3 Ba6 15.Nc3 g5 16.e5 Qe6 17.Bf2 Nd7 18.0-0-0 Rc8 19.Kb1 Be7 20.Nd5 Bd8 21.Nf6+ Nxf6 22.exf6 Qxe3 23.Bxe3± 1-0 (34) Ding,Y (2433)-Wang,J (2369) Xinghua 2015;

D2b) 11.Bc4 Be7 12.cxd4 0-0 13.0-0 Rd8 14.Bf2 exd4 15.N1d2 Qc7 16.Rc1 Bd6 17.g3 Qe7 18.Re1 Be5 19.Bd3 Bh3 20.Nc4 Bc7 21.Qe2± 1/2 (44) Oleksienko,M (2629)-Yilmaz,M (2570) Iasi 2015]

9...exd4 7:36

[9...Bb4+ 10.Nc3 exd4 11.a3 Be7 12.Nb5 0-0 13.N3xd4 *(13.Bf4 Nh5 14.Bc7 Qd7 15.N3xd4 a6 16.Nxc6 Qxc6 17.Rc1 Qh6=)* 13...Qb6 14.Be3 Rd8 15.Qd2 Bc5 16.Rd1 Nxe4 17.fxe4 Bg4 18.Be2 Bxe2 19.Kxe2 Rd7 20.b4 Bxd4 21.Nxd4 Rad8 22.Qc2 Nxd4+ 23.Rxd4 Rxd4 24.Bxd4 Rxd4 25.Rd1 Rxd1 26.Qxd1= 1/2 (32) Oleksienko,M (2620)-Cheparinov,I (2684) Doha 2014]

10.Bb5 11:51 **Bb4+!** 19



11.Bd2 2:46 The unpleasant check on b4 forces Grischuk to make one of the moves that ate not very desirable for White.

[11.N1d2 Be6 12.0-0 Qb6 13.Bc4

(13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Bxc6+ bxc6 15.Rc1 0-0-0=) 13...Bxd2 14.Nxd2 0-0=]

11...Bd6 1:49

[11...Bxd2+?! 12.Qxd2 0-0 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Qxd4 Qc7 15.0-0±]

12.Na3 19:52 The burden of experience and genuine strength is preventing White from seeking luck in the more enterprising line with 12. ♘xd4. Every great player knows that the opening phase should be devoted to the art of developing pieces.

[12.Nxd4 0-0 13.Be3 Nxd4 14.Qxd4 Qc7 15.Nc3 Be6=]

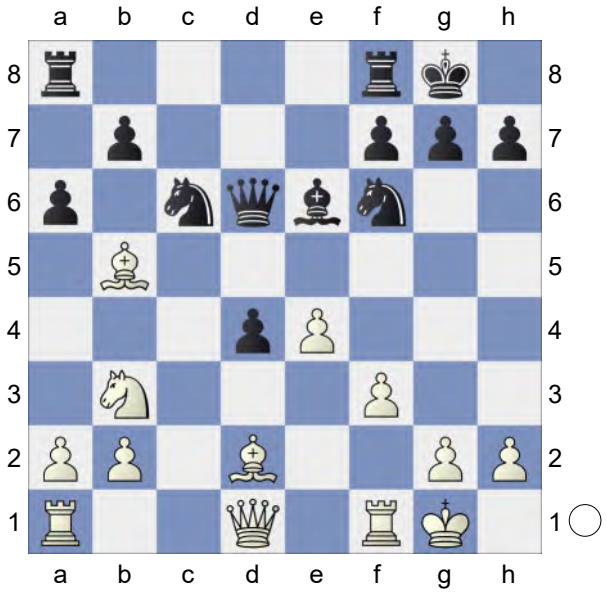
12...0-0 8:20 **13.Nc4** 3:38

[13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Ba5 Qe7 15.Qxd4 Be5! *(15...c5 16.Qd3 Be5 17.0-0-0±)* 16.Bb4 Bxd4 17.Bxe7 Bxb2 18.Rb1 Bc3+ 19.Kf2 Re8=]

13...Be6 15:11 Vachier Lagrave is fully mobilised and his d pawn is not especially vulnerable. White decides to minimise the danger and bring the king to safety. **14.Nxd6** 5:10

[14.Rc1 Nb4 15.Nxd6 Qxd6 16.a3 Na2 17.Ra1 a6=]

14...Qxd6 7 **15.0-0** 18 **a6** 18:56



16.Bxc6 7:03 **bxc6** 25 **17.Rc1** 3:17

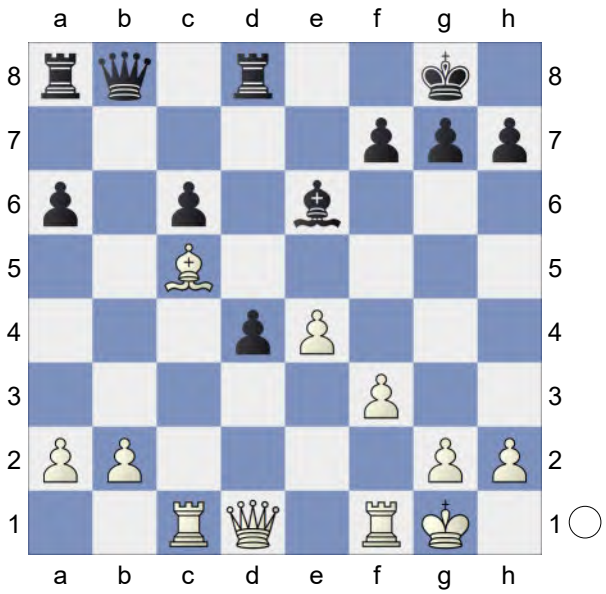
[17.Qc2 Nd7 18.Rfc1 Rfc8 19.Nc5 a5 20.Be1 a4=]

17...Nd7 7:28 **18.Nc5!?** 2:55 Apart from the moral obligation of top players to play interesting chess, White has every right to make use of even the smallest chance in the fight for the advantage. **18...Nxc5?!** 8 The French star is feeling the heat and fails to choose one of the more promising lines at the critical moment.

[18...a5 19.Nxd7 Qxd7 20.Qa4 Rab8 21.b3 Rb5=]

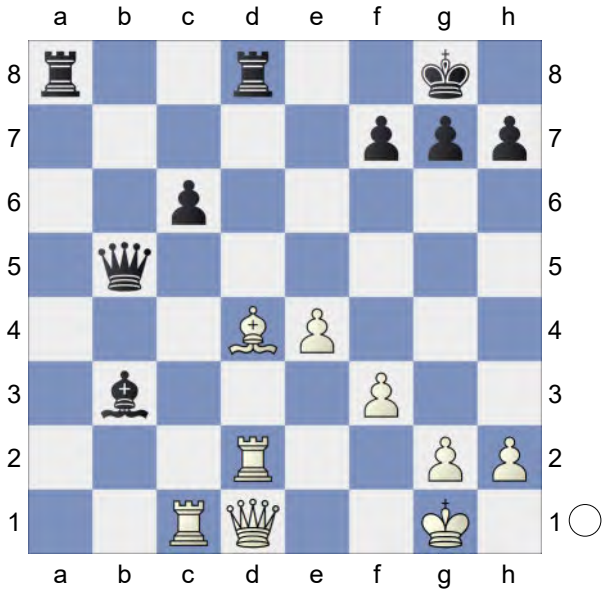
[18...Bxa2!? 19.Nb7 Qe6 20.Bf4 c5 21.Nxc5 Nxc5 22.Rxc5 Bc4 23.Re1 d3=]

19.Bb4 5 **Rfd8** 10 **20.Bxc5** 2:42 **Qb8** 3:10



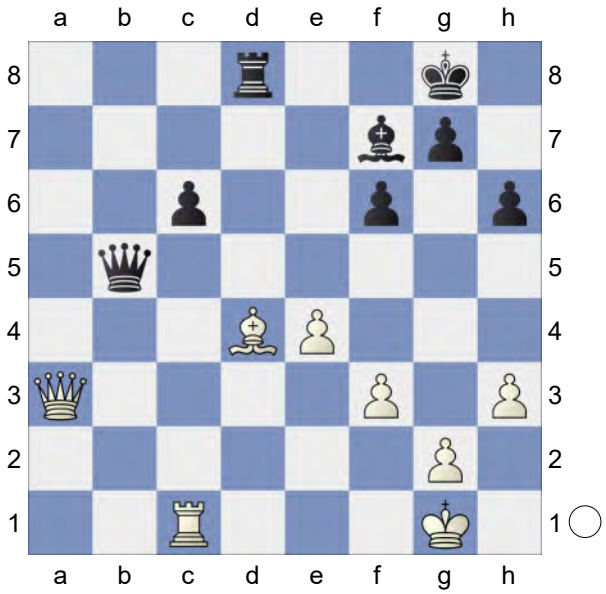
21.b3 8:15 **a5** 6:55 **22.Rf2** 2:15 **Qb5** 3:18 **23.Rd2** 8:09 **a4!** 15 Counterplay is called upon to be the best defence, Black knows how to fight back. **24.Bxd4** 38 Grischuk blinks at the critical moment, his advantage will be minimised. With hindsight White would surely play the more ambitious 24.b4!? and the defender would learn to regret his

decision on the 18th move.
[24.b4!? f6 *(24...a3 25.Rcc2 d3 26.Rc3±)* 25.f4 Rd7 26.a3±]
24...axb3 1:33 **25.axb3** 2 **Bxb3** 4:30

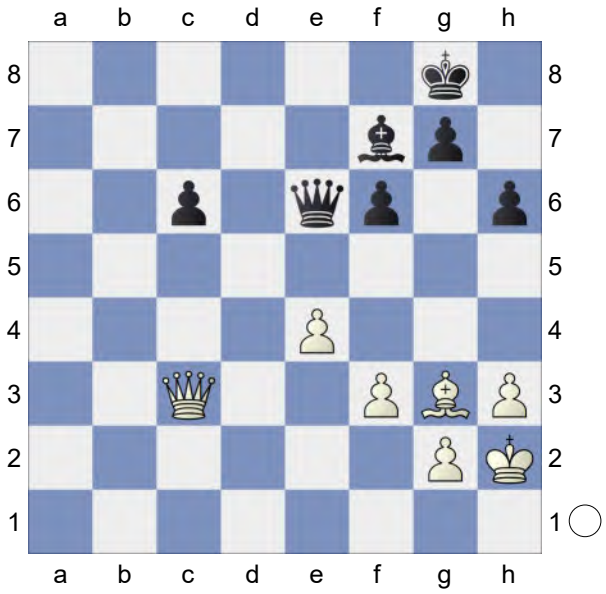


26.Qe1 3:49 **f6** 2:58 **27.Qe3** 3:05
[27.h3 Ra2 28.Rxa2 Bxa2 29.Qc3 Qa4 30.Bc5±]
27...Ra2! 5:04 Exchanging off the enemy's potential attacking pieces can hardly be wrong, Black is doing a good job of sailing closer towards equality.
28.Rxa2 1:28
[28.Rd3 Bf7 29.Rcd1 c5 30.Bb2 Rxd3 31.Qxd3 Qxd3 32.Rxd3 Be6=]
28...Bxa2 9 **29.Qa3** 4:29
[29.h3!? Bf7 30.Kh2±]
29...Bf7 1:54 **30.h3** 3:36 **h6** 27

(Diagram)

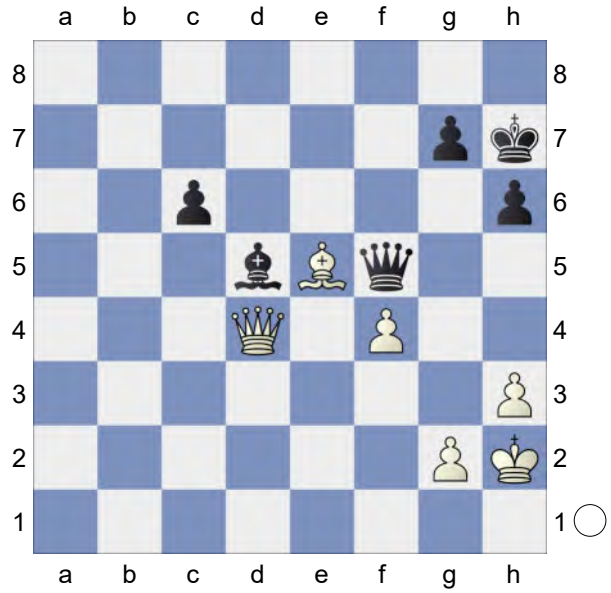


31.Qc3 1:10 **Qa4!** 1:44 The attack of the bishop is connected with the real hope to exchange rooks. The fight is over as Black managed to eliminate all dangers of White's attack along the dark squares. **32.Bf2** 19 **Rd1+** 8 **33.Rxd1** 4 **Qxd1+** 6 **34.Kh2** 2 **Qd6+** 1:04 **35.Bg3** 13 **Qe6=** 6

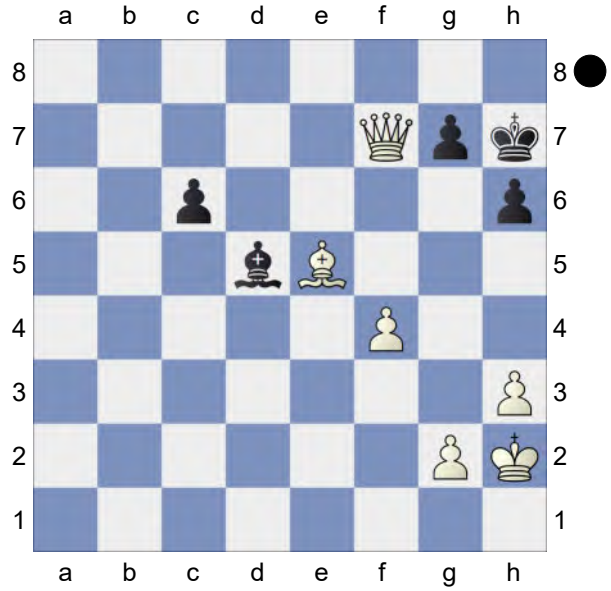


36.Qd4 53 **Kh7** 28 **37.Bd6** 52 **Qd7** 5:49 **38.f4** 3:39
[38.g4 Qe6=]
38...f5! 3:05 The final defensive touch, Black is holding on the light squares.

39.exf5 29
[39.e5 Bd5=]
39...Qxf5 5 **40.Be5** 0 **Bd5** 0



41.Qa7 2:37
[41.Bxg7?? Qg6-+]
41...Qf7 1:18 **42.Qxf7**

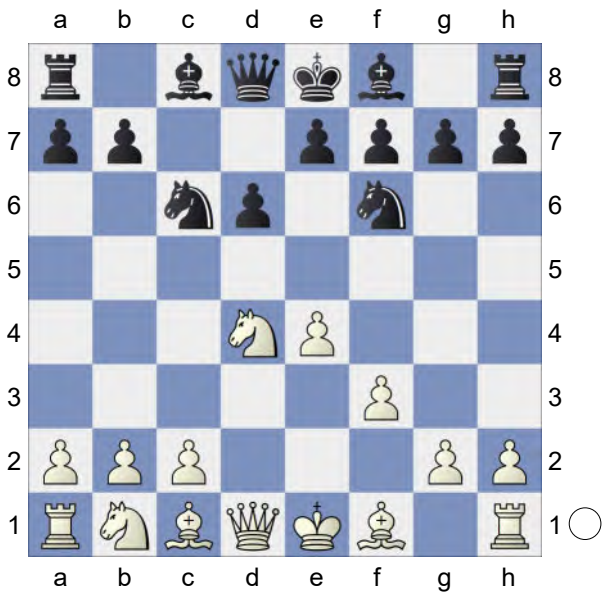


½-½

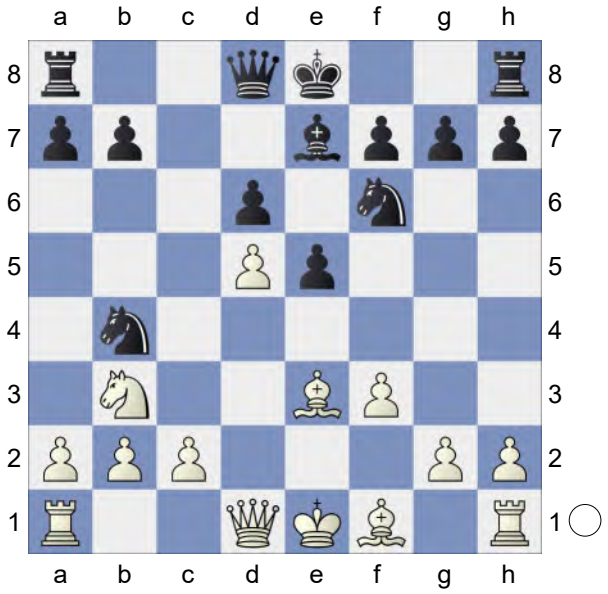
102 **B56**
□ **Ivanchuk,Vassily** **2779**
■ **Dominguez Perez,Leinier** **2717**
Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED (12) 31.01.09
[Kitty Kat]

B56: Classical Sicilian: Unusual Lines
Mickey Mouse: 'A05: Réti Opening: 1 Nf3 Nf6' RR: 'Inf 98/(102)' **1.Nf3** **c5**
2.e4 **d6**
[2...e6 3.d3 Nc6 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0-0 Nge7 7.Re1 *(7.c3 0-0 8.Be3 b6 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Bb7 11.Nxc6 Bxc6 12.Qd6 Nc8 13.Qd3 b5 14.Nd2 Rb8 15.Rad1 Qc7 16.Nb3 d6 17.Nd4 Bd7 18.f4 Nb6 19.b3 a6* Tompa,J (2408)-Braun,A (2465) Deutschland 98/(102) 2005 CI1-130 [RR]*)* 7...d6 8.c3 e5 9.a3 0-0 10.b4 h6 11.Be3 b6 12.Nh4 Be6 13.b5 Na5 14.c4 Qd7 15.Nc3 Rae8 16.Rb1 Kh7 17.Nd5 Damljanovic,B (2534)-Mijailovic,Z (2394) Subotica 2000 CBM 76 [Horn, Pe] 1-0 (48)]
3.d4N
[3.g3 Nf6 4.d3 Nc6 5.Bg2 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.Re1 0-0 8.c3 e5 9.a4 h6 10.Na3 Re8 11.Bd2 d5 12.b4 dxe4 13.dxe4 Be6 14.Qb1 Rc8 15.Be3 cxb4 16.cxb4 Ng4 17.Rd1 Qf6 Reference Games-Amin,B [Mickey Mouse] (42)]
3...cxd4 **4.Nxd4** **Nf6** **5.f3** **Nc6**

(Diagram)

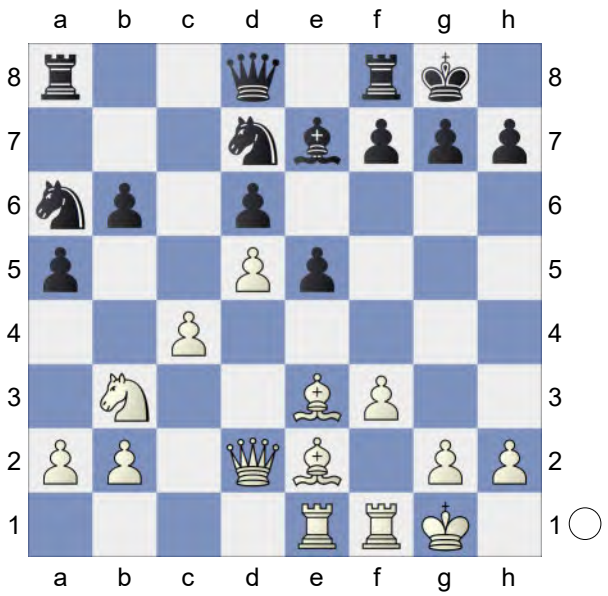


6.Nc3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 Be6 9.Nd5 Bxd5 10.exd5 Nb4

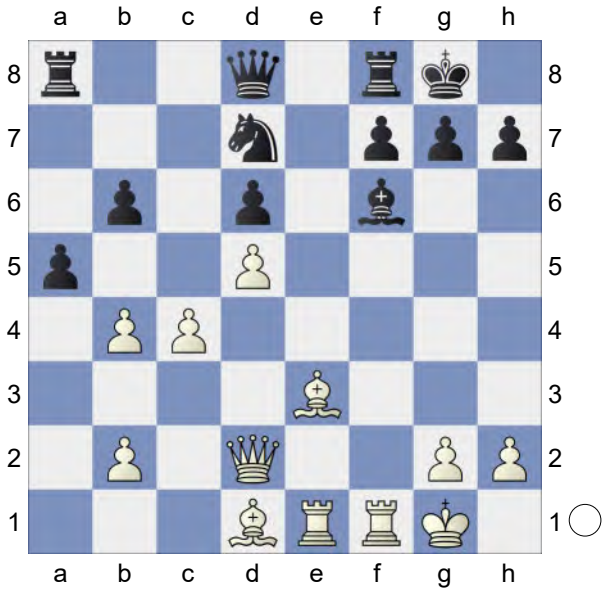


11.c4 a5 12.Qd2 b6 13.Be2 0-0 14.0-0 Na6 15.Rae1 Nd7

(Diagram)

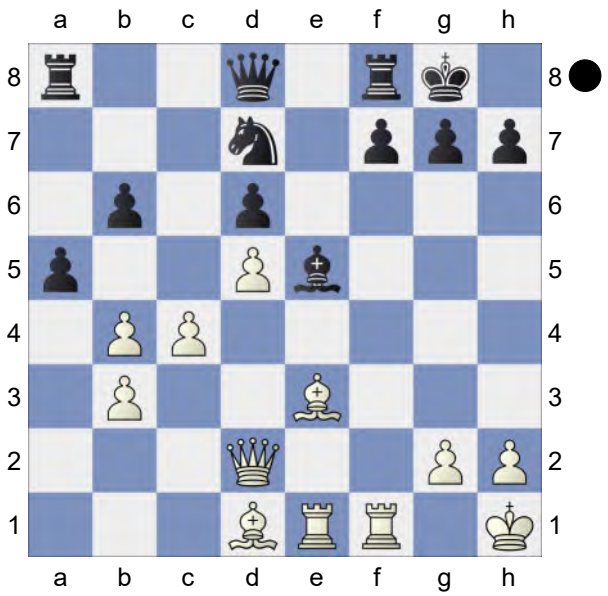


16.f4 Nac5 17.fxe5 Nxb3 18.axb3 aiming for e6. **18...Nxe5 19.b4 Nd7 20.Bd1 Bf6**



21.b3 Be5 22.Kh1 -0.27/22
[⌓22.bxa5 0.25/19 bxa5 23.Bc2]

(Diagram)



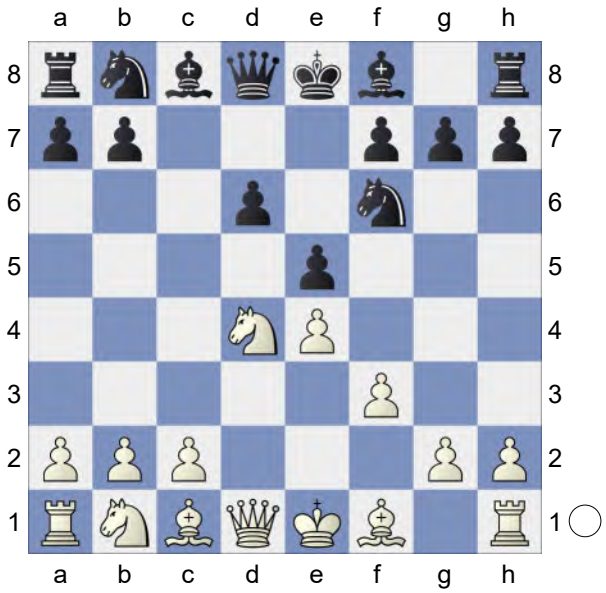
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)
½-½

103 **B54**
□ **Anand,Viswanathan** **2779**
■ **Jumabayev,Rinat** **2611**
World Rapid 2016 (1.7) 26.12.2016
[Jonas Hacker]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7. d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/ Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/ Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



6.Nb3 Be6 This move begins something like a poisoned pawn variation in our Anti-Najdorf repertoire. We of course want to go for our usual 7 c4. The point of Black's play to follow up with 7...Nbd7 and 8...Rc8, attacking our c-pawn as

quickly as possible and we are basically unable to defend it. Fortunately, we have a good chance to sacrifice the pawn. I am convinced it is objectively sound to do so. This sacrifice has been used successfully by such elite players as So and Rublevsky, as well as Anand, which makes it more trustworthy. Let us begin and check the details.

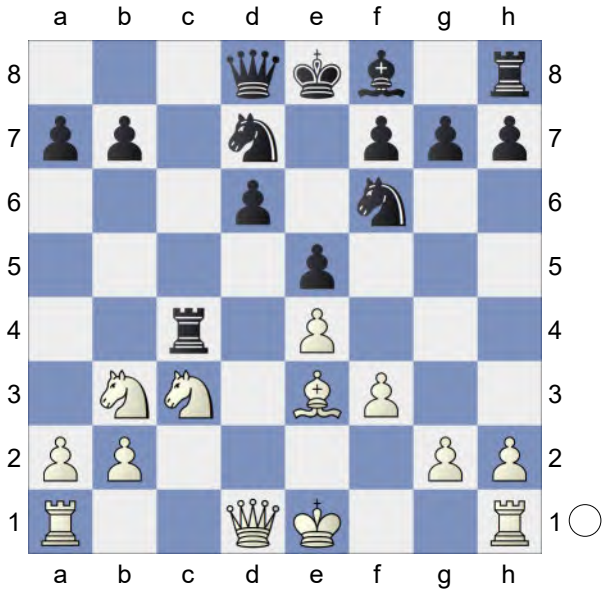
7.c4 Nbd7

[Don't play 7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]

8.Be3 Rc8 9.Nc3! anyway.

9...Bxc4 10.Bxc4 The position is equal.

10...Rxc4



11.Qd3 Rc6

[11...Rc8 is the only real alternative. We will look at this in the next game.]

12.0-0-0 This is the long-term positional way I would recommend you play. White has compensation.

[12.Bxa7 has also been seen numerous times, but after b6! the position becomes messy and the bishop is stuck on a7 which is not to my taste.]

12...Be7 13.Kb1 0-0 One might well ask where White's compensation for the pawn is and how we should continue here. The first point is that the extra pawn is just the weak one on d6, and Black practically never succeeds in playing ...d6-d5. Furthermore, we have the plan of 14 g4 and 15 g5 with even more restriction of Black's pieces. After having expelled the black knight from the f6-square, we are ready for Nd5 and Na5, putting pressure on the queenside where Black is coordinated poorly. As a general rule, we will stand better as soon as the queenside pawns become loose.

14.g4! a6 0.53/22

[Of the alternatives:

a) 14...h6 0.71/20 14...h5 0.24 is questionable because it creates a hook. White can go for a direct kingside attack with h2-h4, followed by g4-g5, when files are getting opened quickly.]

[b) 14...Nc5 is more interesting, vacating the d7-square for the other knight.

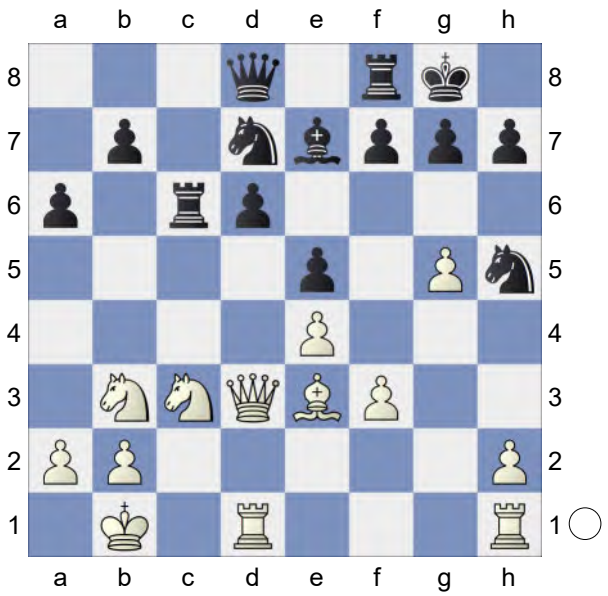
QUESTION: Black's last move looks logical, but White has a nice way to exploit it. Can you see how?

ANSWER: 15.Nxc5! dxc5 16.g5! -0.62/23 and now Black is trouble because White will invade on the seventh rank, after either *(16.Qxd8!± 0.67/21 Rxd8 17.Rxd8+ Bxd8 18.Rd1)* 16...Qxd3+!∓ *(*or *16...Nh5* 0.73/22 16...Qxd3+ -0.47 *17.Qd7!)* 17.Rxd3 Ne8! 18.Rd7! Rc7 0.30/21 *(18...Bd6±* 1.00/21 *)* 19.Rhd1 . White has a huge advantage in either case.]

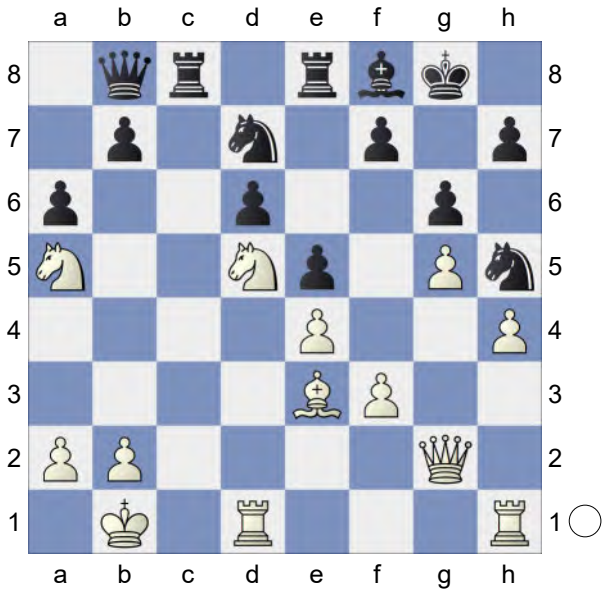
[14...Nb6= 0.07/18 is superior.]

15.g5± Nh5

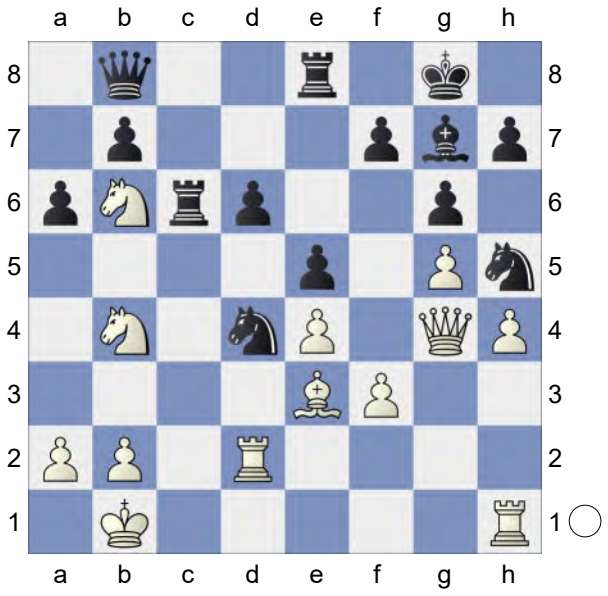
(Diagram)



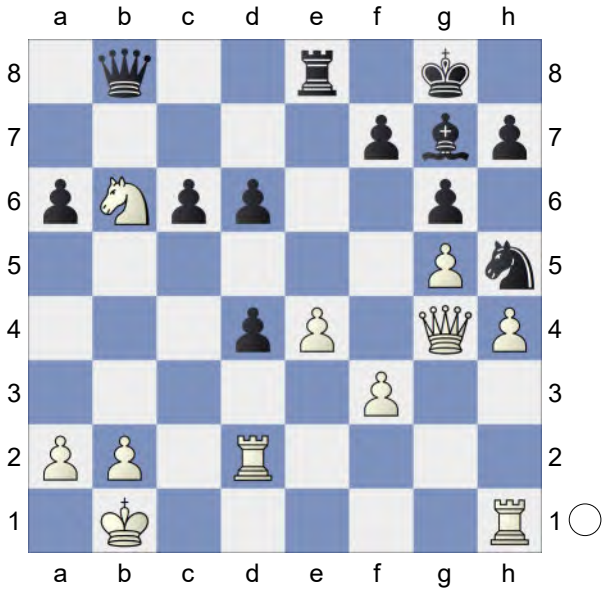
16.h4 Re8 17.Nd5 Bf8 18.Qd2!
A slow but very effective move. White prepares to creating threats against the black queenside with Na5.
18...Qb8 19.Qg2 Strongly threatening Qg4. **19...g6 20.Na5 Rcc8**



21.Qg4 Nc5 22.Nc4 Rc6
[After 22...b5 23.Ncb6 White is winning an exchange at least; e.g. Rc6 24.Bxc5 dxc5 25.Nd7 Qc8 26.N5f6+ Nxf6 27.Nxf6+ Rxf6 28.gxf6 .]
23.Ncb6 0.03/21
0x0.0025d93fa487dp-1022s more active pieces.
[23.Nb4± 0.66/20]
23...Bg7 0.63/19
[23...a5!= 0.03/21]
24.Rd2 Ne6 25.Nb4
[25.Nb4!?]
25...Nd4

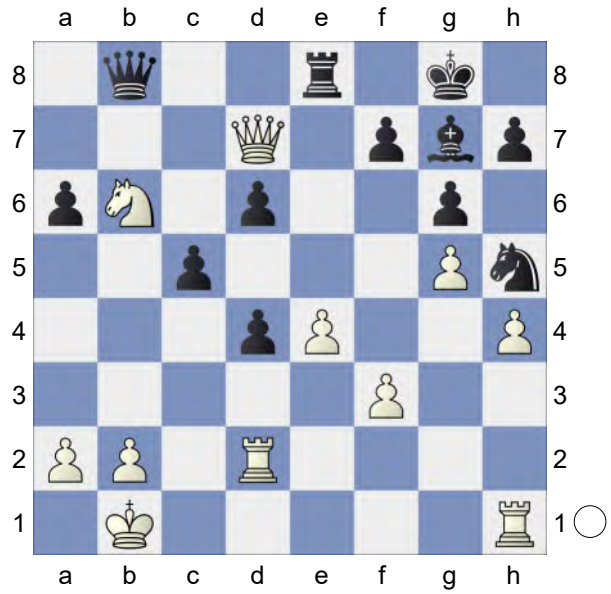


26.Nxc6 bxc6 27.Bxd4 exd4

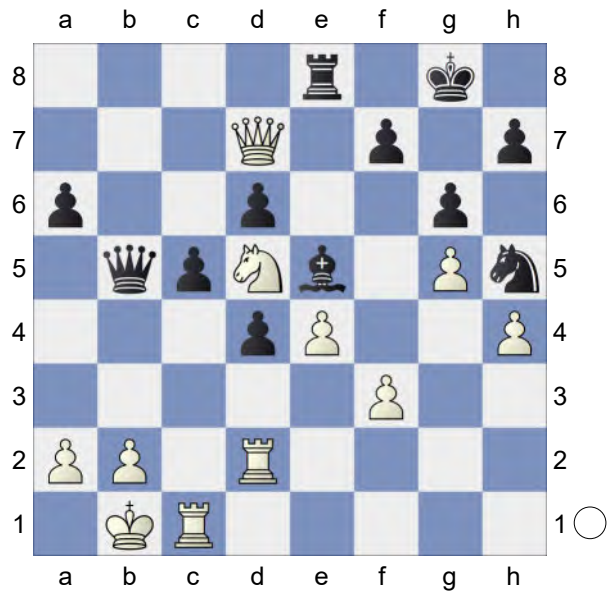


Objectively White is winning and Anand converts his advantage in an excellent way.
28.Qd7! Securing the d5-outpost for the

knight. **28...c5**

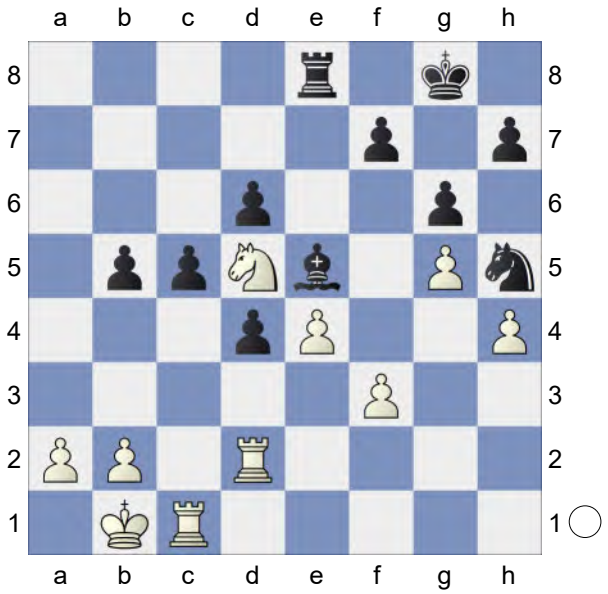


29.Nd5 0.41/21 Inhibits Nf4.
[29.Rd3!± 0.91/21]
29...Be5 30.Rc1 -0.01/19
[30.f4!± 0.68/20 Nxf4 31.Rf1]
30...Qb5 0.80/19
[30...Nf4!= -0.01/19 remains equal.]

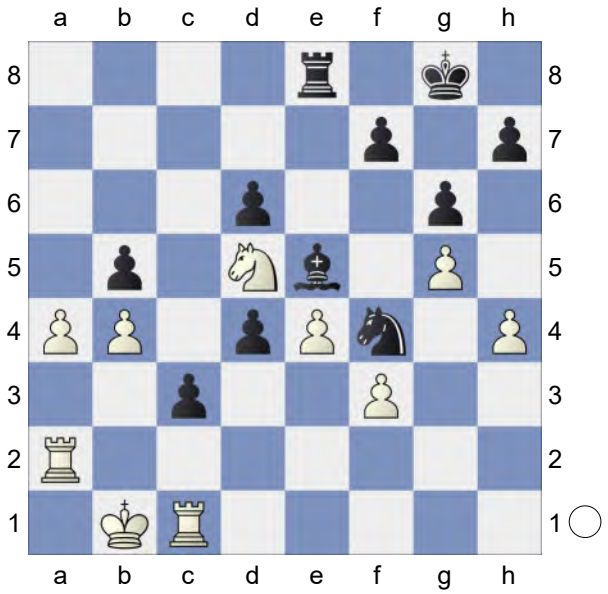


31.Qxb5!± Really sharp! **31...axb5**

(Diagram)

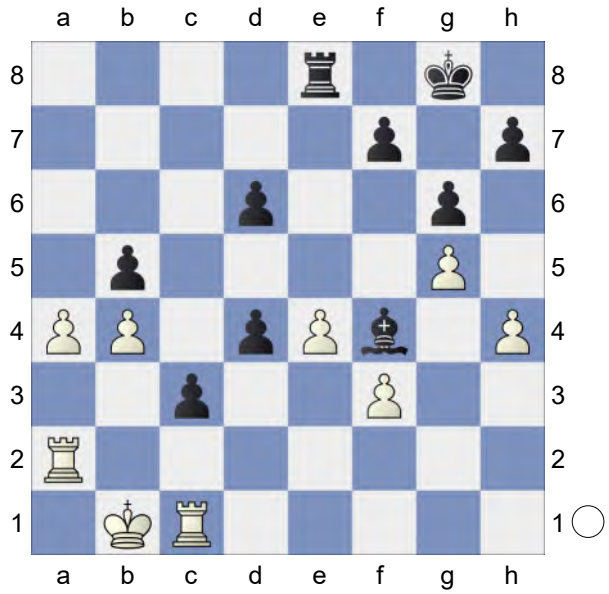


32.b4! c4 1.55/21
[Better is 32...Nf4 1.02/21]
33.a4! White's aggressive play might look a bit risky, but Anand knows what he's doing and succeeds in softening the black pawn chain.
33...c3 34.Ra2 aiming for a5. **34...Nf4** 2.28/24
[34...d3± 1.30/19]

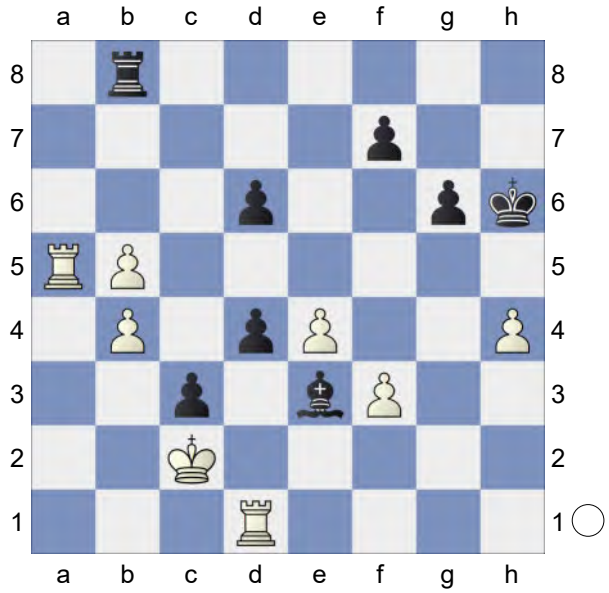


35.Nxf4!+-
[Don't blunder 35.axb5? Nxd5 36.exd5 d3-+]

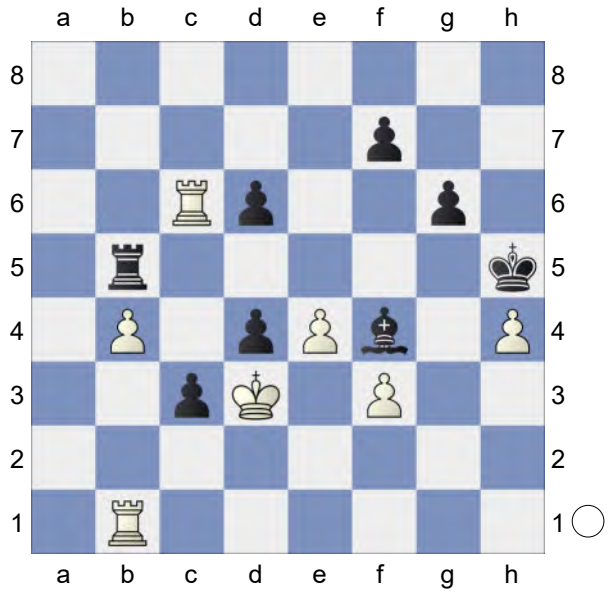
35...Bxf4



Endgame KRR-KRB **36.Rd1**
[And not 36.axb5 Bxc1 37.Kxc1 d5=]
36...Be3 37.axb5 Rb8 38.Ra5 Kg7 2.42/20
[38...h6 1.90/20 was worth a try. 39.gxh6 Rb7]
39.Kc2 The king takes over the light-squared blockade, freeing the second rook to supporting his own passed pawn. The game will soon be over.
39...h6 40.gxh6+ Kxh6

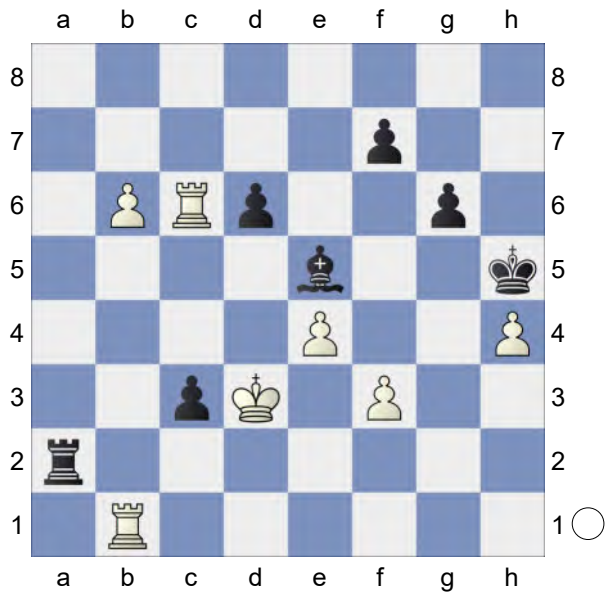


41.Rb1 Rc8 42.Ra2 Rb8 43.Kd3 Kh5 44.Ra6 1.34/23
[White should try 44.Rh1+- 1.71/22]
44...Bf4 2.35/23
[44...Kxh4± 1.34/23 45.Rxd6 Rxb5]
45.Rc6 Rxb5

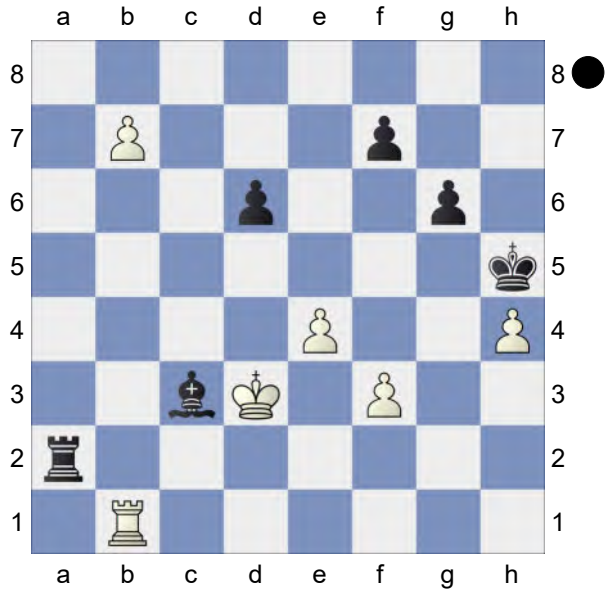


46.Kxd4 Be5+ 47.Kc4 Rb7 48.b5 Hoping for Kd3. **48...Ra7** 4.42/19
[⌓48...c2 2.80/21 49.Rc1 Kxh4 50.Rxc2 Kg3]
49.b6 White is clearly winning. **49...Ra4+** 7.00/22
[⌓49...c2 4.28/20 50.Rc1 Ra2]
50.Kd3 Ra2

(Diagram)



51.Rxc3 Bxc3 52.b7



Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.40

1-0

104 **B55**

□ **Ivanchuk,Vassily** **2771**

■ **Sebag,M** **2521**

Trophee Karpov Preliminary 2012 (7)

[Jonas Hacker]

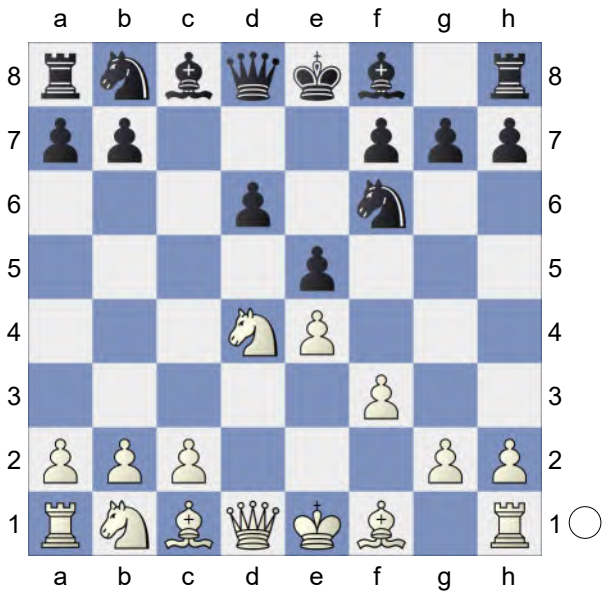
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

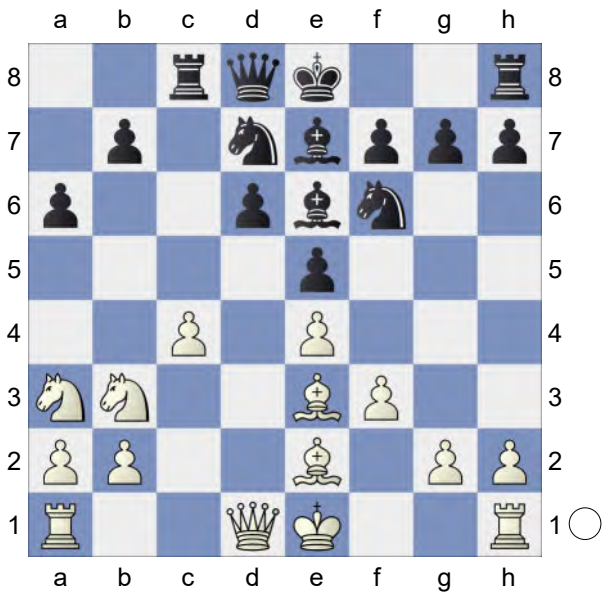
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244

1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



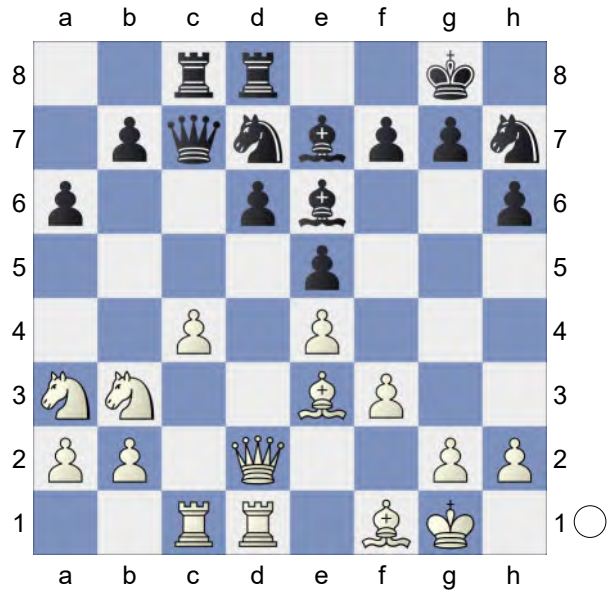
6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 Nbd7
[But not 7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]
8.Be3 Rc8 9.Na3 Ivanchuk decides not to sacrifice the pawn. In my opinion this is a less critical option and Black should be fine afterwards. Nonetheless, White gets a fully playable game as well, and if you do not like to sac a pawn early you can apply this approach. **9...a6** Inhibits Nb5. **10.Be2** The position is equal. **10...Be7**

(Diagram)



11.0-0 0-0 So far, normal developing moves by both sides.
[Maybe you wondered whether the breakthrough with ...b7-b5 and ...d6-d5 was possible, but White's queenside pawns are much more dangerous after 11...b5 0.70/22 11...h5 0.08 12.cxb5 d5 1.59/21 *(*Better is *12...axb5±* 0.69/21 *13.Bxb5 d5)* 13.bxa6± dxe4 2.07/22 *(⌓13...0-0* 1.70/20 *14.Nb5 dxe4)* 14.fxe4+- Nxe4 . Although the situation remains messy, the computers consider that White is winning here already.]
12.Qd2 h6 Preparing the exchange of dark-squared bishops. **13.Rfd1 Qc7 14.Rac1 Rfd8 15.Bf1** A bit slow; it does not really matter if the bishop is on e2 or f1.
[White could instead improve his knight which is still standing on the rim: 15.Nb1!? (in order to bring it to d5!) Qb8 16.Nc3 Bxc4 17.Bxc4 Rxc4 18.Nd5! Rxc1 19.Nxe7+ Kf8 Strongly threatening ...Rxd1+. 20.Nxc1 Kxe7 21.Ne2 with good compensation for the pawn.]

15...Nh7



16.Nc2 Nc5

[16...Bxc4? 17.Nb4+- *(17.Na3 b5+-)*]

17.Nb4 Nxb3 18.axb3

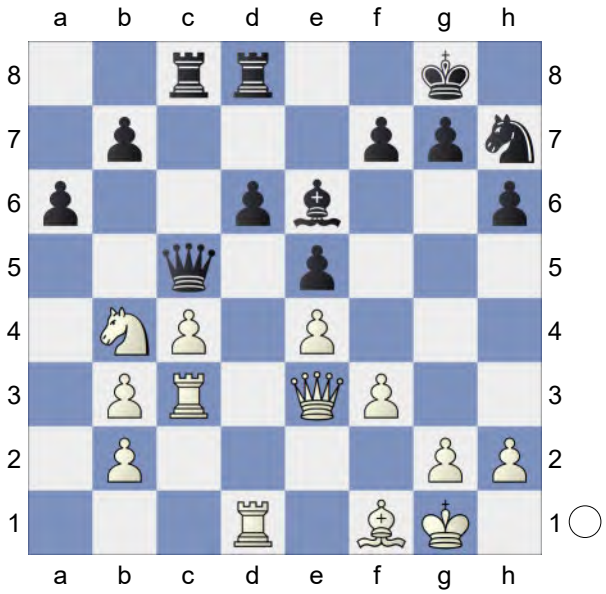
[18.Nxa6 is more complex. Nxd2 19.Nxc7 Nxf1 20.Bb6]

18...Bg5 19.Rc3 Bxe3+ 20.Qxe3 Qc5?

[though the alternatives also leave White on top: a) 20...Qa5 21.Nc2 is slightly better for White. He can increase the pressure against the d6-pawn while maintaining his space advantage.]

[b) 20...Nf6 is more or less okay for Black, since he can cover his weakness on d6 without problems. Nonetheless, I still prefer White because it is up to him what to do and when to do it. Black has almost no active plans.]

(Diagram)



This is a tactical oversight; **21.Qxc5 dxc5** 1.00/22 Black is on the road to losing.

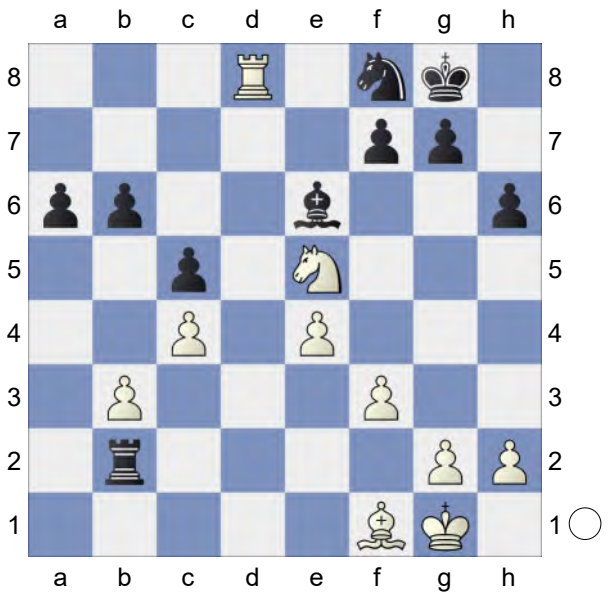
[21...Rxc5 was necessary, allowing White's continued pressure against the d6-pawn.]

[21...Rxc5± 0.45/27 22.Rcd3 a5]

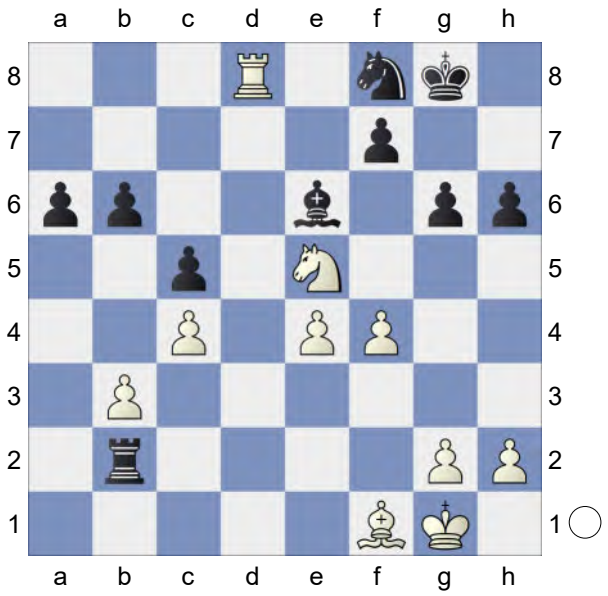
QUESTION: How can White win material? --- ANSWER: **22.Rxd8+!± Rxd8 23.Nd3** Forking the c- and e-pawns. White will pick up one of them. **23...b6 24.Nxe5 Rd2 25.Rd3 Rxd3** 1.60/24

[25...Rxb2 would be a more active defence. Unfortunately, it loses a piece after 26.Rd8+ Nf8

(Diagram)

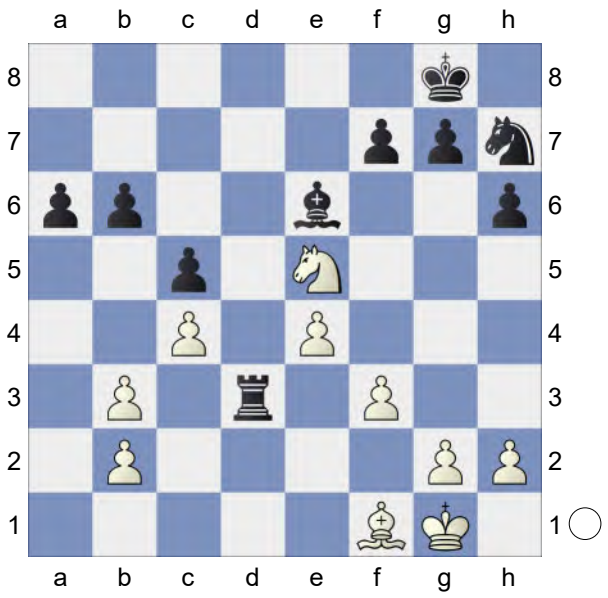


27.f4! ; e.g. Hoping for f5. g6 (or *27...f6?* 4.88/26 27...g6 1.64 *28.Ng6*)

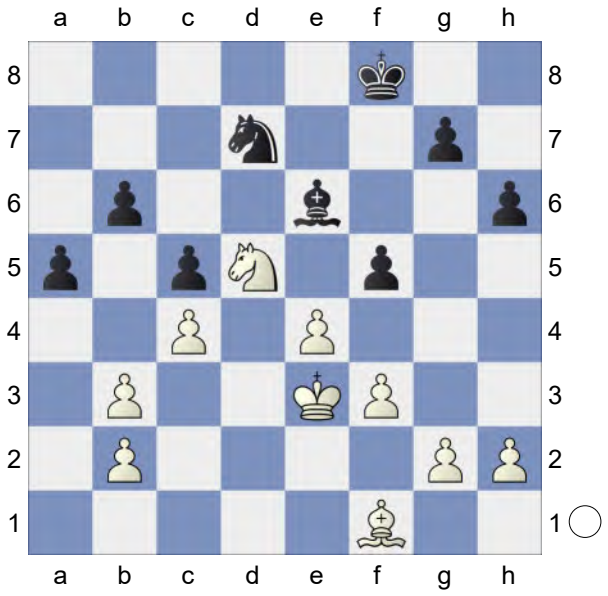


Inhibits f5. 28.g4! Kg7 29.f5 gxf5 2.03/25 (*29...Kf6±* 1.34/22 might work better.) 30.exf5 .]
[⌓25...Rxb2 1.23/28 26.Rd8+ Nf8]

(Diagram)



26.Nxd3 Endgame White is winning - a healthy extra pawn in a minor piece ending should be enough with accurate play. KBN-KBN
[26.Bxd3 Nf8±]
26...a5 1.96/25 Prevents b4.
[26...f5± 1.45/23]
27.Nf4+- Nf6 28.Kf2 Kf8 29.Ke3 Nd7 30.Nd5 f5 2.43/27
[⌓30...g5 1.87/23 31.g3 Kg7]

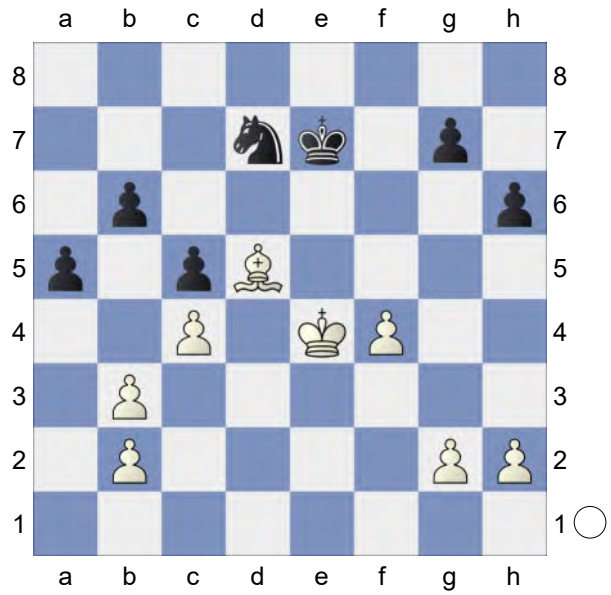


31.Bd3 fxe4 32.Bxe4 Bxd5 33.Bxd5 KB-KN

[Much less strong is 33.cxd5?! Ke7±]

33...Ke7 34.Ke4 Kf6 35.f4 Ke7 3.48/25

[⌓35...Nf8 2.42/25 36.g3 g6]

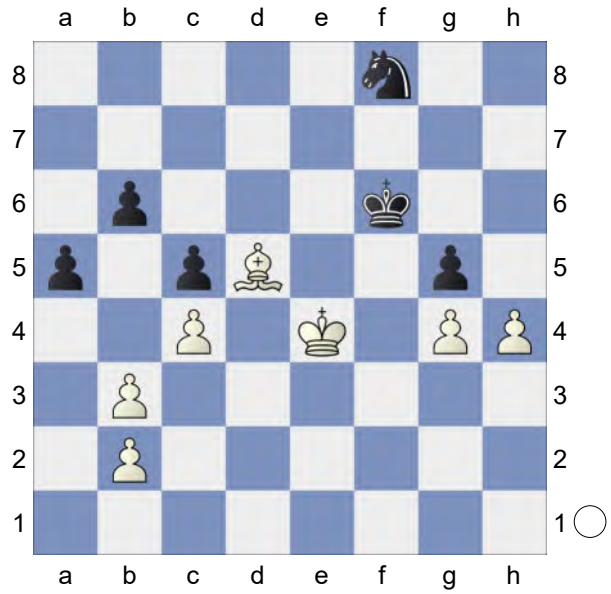


36.Kf5 Threatens to win with Kg6.

36...Nf8 37.g4 g6+ 38.Ke4 Kf6 6.15/28 Prevents g5+.

[38...Nh7 3.52/25 39.Ke5 Nf6]

39.h4 White is clearly winning. **39...g5 40.fxg5+ hxg5**



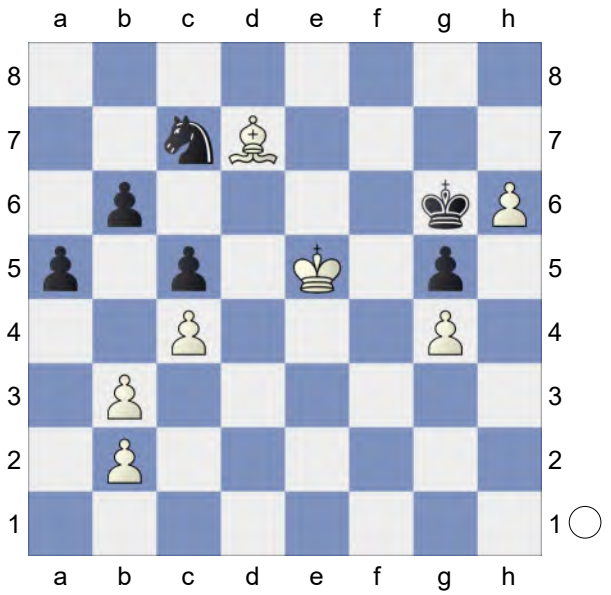
41.h5 Nd7 42.h6 Kg6 8.14/26

[⌓42...Nf8 4.80/30 43.Bg8 Kg6]

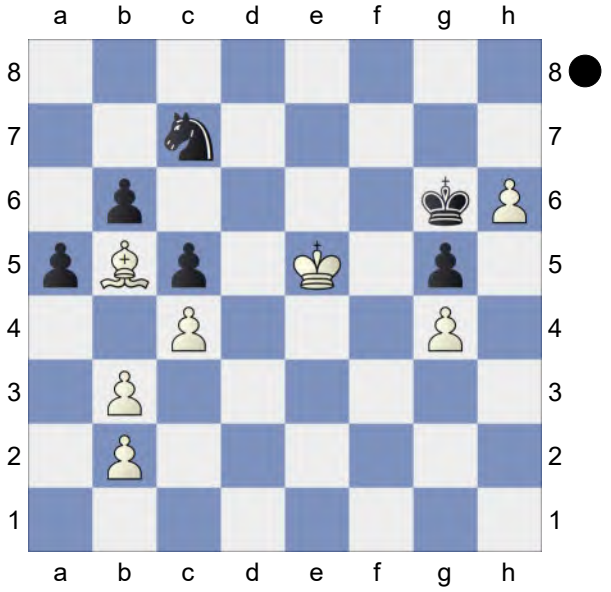
43.Be6 Nf6+

[Or 43...Nf8 44.Bf5+ Kxh6 45.Kd5 and wins, since the bishop dominates the knight.]

44.Ke5 Ne8 45.Bd7 Nc7



46.Bb5



Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.26 (precise)

1-0

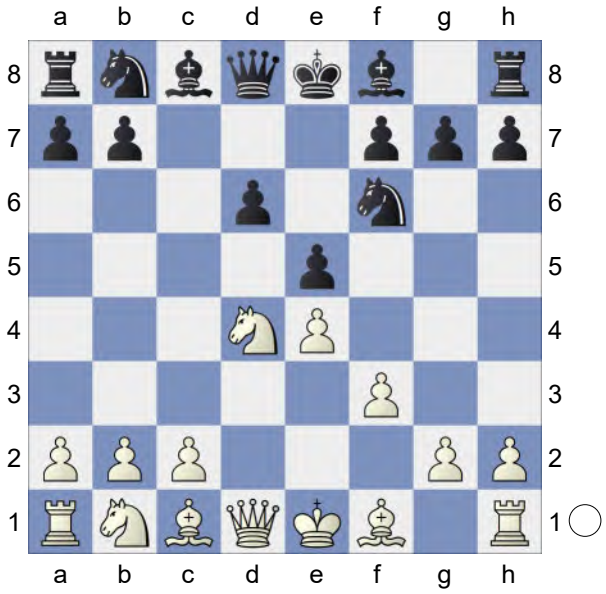
105 **B55**
□ **Anand,Viswanathan** **2770**
■ **Tkachiev,Vladislav** **2632**
(m/1) 83/326 2001
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

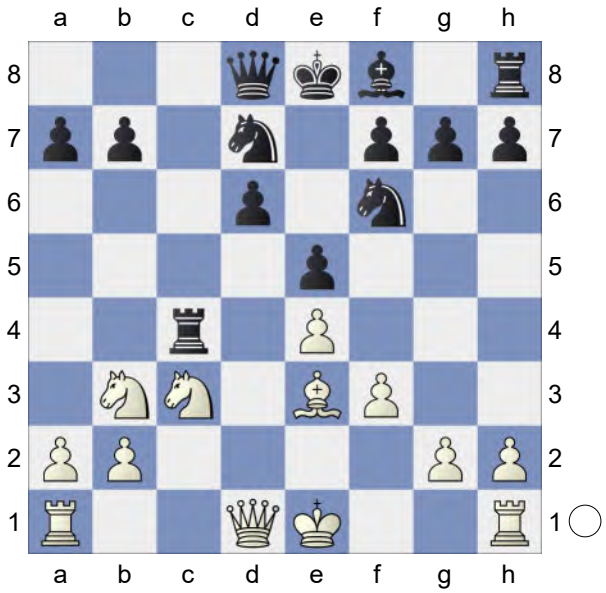
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 Nbd7

[7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]

8.Be3 Rc8 9.Nc3 Bxc4 10.Bxc4 The position is equal. **10...Rxc4**

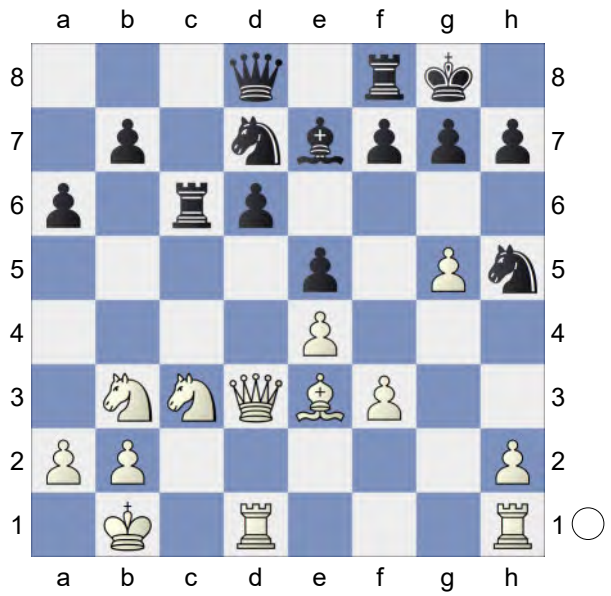


11.Qd3 Rc6 12.0-0-0 White has compensation. **12...Be7 13.Kb1 0-0 14.g4 a6** 0.44/19

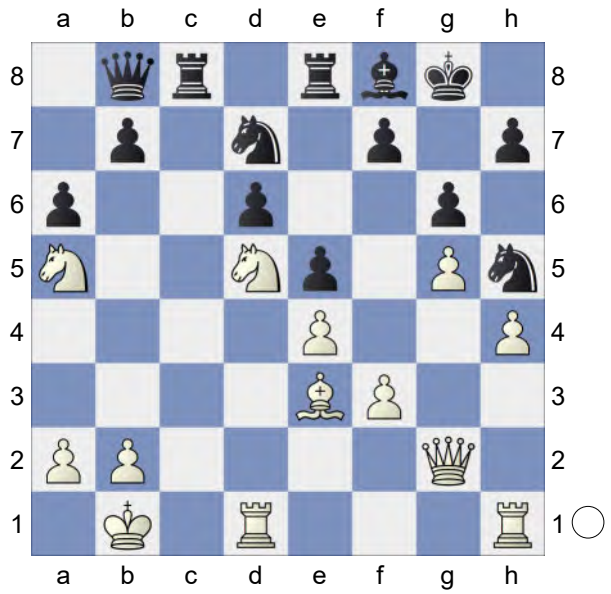
[Black should try 14...Nb6!∓ -0.39/17]

15.g5 Nh5

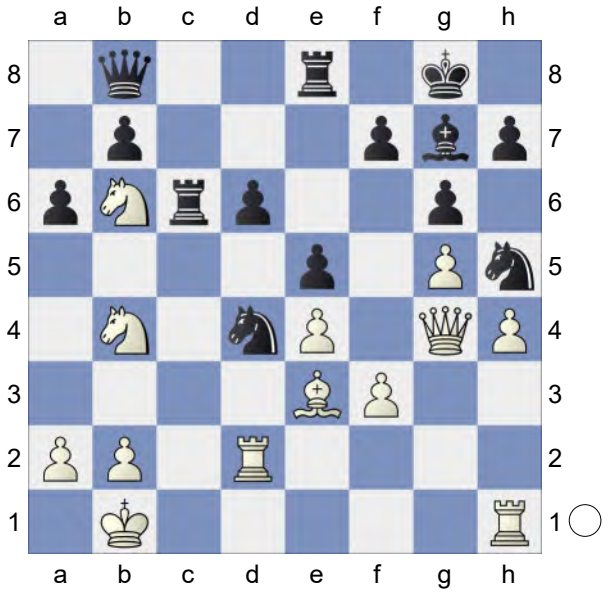
(Diagram)



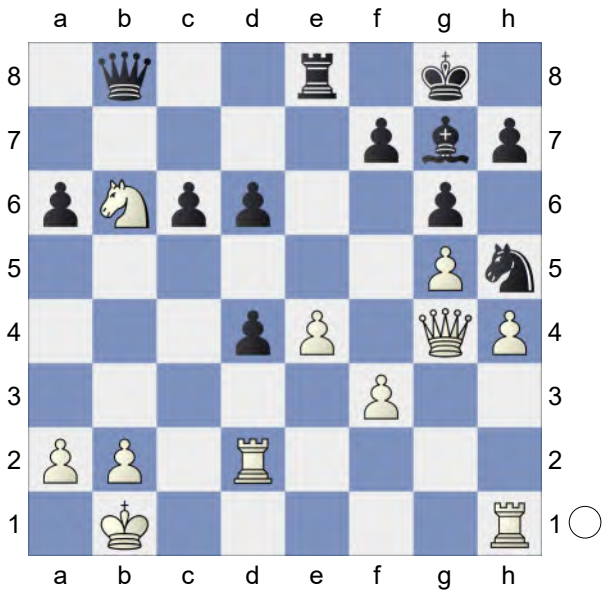
16.h4 Re8 17.Nd5 Bf8 18.Qd2 Qb8
19.Qg2! Strongly threatening Qg4.
19...g6 20.Na5 Rcc8



21.Qg4↑ White has some pressure.
21...Nc5 22.Nc4 Rc6 23.Ncb6 -0.11/20
[23.Nb4± 0.45/20]
23...Bg7 0.47/21
[Black should play 23...Rd8= -0.11/20]
24.Rd2 -0.23/18
[24.Rh2± 0.47/21]
24...Ne6 0.59/20
[24...Qd8= -0.23/18 25.Bxc5 Rxc5]
25.Nb4± Nd4 1.24/23
[25...Rd8± 0.65/21]

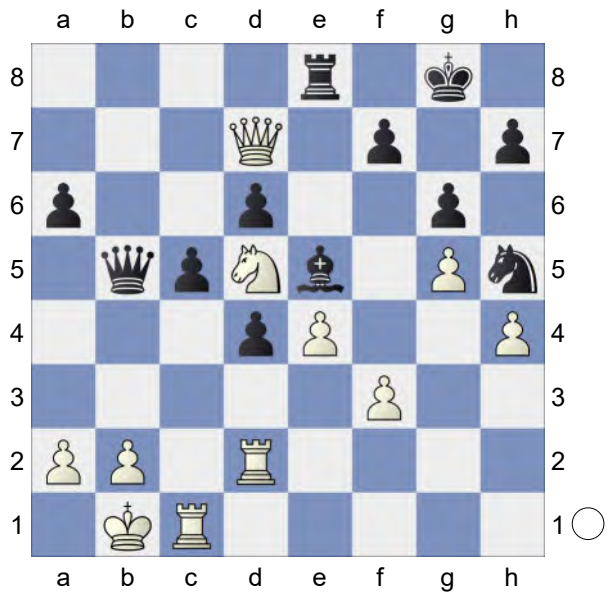


26.Nxc6± bxc6 27.Bxd4 exd4

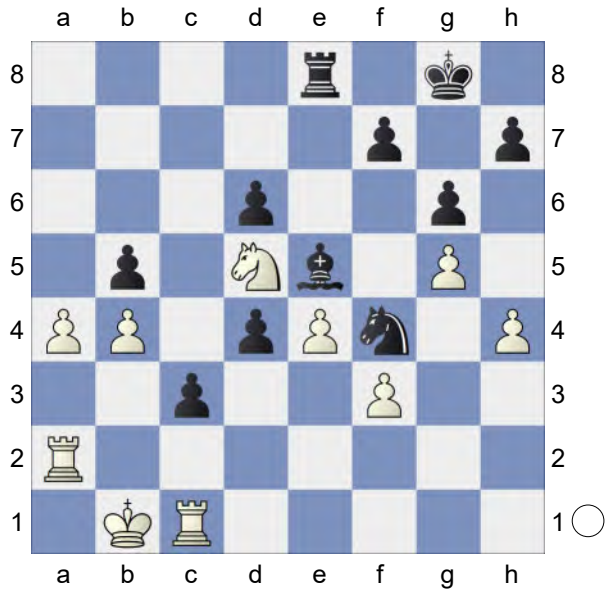


28.Qd7! c5 29.Nd5 Prevents Nf4.
29...Be5 1.10/20
[Better is 29...c4± 0.56/21]
30.Rc1 0.01/19 &Bianco is much more active.
[30.f4± 1.10/20 Nxf4 31.Rf1]
30...Qb5 0.84/18
[30...Nf4!= 0.01/19]

(Diagram)

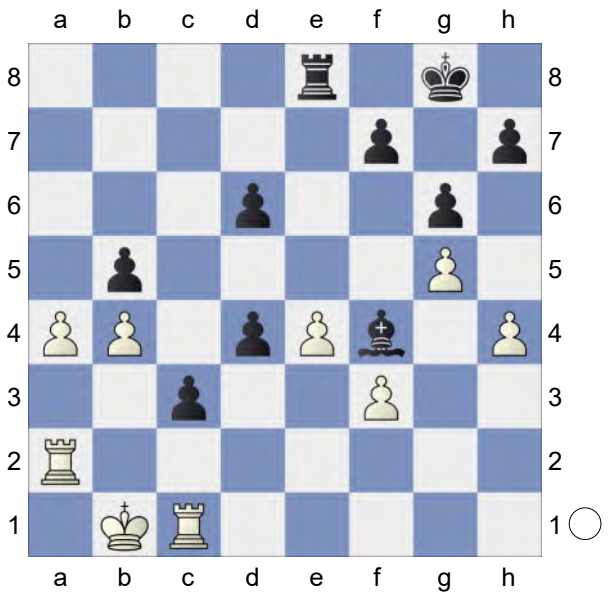


31.Qxb5! Dancing on a razor blade.
31...axb5 32.b4! c4 1.46/22
[32...Nf4!± 0.69/20]
33.a4! c3 34.Ra2 Hoping for a5.
34...Nf4 2.29/23
[34...bxa4± 1.39/19 35.Kc2 *(35.Rxa4 d3±)* 35...f5]

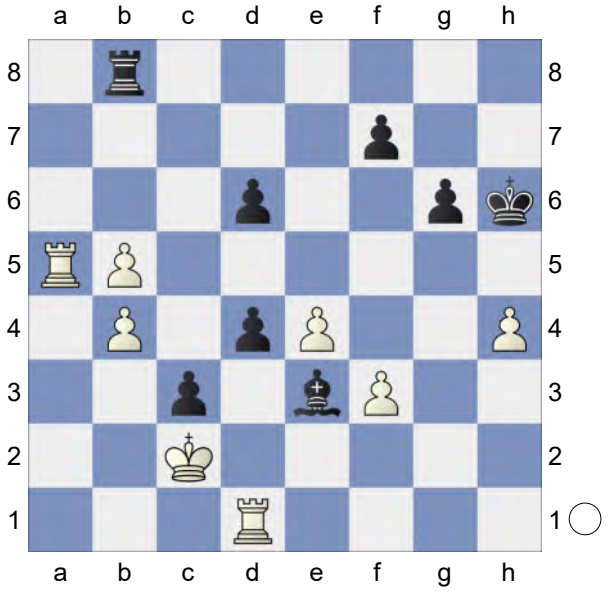


35.Nxf4!+-
[But not 35.axb5? Nxd5 36.exd5 d3-+]
35...Bxf4

(Diagram)

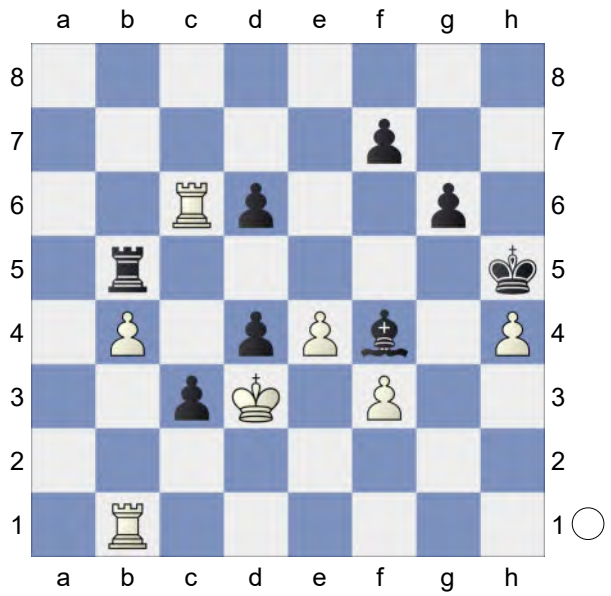


Endgame KRR-KRB **36.Rd1**
[Weaker is 36.axb5 Bxc1 37.Kxc1 d5=]
36...Be3 37.axb5 1.39/23
[37.a5+- 2.93/22]
37...Rb8± 38.Ra5 Kg7 39.Kc2 h6 40.gxh6+ Kxh6

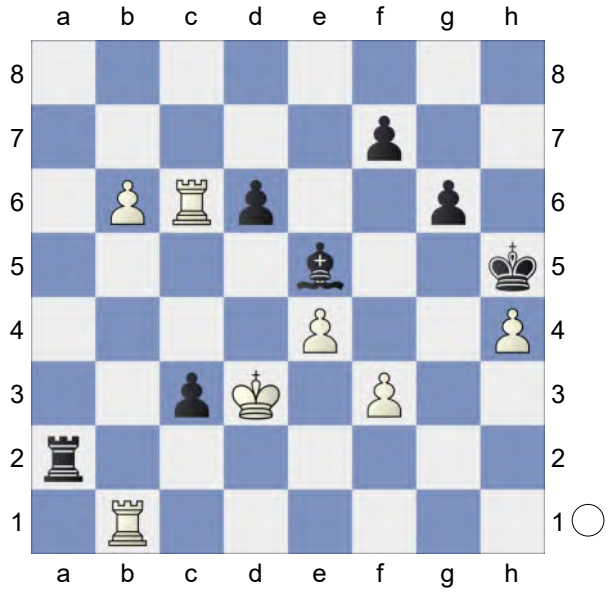


41.Rb1 Rc8 42.Ra2 Rb8 43.Kd3 Kh5 44.Ra6 Bf4 2.68/19
[44...Kxh4± 1.55/19 45.Rxd6 Rxb5]
45.Rc6+- Rxb5

(Diagram)

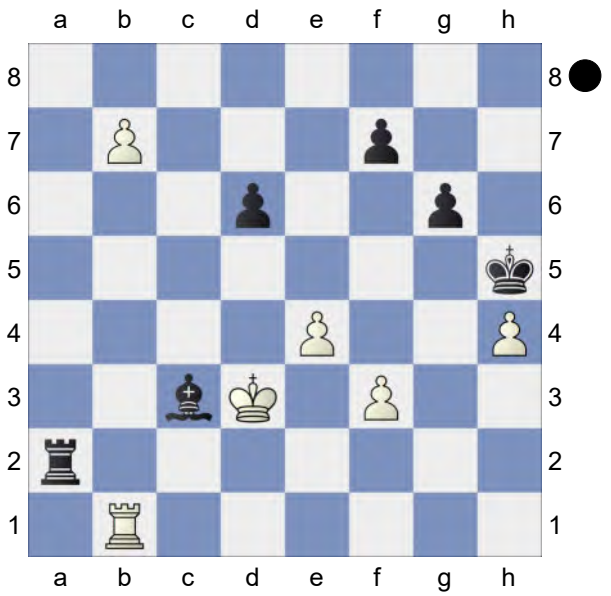


46.Kxd4 Be5+ 47.Kc4 Rb7 48.b5 Ra7 49.b6 White is clearly winning. **49...Ra4+ 50.Kd3 Ra2**



51.Rxc3 Bxc3 52.b7

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.39. An unexpected result.

½-½

106 **B55**

□ **Ivanchuk,Vassily** **2768**

■ **Sutovsky,Emil** **2700**

FIDE World Cup 2011 (3.1) 03.09.2011

[Moradiabadi,Elshan]

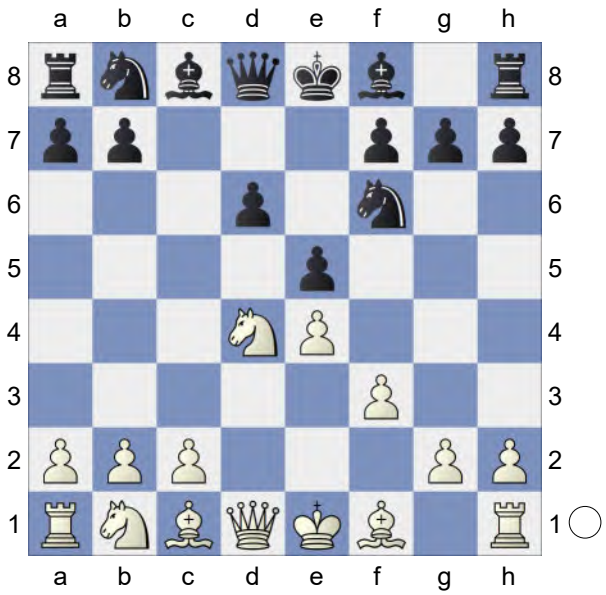
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 Kitty Kat Moradiabadi Moradiabadi Moradiabadi **1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3** White is aiming for the Marcozy Bind in view of Black's "non-drastic" way of developing. **5...e5N** The best move in my opinion.

[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 *(13...Rfe8* Kitty Kat *14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7*

23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39)*)* 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53) Kitty Kat: 'Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53)' *)* 12.a4 *(12.Rfd1* Kitty Kat *Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4* Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)*)* 12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Kitty Kat: 'Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo, Goran]' Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



6.Nb3

[6.Bb5+ Bd7 *(6...Nbd7 7.Nf5 d5 8.exd5 a6 9.Bxd7+ Qxd7 10.Ne3 b5⩱)* 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7? *(7...Nbxd7 8.Nf5 d5 9.exd5 Nb6 10.Bg5 Qd7! 11.Bxf6* ½-½ Socko,B (2656)-Sasikiran,K (2669)/Warsaw 2009/CBM 132 *)* 8.Nf5 d5 9.Bg5! dxe4? 10.Bxf6! Qxd1+ 11.Kxd1 gxf6 12.fxe4 Nc6 13.c3 Rg8 14.g3 Rd8+ 15.Nd2 Ne7 16.Kc2± 1-0 Salov,V (2710)-Ljubojevic,L (2580)/Buenos Aires 1994/CBM 044 (44)]

6...Be7

[6...d5?! 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Bxd5 11.Nc3 Be6 *(11...Bc6 12.0-0-0 a6 13.Na5±* 1-0 Hess,R (2588)-Andriasian,Z (2588)/Chalkis 2010/CBM 137 Extra (57) *)* 12.0-0-0 Nd7 13.Nb5 Ke7∞ ½-½ McShane,L (2615)-Lupulescu,C (2599)/Novi Sad 2009/CBM 133 (61)]

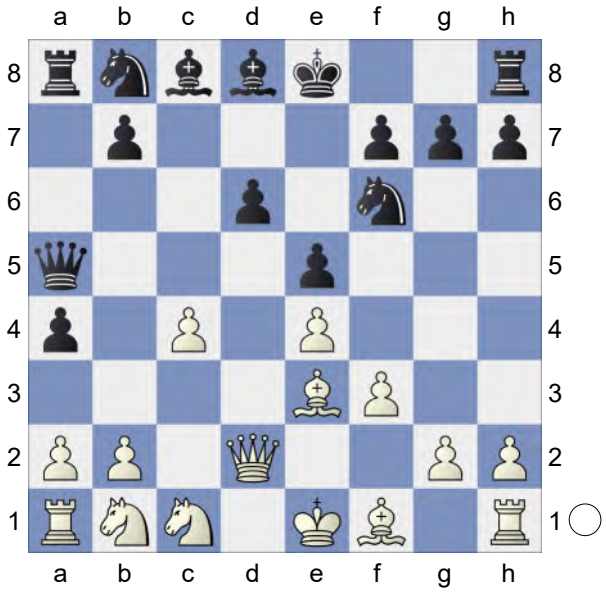
7.c4 a5 8.Be3 a4 9.Nc1 A very odd

choice. Ivanchuk suffered a defeat against Gelfand after the more cogent knight retreat.

[9.N3d2 Qa5 10.Qc2 -0.21/19 *(⌓10.Nc3 0.10/18 0-0 11.Bd3)* 10...Nc6= 11.Qc3 Bd8!?⇄ 0-1 Ivanchuk,V (2787)-Gelfand,B (2736)/Moscow 2007/EXT 2008 (48)]

9...Qa5+ 10.Qd2 White has an edge. Kitty Kat: 'The position is equal.'

10...Bd8!?



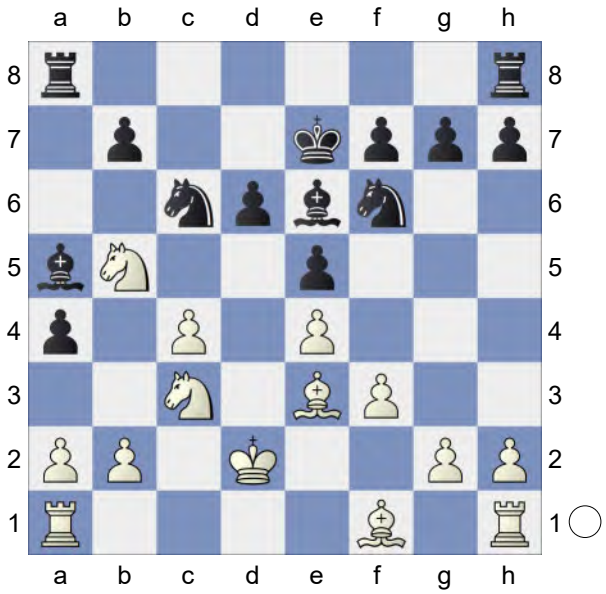
Sutovsky stays faithful to Gelfand's plan. Black's opts for an active place for his dark-squared bishop before finishing his development.

11.Ne2!? This is probably what Ivanchuk had in mind, when he played his ♘ to c1. He tries to take advantage of Black's weakened pawn structure by putting his knights on a3 and c3. **11...Be6 12.Na3 Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Ba5+ 14.Nc3 Nc6** 0.80/21

[14...Ke7± 0.35/18 Kitty Kat]

15.Nab5 Ke7

(Diagram)



16.Be2 0.23/20

[16.Kc2± 0.68/20]

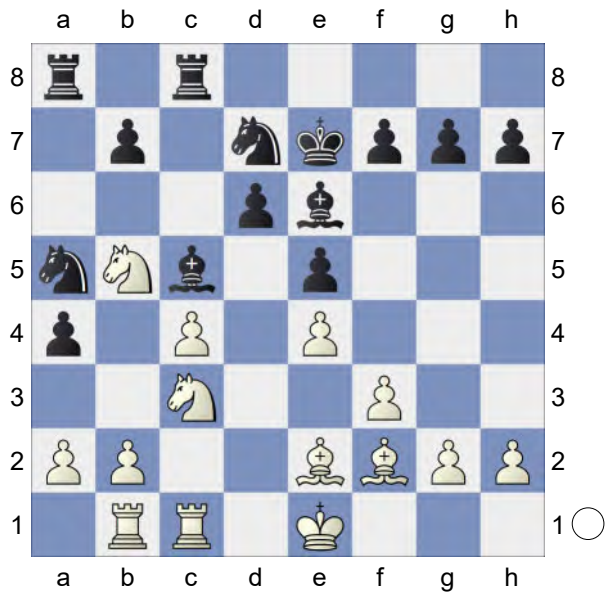
16...Rhc8= 17.Rhc1 Bb4 18.Rab1 Nd7 Sutovsky prepares ...♗c5.

[18...Bc5?! 0.51/22 18...Nd7 0.15 This natural moves seems premature. 19.Nd5+ Bxd5 20.cxd5 Bxe3+ 21.Kxe3 And White's "bad" bishop does not seem that bad! White is slightly better here. Nb4 22.Nc3 Hoping for a3. Ra5! 23.a3 Na6 24.Bd1! White provokes weaknesses in Black's position. b5 25.Be2 Rb8 26.Na2!±]

19.Ke1 Bc5 20.Bf2 Na5 0.63/21

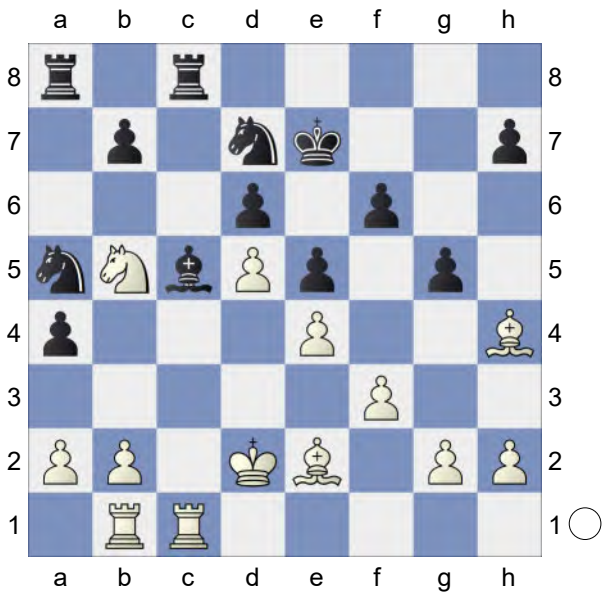
[Kitty Kat: ' Better is' 20...Na7= 0.01/18]

(Diagram)

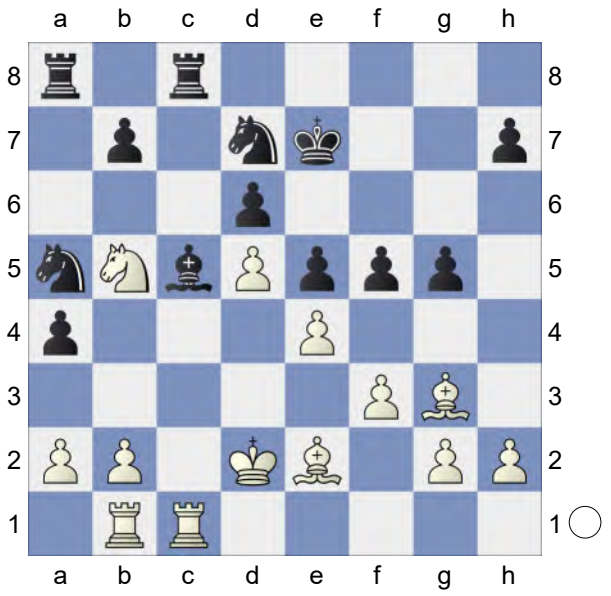


21.Nd5+± Bxd5 22.cxd5
[22.exd5 0.19/19 22.Bxc5 0.60 Bxf2+ 23.Kxf2 Nc5 24.Rc3 f5 1.23/26 *(24...Nd7± 0.42/20)* 25.b4 axb3 26.axb3 aiming for b4. Nc6 27.b4 Na4 28.Ra3 Nd4 29.Nxd4 exd4 30.Rba1 Nb6 31.Rxa8 Rxa8 32.Rxa8 Nxa8 33.f4!± White fixes Black's weakness. It is not clear wehther White would be able to win this ending or not, however, this continuation is definitely preferable to the one in the game!]
22...g6 0.98/24
[22...Bxf2+± 0.55/20 23.Kxf2 g6]
23.Bh4+± Te move is not bad, but this is the moment when Ivanchuk starts to go astray in the game.
[23.Bxc5 Rxc5 24.Rxc5 Nxc5 25.Nc3 Rc8 26.Bb5 f5 27.Ke2±]
23...f6 24.Kd2 Kitty Kat: ' Inhibits Be3+.'
24...g5 Kitty Kat: '

(Diagram)



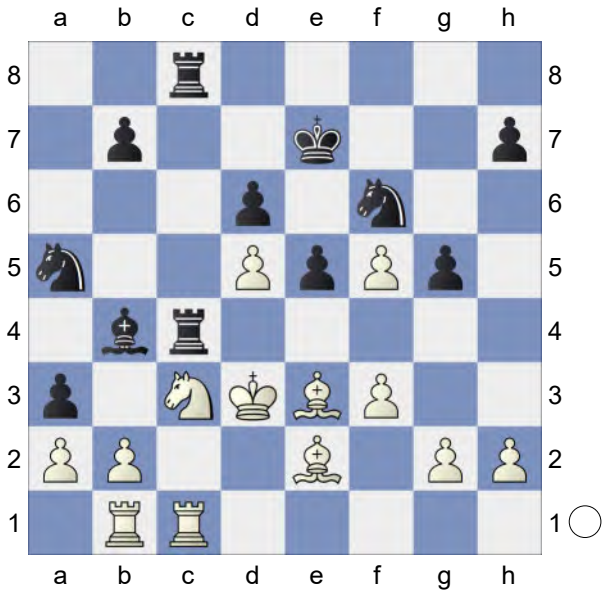
' **25.Bg3** 0.53/20
[25.Be1!± 0.96/23 Kitty Kat]
25...f5!



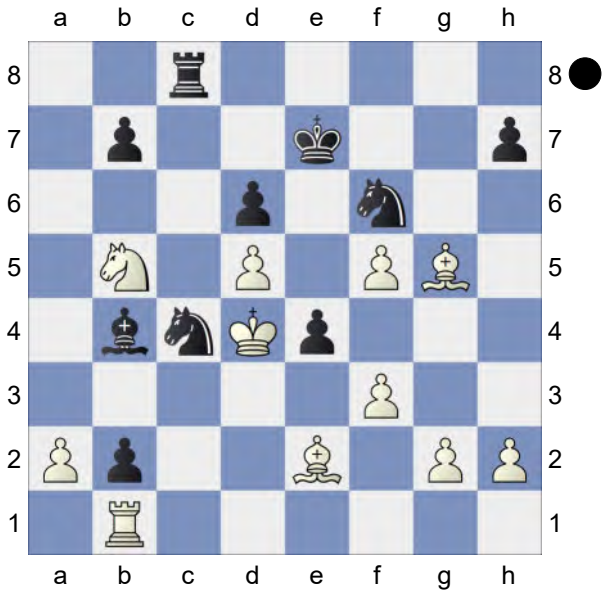
A strong tactical solution which becomes possible thanks to the momentalry weakness of the d5-pawn.
26.exf5
[26.Kd3 Bb6 27.exf5 Threatens to win with h4. Nf6 28.h4 seems more appealing.]
26...Nf6 27.Nc3
[27.h4 is not possible anymore as a result of the fork on e4 g4!]

27...Bb4 28.Kd3 Rc4 Prevents h4. Kitty Kat: ' Inhibits h4.' **29.Bf2** 0.01/22 Prevents Rd4+. Kitty Kat: ' Against Rd4+'
[29.Nxa4 Rd4+ 30.Ke3 Bd2+ 31.Kf2 Bxc1∓]
[29.Kc2 0.38/20 Kitty Kat: ' ±' Rc7= *(29...Rcc8 Kitty Kat 30.h4 Nxd5 31.Kd3 Bxc3 32.bxc3 Nf4+ 33.Kd2 Nxe2 34.Kxe2)*]
[29.Ne4± 0.51/19 Rac8 30.Rxc4 Nxc4 31.h4]
29...Rac8= Kitty Kat: ' ...a3 is the strong threat.' Black has activated all his pieces and has full compensation for the sacrificed pawn.
30.Be3 -0.36/22
[30.Kc2= -0.01/21 should be considered.
A) 30...Rd4 Kitty Kat 31.Rd1 *(31.Bxd4 exd4 32.a3 dxc3=)* 31...Rxd5 32.a3 Rxd1 33.Rxd1 Bxc3 34.bxc3=;
B) 30...a3 31.Bxc4 Nxc4 32.Kb3 *(32.b3? Nb2-+)* 32...axb2 33.Kxb4! bxc1N 34.Rxc1]
30...a3? 1.74/23 A hasty decision near the time pressure which makes the final phase of the game quiet dramatic. It would have been better if Sutovsky had remained cool!
[30...h6! -0.30/22 Kitty Kat: '=!' Kitty Kat: ' and Black has nothing to worry. ' and it is hard to suggest anything that favours White.]
[30...h6!∓ -0.36/22 stays ahead.]

(Diagram)

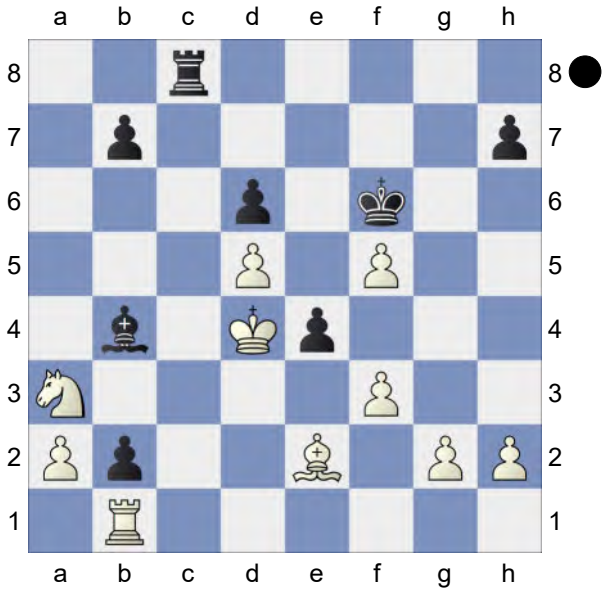


31.Nb5? 0.18/22 Returns the favor.
[31.Ne4 1.97/23 Kitty Kat: '+-' Kitty Kat: ' Strongly threatening bxa3.' Nxd5 ...Nf4+ is the strong threat. 32.Rxc4 Nxc4 33.Bxg5+ Kf8 34.bxa3 Bxa3 35.Bh6+ Kg8 and here White can keep his head cool and calmly put his king under the discovered-double check on the c-file! 36.Kc2 But who dares to make such a move?! Nce3+ 37.Kb3±]
[31.Ne4+- 1.74/23 Nxd5 32.Rxc4 *(32.Bxg5+ Kf8±)* 32...Nxc4 33.Bxg5+ Kf8 34.bxa3 Bxa3 35.Bh6+ *(35.Rxb7 Nb4+ 36.Rxb4 Bxb4=)* 35...Kg8 36.Kc2 *(36.Rxb7 Nb2+ 37.Rxb2 Bxb2=)*]
31...axb2
[31...Rxc1 32.Bxc1 axb2 33.Bxg5±]
32.Rxc4 -0.37/21
[Kitty Kat: ' White should try' 32.Rxb2= 0.23/24 Kitty Kat: '±' Rxc1 33.Rxb4]
32...Nxc4∓ Pair of Knights! **33.Bxg5 e4+!** Now Black has a dangerous initiative.
34.Kd4 Kitty Kat: '
[34.fxe4? Ne5+ 35.Ke3 Rc2-+]



' **34...Na3→** (-> ...Nc2#). Black is out for blood. Really sharp! &Nero is more active. Kitty Kat: '→!' Kitty Kat: ' (-> ...Nc2#). Black has strong attack. Chess con chili. &Nero is more active.' **35.Nxa3** -3.02/22 The final mistake which seals his fate.

[35.Bxf6+ -1.10/27 Kitty Kat: ' ∓' Kxf6 36.Nxa3



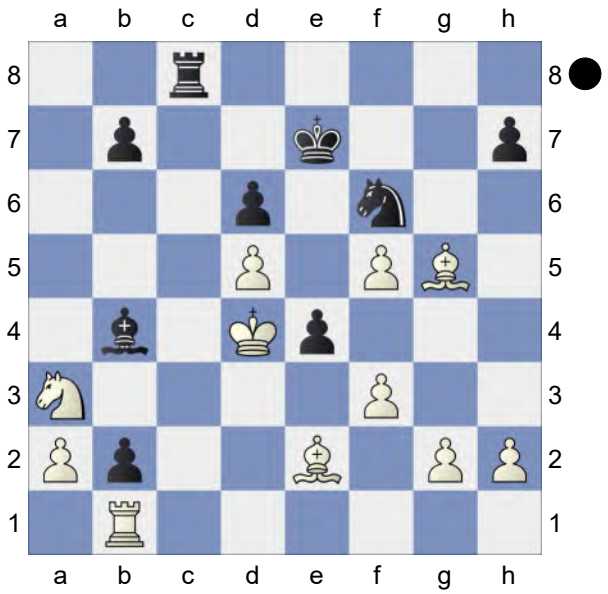
Strongly threatening Nc4. exf3! 37.Bxf3 -1.68/25 *(37.gxf3∓ -1.32/26 Bxa3 38.Bd3)* 37...Bxa3 38.Be4 -1.33/21 and besides all of his problems, White can resist stubbornly. *(38.Ke3-+ -1.67/24)*]

[Not Kitty Kat: ' But not' 35.Rxb2? Nc2+ 36.Rxc2 Rxc2 37.Bxf6+ Kxf6-+]

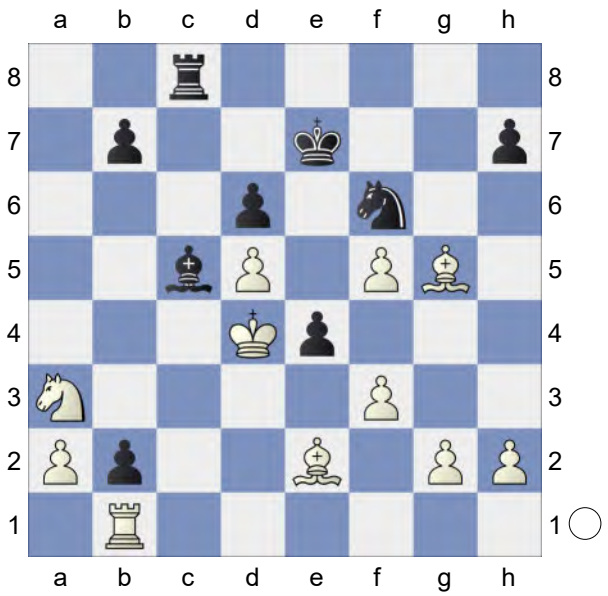
[35.Bxf6+∓ -1.09/27 Kxf6

A) 36.Rxb2? Nxb5+ 37.Ke3 *(37.Kxe4 Kitty Kat Nc3+ 38.Kd3 Nxd5-+)* 37...Bc5+ 38.Kf4 Nc3-+;

B) 36.Nxa3 exf3 37.Bxf3]

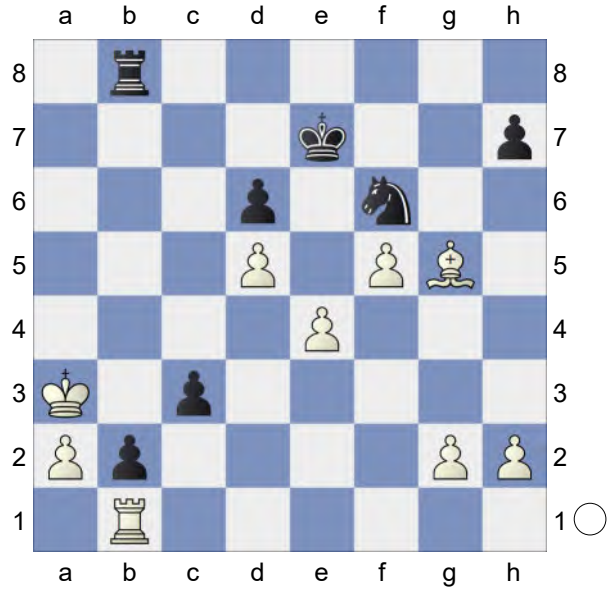


35...Bc5+!-+



Kitty Kat: '-+'This intermediate check

made Ivanchuk's day gloomy!
36.Kc3 Bxa3+ 37.Bc4 b5 Pin **38.Kb3 bxc4+ 39.Kxa3 c3** Kitty Kat: ' And now ...exf3 would win.' **40.fxe4** -5.41/22
[⌓40.Kb3 -3.69/20 Kitty Kat: ' only move.' c2 41.Rxb2 exf3 42.gxf3]
40...Rb8



Weighted Error Value: White=0.30/ Black=0.19 (very precise) Kitty Kat: ' Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/ Black=0.19 (very precise) 'Sutovsky played the final phase very well.
0-1

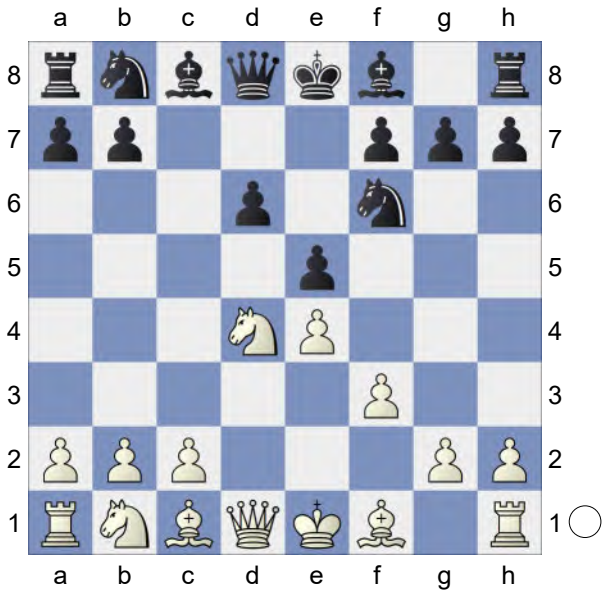
107 **B55**
□ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2758**
■ **Giri,Anish** **2769**
Du Te Cup 2017 (3.1) 25.03.2017
[Stohl,Igor]

1.e4 Stohl,Igor, MH Arsovic,Goran Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' **1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3** The Shenzhen tournament featured only one Sicilian and even in this game White avoided the main lines. However, it's difficult to get even a slight edge against the Najdorf. Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'The Shenzhen tournament featured only one Sicilian and even in this game White avoided the main lines. However, it's difficult to get even a slight edge against the Najdorf.'' **5...e5** The text move in the Najdorf spirit is the most common reply. However, Black has other alternatives, after Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'The text move in the Najdorf spirit is the most common reply. However, Black has other alternatives, after''
[5...Nc6 Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor'
A) Black has to realise White can still go for positions from the English Attack with 6.Nc3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 Here the best way to get counterplay is a5!? 10.Bb5 Be6 Arsovic,Goran: ' ⇄' Stohl, Igor: ' ⇄' Stohl,Igor, MH: '⇄' Arsovic,Goran: 'leads to a position we have already mentioned above.' *(10...Na7* Arsovic,Goran: '∞!?' Stohl, Igor: ' ∞!?' Stohl,Igor, MH: ' ∞!?' *11.Be2 Nc6⇄)* 11.0-0 Na7 12.Be2 Nc8 13.Bb5 Na7 14.Be2 Nc8 15.Bb5 ½, Carlsen,M (2840)-Grischuk,A (2737) Doha blitz 2016;
B) 6.c4 Black can aim for Hedgehog, or Maroczy setups. The most active try is 6...Qb6!? 7.Nc2 g6 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.Rb1 Ng4 *(* Aiming for complications; a more sedate move is *9...Nb4 10.Nxb4 Qxb4 11.Be3 Be6⇄)* 10.Qd2 Bh6 11.Qe2 Bxc1 12.Nd5! Qd8 13.Rxc1
B1) 13...Nge5 14.Qe3 *(14.Qd2!? e6 15.Nc3 Qh4+ 16.Qf2 Qxf2+ 17.Kxf2 Ke7*

18.Be2 f5 19.f4 Ng4+ 20.Bxg4 fxg4 21.Rcd1 h5 22.Rd2 Rf8 23.Ke3 Nd8∞ ½, Gysi,A (2483)-Morgado,J (2605) email 2001*)* 14...f5!? 15.exf5 Bxf5 16.Nd4 *(16.Be2 e6 17.Nc3 Nxc4 18.Bxc4 Qh4+ 19.Kd2 Qxc4 20.b3 Qc5 21.g4 Bxc2 22.Qxe6+* Shaposhnikov,E (2525)-Kosintseva,N (2277) Kazan 2001 *Kf8 23.Qf6+ Kg8=)* 16...e6 17.Nxc6 *(17.Nxf5 gxf5 18.Nf4 Qa5+ 19.Qd2 Qxd2+ 20.Kxd2 Kf7 21.Be2 Ng6 22.Nh5 Nd4= /∓*, Stojanovic,D (2433)-Fontaine,R (2469) Novi Sad 2002 *)* 17...bxc6 18.Nc3 Qb6 19.c5! Qxb2 20.Be2 Nd3+ 21.Bxd3 Bxd3 22.Qxe6+ Kf8 23.Qf6+ Kg8 24.Qe6+ ½, Borgo,G (2448)-Stohl,I (2573) Baden 1999;

B2) Later Black came up with 13...e6!? 14.Nc3 Qg5 15.Rd1 *(15.Qd2 Qxd2+ 16.Kxd2 Nf6 17.Be2 Ke7 18.Rhd1 g5 19.Ke3 b6 20.Rd2 Bb7 21.Rcd1 Rhd8 22.Nb5 Ne8 23.g3 a6 24.Nc3 Rab8 25.Nd4 Nf6 26.Nxc6+ Bxc6=* Mastrovasilis,D (2541)-Melia,S (2372) Athens 2007*)* 15...Nxh2 16.Qf2 Nxf1 17.Kxf1 e5 18.Nb5 0-0 19.Qe3 Qxe3 20.Nxe3 Be6 21.Kf2 Rfd8 22.b3 a6 23.Nxd6 b6 24.c5 Nd4 25.Ndc4 bxc5 26.Nxe5 a5⇄ Kasparov,S (2484)-Soltanici,R (2415) Donetsk 2010]

(Diagram)



6.Nb3

[This newer move has almost replaced the older 6.Bb5+ Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor', where Black is doing fine:

A) 6...Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Nbxd7 *(7...Qxd7? 8.Nf5 d5 9.Bg5 dxe4 10.Bxf6 Qxd1+ 11.Kxd1 gxf6 12.fxe4 Nc6 13.c3 Rg8 14.g3 Rd8+ 15.Nd2 Ne7 16.Kc2 Kd7 17.Rad1 Kc6 18.Nf3 Rxd1 19.Nxe7+ Bxe7 20.Rxd1 Rd8 21.Rxd8 Bxd8 22.Nh4+-* Salov,V (2710)-Ljubojevic,L (2580) Buenos Aires 1994*)* 8.Nf5 d5! 9.exd5 Nb6 10.Bg5 *(10.d6 g6 11.Qe2 Nbd7 12.Ng3 Qb6 13.Nd2 Rc8 14.c3 Qxd6=* Ji,D (2342)-Zhou,J (2635) Xinghua Jiangsu 2009*; 10.Qe2 Qxd5 11.Nc3 Qe6 12.Qb5+ Nfd7 13.Ne3 Bc5 14.Ne4 Be7 15.Bd2 f5 16.Nf2 Rc8⇄* Yonathan,Y-Tseitlin,M (2415) Tel Aviv 1990*)* 10...Qd7 11.Bxf6 Qxf5 12.Bh4 Rc8 13.c3 *(13.Nc3!? Bb4=)* 13...Bc5 14.Bf2 Bxf2+ 15.Kxf2 0-0 16.b3 e4→ 17.Re1 Nxd5 18.c4 Qf6 19.Na3

Nf4 20.Rxe4 Rcd8 21.Qc2 Nd3+ 0-1, Rantalainen,S-Berglund,R Finland 1992;

B) Black can even go for the sharper 6...Nbd7!? 7.Nf5 d5! 8.exd5 a6⩱ A few recent examples confirm his compensation:

B1) 9.Ba4 b5 10.Bb3 Nb6 *(10...Nc5 11.Ne3 Nxb3 12.axb3 Nh5!?N 13.g3 Bc5 14.Nc3 f5 15.d6 Be6 16.Nxf5 Bxf5 17.Qd5 Bxd6 18.Bg5 Qxg5 19.Qxa8+ Kf7 20.Qd5+ Be6 21.Qxd6 Rd8 22.f4 Nxf4 23.Qc6 Qh5 24.h3 Bd5 25.Qc7+ Ke8 26.Rh2 Ng2+ 27.Rxg2 Bxg2 28.Qxg7 Qf5 29.Qg8+ Ke7 30.Qg7+ Ke8* ½, Rodriguez Vila,A (2444)-Delgado Ramirez,N (2604) Florianopolis 2015*)* 11.Ne3 Bc5 12.Nc3 0-0 13.Qd3 *(13.0-0 Bf5 14.Kh1 Bg6⩱)* 13...a5!? 14.a3 a4 15.Ba2 b4 16.axb4 Bxb4 17.0-0 Ba6 18.Nb5 Bc5 19.Rd1? *(19.Kh1∞)* 19...e4! 20.Qc3 *(20.fxe4 Ng4∓)* 20...Rc8 21.Qa5 Bxb5 22.Qxb5 exf3 23.gxf3 Nfxd5 24.Kh1 Qf6→ Rodriguez Vila,A (2532)-Shirov,A (2698) Buenos Aires 2012;

B2) 9.Bxd7+ Bxd7 10.Ne3 Bc5 11.Nc3 0-0 12.0-0 Qb6 *(*More concrete than *12...Bf5 13.Kh1 Bg6⩱)* 13.Qd3 *(13.Re1 e4!↑)* 13...Bb5 14.Nxb5 axb5 15.Kh1 Rfd8 16.Bd2 Qa6 17.a3 Bxe3 18.Bxe3 Rxd5= Black has no problems whatsoever: 19.Qe2 h6 20.Rae1 Re8 21.Rd1 Qc6 22.Rxd5 Nxd5 23.Bc1 Nf6 24.c3 e4 25.fxe4 Nxe4 26.Be3 Re6 27.Qf3 Rf6 28.Qd1 Qd5 29.Qe2? *(29.Kg1= /∓* is still fully tenable for White*)* 29...Qh5! 0-1, Landenbergue,C (2334)-Sasikiran,K (2654) Novi Sad 2016]

6...d5 This push very often gives Black equality in the Sicilian. While this is a simplistic view, in our game Giri will prove his point. Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl, Igor: 'This push very often gives Black equality in the Sicilian. While this is a simplistic view, in our game Giri will prove his point."

[6...Be7 Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' 7.c4 a5 8.Be3 a4 9.Nc1 0-0 10.Nc3 Qa5 11.Qd2 Na6 *(11...Nc6 12.Rb1 Be6 13.b4! axb3 14.Nxb3±)* 12.Be2 Nc5 13.0-0 Bd7 14.Rb1 Rfc8 15.b4 axb3 16.axb3 Qd8 17.Nd3 Ne6 18.Nb4 Bc6 19.Rfd1 h5 20.Bf1 h4 21.Qf2± Carlsen,M (2853)-Karjakin,S (2772) New York rpd plof 2016]

[6...Be6 Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' 7.c4 Nbd7 8.Be3 Rc8 allows the dangerous sacrifice 9.Nc3! *(9.Na3 or; 9.N3d2* is less harmonious*)* 9...Bxc4 10.Bxc4 Rxc4 11.Qd3⩱ Rc6 *(11...Rc8 12.0-0-0 a6 13.g4 b5 14.Kb1 b4 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.Qxd5 Be7 17.Na5 Nf6 18.Qb7 Qd7 19.g5 Nh5 20.Qxa6 0-0 21.Nc4 Ra8 22.Nb6 Rxa6 23.Nxd7±* Michalik,P (2554)-Sethuraman,S (2633) Czech Republic 2016*)* 12.0-0-0 Be7 13.g4 0-0 14.Kb1 a6 15.g5 *(15.h4!? Nc5 16.Nxc5 dxc5 17.Qxd8 Rxd8 18.Rxd8+ Bxd8 19.Rd1 Bc7 20.g5 Ne8 21.Rd7 Rd6 22.Re7 Kf8 23.Rxe5 b6 24.Kc2⩲ /±*, So,W (2770)-Topalov,V (2761) Leuven blitz 2016*)* 15...Nh5 16.h4 Re8 17.Nd5 Bf8

18.Qd2 Qb8 19.Qg2 g6 20.Na5 Rcc8 21.Qg4 Nc5 22.Nc4 Rc6 23.Ncb6 Bg7 24.Rd2 Ne6 25.Nb4 Nd4 26.Nxc6 bxc6 27.Bxd4 exd4 28.Qd7± Anand,V (2779)-Jumabayev,R (2611) Doha rpd 2016]

[If Black doesn't want to force matters, then 6...a5!? Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl, Igor' is perhaps the move, which deserves the most attention: 7.Bb5+ *(7.c4?!* runs into *Nxe4! 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2 a4∓* The ♘b3 is trapped and Black is clearly better. *)*

A) 7...Bd7 8.Bxd7+ *(* A serious alternative is *8.a4!? d5 9.exd5 Bxb5 10.axb5 Nxd5 11.0-0±)* 8...Nbxd7 9.a4 *(9.c4 b5! 10.cxb5 a4 11.N3d2 d5 12.exd5 Bc5 13.Nc3 0-0 14.Nxa4* Vedmediuc,S (2422)-Lupulescu,C (2626) Aix les Bains 2011 *Nxd5⩱ ↑)* 9...d5! 10.exd5 Nc5 11.Qe2 *(11.c4 Qb6⩲ ↑)* 11...Nxb3 12.Qxe5+ Be7 13.cxb3 0-0 14.0-0 Re8 15.Kh1 Nxd5 16.Nc3 Nxc3 17.bxc3 Bf6 18.Qb5 Bxc3 19.Rb1 Qe7 20.Bf4 Qb4 21.Qxb4 Bxb4 22.Rfd1 Re2 23.Bd6 Bxd6 24.Rxd6= Bokros,A (2458)-Bernasek,J (2506) Slovakia 2013White can be glad to have equality here.;

B) 7...Nc6 8.Nc3 Be7 9.Be3 0-0

B1) 10.Qd2 Be6⇄ leads to a position we have already mentioned above. *(10...Na7!?∞)*;

B2) Possibly a more promising try is 10.Na4!? Be6 11.Nb6 Rb8

B2a) 12.0-0 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Bxd5 15.c4 Be6 16.Qxd8 Rfxd8 17.Bb6 Rdc8 18.Rfd1 *(18.a4 Bd8 19.Bxd8 Nxd8 20.Rfe1 f6 21.f4 Bxc4 22.Bxc4+ Rxc4 23.fxe5 Nc6 24.exf6 b5 25.Rac1* ½, Kudr,R (2247)-Hauff,A (2320) email 2012*)* 18...h5 19.a4± Bd8? 20.Bxd8 Nxd8 21.Nxa5± Kryakvin,D (2547)-Khismatullin,D (2623) Kolomna 2016 △b6 22.Rxd8+ Rxd8 23.Nc6;

B2b) 12.c4!? Na7 *(12...Nd7 13.Nxd7 Bxd7 14.0-0 Be6 15.Qd2 Ra8 16.Qf2 Qb8 17.Nd2 Na7 18.a4 g6 19.b3 f5 20.exf5 gxf5 21.f4 Rf7* Banikas,H (2567)-Erdogdu,M (2423) Athens 2007 *22.Nf3↑)* 13.Ba4 *(13.a4 Nxb5 14.axb5 Nd7∞)* 13...Nc8 14.Nd5 Nxd5!? *(14...Bxd5 15.exd5 Nb6 16.Bb5 a4 17.Nd2 a3 18.bxa3 Nfd7 19.0-0 Bg5 20.Bf2 f5 21.Nb3 Rc8* Ponkratov,P (2478)-Evdokimov,A (2562) Novokuznetsk 2007 *22.Qd3±)* 15.exd5 Bf5⇄]

7.Bg5

[7.exd5?! Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' is not energetic enough: Nxd5 *(7...Qxd5 8.Bd3 Bb4+ 9.Bd2!? Nc6 10.Nc3 Qd8 11.Qe2∞ /±)* 8.a3 Be6 9.c4 Nb6 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.Na5 Kc7 12.b3 Nc6 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Bb2 f6 15.Nd2 Nd7 16.Bd3 a5 17.0-0-0 Nc5∓ Zhang,P (2519)-Paragua,M (2534) Singapore 2004]

7...Be6 This is the main move, Black holds on to d5. Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl, Igor: 'This is the main move, Black holds on to d5."

[However, it seems he has a reasonable alternative in 7...d4!? Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' 8.c3 Nc6

and now:

A) 9.cxd4

A1) 9...exd4 10.Bb5 Bb4+ 11.Bd2 Bd6!? *(11...Be7? 12.Ba5 Qd6 13.Qxd4±)* 12.Na3 *(12.Nxd4 0-0⩱; 12.Ba5!?)* 12...0-0 13.Nc4 Be6 14.Nxd6 Qxd6 15.0-0 a6 16.Bxc6 bxc6 17.Rc1 Nd7 18.Nc5 Grischuk,A (2780)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2754) Khanty-Mansiysk 2015 Bxa2!?= For details see the notes to this game by Ftacnik in CBM 167;

A2) 9...Bb4+!? 10.Nc3 *(10.Bd2?! Nxe4! 11.Bxb4 Qh4+ 12.g3 Nxg3 13.hxg3 Qxh1 14.Ba3 Bh3 15.Qe2 0-0-0 16.N1d2 Bxf1 17.Nxf1 exd4 18.0-0-0 Rhe8 19.Qd3 Kb8 20.Qf5 Ne5 21.Nfd2 Qg2 22.f4* Danin,A (2587)-Volokitin,A (2677) Austria 2017 *Nf3!∓)* 10...exd4 11.a3 Be7 12.Nb5 0-0 13.N3xd4 Qb6 14.Be3 Rd8 *(14...a6!? 15.Nc3 Rd8 16.Qb3 Qa7 17.Nc2 Bc5⩱)* 15.Qd2 Bc5 16.Rd1 Nxe4! 17.fxe4 Bg4 18.Be2 Bxe2 19.Kxe2 Rd7 20.b4 Bxd4 21.Nxd4 Rad8 22.Qc2 Nxd4+ 23.Rxd4 Rxd4 24.Bxd4 Rxd4 25.Rd1= Oleksienko,M (2620)-Cheparinov,I (2684) Doha 2014 White barely held the balance here.;

B) 9.Bb5 gives Black a choice:

B1) 9...Qb6 10.Bxc6+ *(* White can probably afford this, but he will have problems not only on the dark, but also on the light squares. *10.Qe2* , or; *10.Qd3* are more circumspect moves. *)* 10...bxc6 11.cxd4 Ba6

B1a) 12.dxe5?! Nd7 13.Qd4 Qxd4 14.Nxd4 Nxe5↑ 15.Nc3 *(15.Kd2 h6 16.Bh4 g5 17.Bg3 Bg7 18.Na3 0-0-0 19.Kc3 Nxf3 20.gxf3 Rxd4* 0-1, Kraus,T (2402)-Navara,D (2751) Havlickuv Brod 2015*)* 15...h6 16.Bh4 Nd3+ 17.Kd2 Nxb2 18.Kc2 Nc4 19.Rhe1 Rb8 20.Nb3 Bb4 21.Bf2 0-0 22.Bxa7 Na3+ 23.Kb2 Bxc3+ 24.Kxa3 Ra8 0-1, Fuchs,J (2276)-Michalik,P (2551) Zurich 2016;

B1b) ⌓12.Na3! Rd8 *(12...Bb4+ 13.Bd2 Bxa3 14.bxa3 0-0 15.Ba5 Qb5 16.a4 Qxa4 17.dxe5 Nxe4 18.fxe4 Qxe4+ 19.Kf2 Qxe5 20.Qf3 Qb2+ 21.Bd2±* Varga,Z (2418)-Dinev,D (2297) Novi Sad 2016*)* 13.Rc1! *(13.Bd2 exd4 14.Ba5 Bb4+ 15.Bxb4 Qxb4+ 16.Qd2 Qb6 17.Rc1* Panarin,M (2558)-Smirnov,A (2453) Sochi 2015 *Nd7!? 18.Nc4 Bxc4 19.Rxc4 c5∞)* 13...exd4 14.Nc4 Bxc4 *(14...Qb5 15.e5±)* 15.Rxc4 d3 16.Qd2↑;

B2) It is interesting to flick in 9...h6!? 10.Bxf6 *(*After *10.Bh4 Qb6* the bishop can't return to d2 in some lines, after *11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.cxd4 Ba6 13.Bg3* Varga,Z (2411)-Pinter,E (2379) Slovakia 2017 Black could have played *13...Rd8!? 14.Bxe5 Nd7 15.Bf4 Nc5⩱)* 10...Qxf6 11.cxd4 Bb4+ 12.Nc3 0-0

B2a) After 13.d5 Nd4 14.Be2 Qb6↑ Black dominates the

dark squares.;
B2b) 13.0-0 Nxd4 14.Nd5 Qd6 15.Nxd4 *(15.Nxb4 Qxb4 16.Nxd4 Rd8 17.Qe2 Rxd4 18.a3 Qc5 19.Kh1 a6 20.Bd3 Be6 21.Rac1 Qd6∓* Vetoshko,V (2485)-Babula,V (2545) Slovakia 2017*)* 15...Bc5 16.Kh1 Bxd4 17.Qe2 Be6 18.Bc4 Rac8 19.Bb3 Qc5 20.Qd2 Kh8∓ Bruzon Batista,L (2664)-Cheparinov,I (2681) Tromsoe olm 2014;
B2c) 13.dxe5 Nxe5!?∓;
B2d) 13.Bxc6 is consistent, but at the very least unclear after 13...bxc6
B2d1) 14.a3 Be7!? also has its drawbacks: 15.d5 *(15.dxe5 Qxe5 16.Qd4? Qb8∓)* 15...Ba6⩲;
B2d2) 14.dxe5 Qxe5 15.Qd4 Qe7 16.0-0-0 *(16.a3 Bd6 17.0-0-0 Bf4+ 18.Kc2 Rb8 19.Nc5 Be6 20.g3 Be5 21.Qe3 Bd6 22.Rxd6 Qxd6 23.f4 Qe7 24.Rf1 f6∓* Hartman,C (2210)-De Firmian,N (2515) Copenhagen 1984*)* 16...Be6 17.Kb1 Rab8 18.Na4 f5 19.Nbc5 fxe4 20.fxe4 Bf7 21.Qd6 Qg5⩲ Shankland,S (2666)-Zherebukh,Y (2605) Saint Louis 2017. Although White has finished his development, the mighty bishop pair gives Black excellent long-term compensation.]

[But 7...dxe4?! Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl, Igor' is inferior: 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 , one model example went 9.fxe4 *(9.Bxf6+ gxf6 10.fxe4 Bb4+ 11.c3 Bf8 12.N1d2±)* 9...Be6 *(9...Be7 10.Nc3⩱ Nbd7 11.Bc4 Ke8 12.Nb5 Kf8 13.Nd2 Rb8 14.Nxa7 Nc5 15.Nxc8 Rxc8 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Bd5±* De la Villa Garcia,J (2494)-Tattersall Rodriguez,L (2285) Tossa de Mar 2010 *)* 10.Nc3 Nbd7 11.0-0-0 a6 12.Bxf6+ gxf6 13.Nd5 Bxd5 14.Rxd5 Kc7 15.Be2 Rg8 16.g3 Be7 17.Bh5 Raf8 18.Nd2 Nc5 19.c3 Rg5 20.Be2 Rd8 21.Bc4 Rf8 22.Rf1 b5 23.Bb3 Rg4 24.Bd1 Rgg8 25.b4 Ne6 26.a4 Kc6 27.Bb3± Ponkratov,P (2542)-Lukyanov,A (2090) Belgorod 2008]

8.Bxf6 This is the right move order. Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'This is the right move order."

[8.exd5?! Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' Qxd5 9.Nc3 Bb4 10.Bd2 Qd8 11.Nb5 Nc6 12.Bxb4 Nxb4 13.c3 Nbd5 14.c4 Ne3 15.Qxd8+ Kxd8 16.Rc1 a6 17.Na3 Rc8 18.Kf2 Nxf1 19.Rhxf1 Ke7 20.Rfd1 Rc7 21.Rc3 Rhc8∓ Prins,L (2245)-Timoscenko,G (2500) Palma de Mallorca 1989]

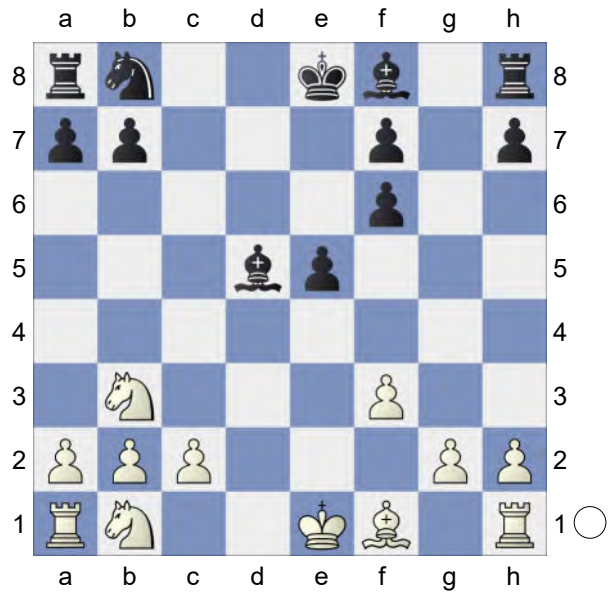
[8.Bb5+ Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' Nc6 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Qe2 Szigetvari,J-Stohl,I Kecskemet 1989 e4! 11.Bxf6 exf3 12.gxf3 gxf6 13.N1d2 0-0-0 14.0-0-0 Bh6∓]

8...gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5

[A model example of White's strategy is 9...Bxd5?! Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl, Igor' 10.Nc3 Bb4 11.Qd2 Be6 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8 13.0-0-0+ Kc7 14.Nd5+! Bxd5 15.Rxd5 Nd7 16.Bd3 Rag8 17.g3 h5 18.Be4 b6 19.Rhd1 Rd8 20.c3 Be7 21.Bf5 Nb8 22.Rxd8 Rxd8 23.Rxd8 Kxd8 24.h4 Na6 25.g4± /+-, Nisipeanu,L (2686)-Azmaiparashvili,Z (2679) Pune 2004

With passed pawns on both flanks even the ♕ can't save Black.]

10.Qxd5 Bxd5



11.Nc3

[11.Bb5+ Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' is not necessarily just a transposition:

A) 11...Nc6 12.Nc3 Be6 Arsovic,Goran: '- see 11.♗b5+'

A1) 13.Na5 a6 14.Ba4?! *(14.Bxc6+ bxc6 15.0-0-0∞)* 14...b5 15.Nxc6 bxa4 16.0-0-0 Rc8 17.Na5 a3 18.Nb3 a5 19.Nb5 axb2+ 20.Kxb2 Rg8 21.g3 a4↑ Meijer,W (1774)-Foy,J (1819) Chessfriend.com 2003;

A2) 13.0-0-0 -11.♘c3;

B) 11...Nd7 is also plausible and can transpose into the following note.;

C) Black has also 11...Bc6!? 12.Bd3 *(⌓12.Bxc6+ Nxc6 13.Ke2 0-0-0=)* 12...Nd7 13.N1d2 a5! 14.a3 a4 15.Nc1 Nc5 16.Bf5 Rg8 17.0-0 Rg5 18.Be4 0-0-0 19.Nd3 Bb5 20.h4 Rh5 21.g4 Rxh4 22.Kg2 Bh6 23.Kg3 Bg5 24.Bf5+ Kb8 25.Ne4 Nxe4+ 26.Bxe4 h5∓ Topalov,V (2760)-Nakamura,H (2779) Saint Louis blitz 2016]

11...Be6! Jonas Hacker: 'Now we will have a more detailed look at Black's most resilient option in the Endgame Variation.

' Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: '!'' Clearly the best. Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'Clearly the best."

[11...Bb4 Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' 12.0-0-0 Bxb3 13.cxb3!? Bxc3 14.bxc3↑]

[or 11...Bc6 Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' 12.0-0-0 Nd7 *(12...a6 13.Na5 Nd7 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Ne4 a5 16.g3 Be7 17.Nd6+ Kf8 18.Nxf7 Kxf7 19.Rxd7 Rhd8 20.Bh3 Rxd7 21.Bxd7 c5 22.Bf5 h6 23.Rd1 Rd8 24.Rxd8 Bxd8 25.Kd2 Ke7 26.Kd3 Kd6 27.Bh7 Bb6 28.g4 Bd8 29.Bg8 Bb6 30.Bc4 Bd8 31.Ke4 Bc7 32.Kf5 Ke7 33.h3 Bb8 34.Bd5 Bc7 35.Kg6+-* Hess,R (2588)-Andriasian,Z (2588) Chalkis 2010*)* 13.Nb5± *(or 13.Na5±* is exactly the type of endgame Black needs to avoid. *)*]

12.0-0-0

[For 12.Nb5!? Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' see Nabaty-Zubov]

[12.Bb5+ Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' Nd7!? *(12...Nc6 - see 11.♗b5+)*

A) 13.0-0-0 0-0-0 14.Nd5 *(14.Ne4 Be7 15.Bxd7+ Rxd7 16.Nbc5 Rxd1+ 17.Rxd1 Kc7 18.Rd3 Bc8 19.Rc3 Kb8 20.Rd3 Kc7 21.Rc3 f5 22.Nf6 Kd6 23.Nh5 Rg8 24.f4 e4 25.Nb3 Bd7 26.Rg3 Rg6 27.Nd4 Bh4 28.Rxg6+ fxg6∓* Czebe,A (2462)-Nakamura,H (2466) Budapest 2002 *)* 14...f5 15.Rhe1 Bh6+ 16.Kb1 Kb8 17.Nc3 Bg7 18.Na4 a6 19.Bxd7 Bxd7 20.Nb6 Be6 21.Nc5 Kc7 22.Nxe6+ fxe6

23.Na4 Kc6 24.Rd3 Rxd3 25.cxd3 Kd6∓ desperado,s (2611)-thamover, r (2688) 3m + 0s, rated 2010;

B) 13.Ne4 Ke7!? *(13...f5 14.Nf6+ Ke7 15.Nxd7 Bxd7 16.Bxd7 Kxd7 17.0-0-0+ Kc7 18.Rd5 f6 19.c4 Rd8 20.Rxd8 Kxd8 21.Kc2 Kc7 22.Rd1 h5⇄* Sacerdotali,S (2337)-Seris Granier Gonzales,M (2140) email 2004*; 13...Be7 14.Nbc5 Bxc5 15.Nxc5 0-0-0 16.Bxd7+* ½, Sonntag,H (2358)-Wegener,O (2443) Germany 2016*; 13...0-0-0 14.Bxd7+ Rxd7 15.Nxf6 Rd8∞ 16.Nd2 Bb4 17.c3 Be7 18.Nde4 h5 19.c4 Rh6 20.Nd5 Bxd5 21.cxd5 Rxd5 22.Ke2 Rg6 23.g3 Rb6 24.Rac1+ Kd7 25.Rc2 f5= /∓*, Gara,T (2265)-Horvath,A (2329) Hungary 2006*)* 14.0-0-0 Nb6 15.Nbc5 a6 16.Bd3 Rc8 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.g4 h5 19.g5 f5 20.Nd2 Bg7 21.Nf1 h4 22.Ne3 Kf7 23.Rhe1 Rhd8∓ nurgetraeumt,d (2448)-thamover,r (2610) Engine Room 2010]

12...Nc6 Jonas Hacker: 'As mentioned above, this is a branching point for Black. ' Anish is as always well prepared. Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'Anish is as always well prepared."

[Jonas Hacker: 'The alternative' Until now Black used to prefer 12...Nd7 Jonas Hacker: 'is examined in the next game.' Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' 13.Nb5 and now:

A) After 13...Ke7 14.Kb1 Bh6 he must still tread with care to neutralise White's pull:

A1) 15.Bd3 f5 *(15...a6 16.Nc3 Rac8 17.Be4 Nc5 18.Nxc5 Rxc5* Mastrovasilis,D (2607)-Milu, R (2421) Brasov 2011 *19.Nd5+ Bxd5 20.Bxd5±)* 16.Rhe1 Bg7 17.Nc7 Rac8 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.g4 e4 20.Bb5 Ne5 21.gxf5 a6 22.Bf1 exf3 23.Nd4 Rhd8 24.c3 f2 25.Re2 Kasparov,S (2521)-Stella,A (2447) Arco 2011 Nf3=;

A2) 15.Nc7 Rad8 16.Nd5+ Bxd5 17.Rxd5 Nc5 18.Bc4 Rxd5 *(18...Nxb3 19.Bxb3 Be3 20.Re1 Bf2 21.Rf1 Be3 22.a4 b6 23.Re1 Bf2 24.Re2 Bg1 25.g4 Rxd5 26.Bxd5 h5 27.h3 hxg4 28.hxg4 Rh2 29.Re1 Bf2 30.Rd1± * Lima,D (2525)-Braga,C (2426) Sao Paulo 2000*)* 19.Bxd5 Nxb3 20.axb3 b6 21.b4 *(21.Be4!?±)* 21...f5 22.c4 b5 23.cxb5 Be3 24.Kc2 f4 25.g3 Rd8 26.Rd1 h5 27.Bc6 Rxd1 28.Kxd1 fxg3 29.hxg3 Bf2= McShane,L (2615)-Lupulescu,C (2599) Novi Sad 2009;

B) ⌓13...Kd8!? should equalise, see Kravtsyv-Areshchenko.]

13.Bb5 Jonas Hacker: 'With his last move White is ready for two different types of plans.

1) Tactical plan: Grab some material with a well-timed Na5, threatening Nxc6 as well as Nxb7.

2) Strategic plan: Take on c6 at some point when Black must reply ...bxc6. Then Black will have many pawn islands and we can start transferring a knight to the c5-square or immediately begin playing against the pawn weaknesses.' Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: '-11.♘c3'' Other moves are harmless: Arsovic, Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'Other moves are harmless:"

[Jonas Hacker: 'Instead,' 13.Nd5?! Jonas Hacker: '?' '?' '?' Jonas Hacker:

'looks even more aggressive than 13 Bb5 because it attacks both c7 and f6. However, this is not the case. Black can defend successfully and obtain an excellent position.
QUESTION: Can you see how Black should respond?
ANSWER: Simply developing with' Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' 0-0-0! Jonas Hacker: ', when Black is already slightly better. 14...Bh6+ is in the air and the pin on the d-file is not easy for White to handle; e.g. after' 14.c4 *(14.Nxf6 Bh6+ 15.Nd2 Nb4∓* Jonas Hacker: '.') 14...f5 15.Bd3 Rg8 16.Rhg1 Nb4 17.Nxb4 Bxb4 18.g3 h5 19.Kc2 h4↑ Kasparov,S (2466)-Bozzali,E (2136) Venice 2007]
[13.Ne4 Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' Bh6+ 14.Kb1 Ke7
A) 15.Nec5 Rad8 *(15...b6 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Bb5 Rac8 18.Rd3 Rhd8 19.Rxd8 Kxd8 20.Rd1+ Ke7 21.c3 Rd8 22.Rxd8 Nxd8 23.Kc2 Be3=* Gara,T (2377)-Zakurdjaeva,I (2248) Germany 2013 *)* 16.Bd3 b6= *(16...Bc8!?∞)*;
B) 15.c3 Rhd8 16.Bb5 Rxd1+ 17.Rxd1 Rd8 18.Rxd8 Nxd8 19.Bd3 f5 20.Ng3 Kf6 21.Kc2 ½, Czebe,A (2491)-Gonzalez Acosta,B (2413) Budapest 2012 Nc6= /∓;
C) 15.Nbc5 Rad8 16.Bd3 Nb4 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.Be2 Nd5 19.g3 Rc8 20.c3 a6 21.Rhe1 ½, Meijer,W (1697)-Kovacevic,A (1943) Chessfriend.com 2004]

13...Rc8!? Jonas Hacker: '!' '!' '!' Jonas Hacker: 'With his last move, Black prevents both of our ideas for the moment, but we can continue the fight.' Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: '!?'' After a series of natural moves Giri opts for a rare continuation. Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'After a series of natural moves Giri opts for a rare continuation."
[Jonas Hacker: 'b)'However, the text move is better than 13...a6 Jonas Hacker: '?!' '?!' '?!' Arsovic, Goran: '- 68/(161)' 14.Bxc6+ Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' bxc6 15.Na5⩾ Arsovic,Goran: '⩾' 'Stohl,Igor: '⩾ " Stohl, Igor: ' ⩾ ' *(15.Ne4* employs plan number two with a slight initiative, proving that 13...a6 was just a waste of time.*)* 15...Bb4 16.Nxc6 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Bxa2 18.Rd6 Be6 19.Rf1!? *(19.c4 Kf8!? 20.Rhd1 Kg7 21.c5 Rhc8⇄ 22.Nd8 Rxc5 23.Rxe6 Rxd8=* Kasparov,S (2482)-El Gindy,E (2498) Abu Dhabi 2003*)* 19...a5 20.Kb2 a4 21.Ka3 0-0 22.f4± Kasparov,S (2485)-Von Meijenfeldt,B (2283) Groningen 2015 White still holds the initiative, in the resulting endgame he can play for a win without risk.]
[Other continuations allow us to employ our plans in an excellent way:
a) 13...Rd8? 14.Na5 and White can successfully employ plan number one, which in this case means that we are already winning material.]

14.Nd5 Jonas Hacker: 'This is a logical move and has been played several times. '
[Jonas Hacker: 'While looking for alternatives I came across' 14.Na5 Jonas Hacker: 'which I believe is an interesting and profound idea. Some years ago, I thought this knight move was premature and thus simply a mistake, but when I did some deeper analysis I found that it is a viable option.

If Black defends correctly, the position will be equal; if not, we have an excellent position. So, from a practical point of view, this is very satisfactory because it is Black who has to solve the problems. As a general thing to remember, the plan of ...Ke7 and developing the dark-squared bishop at h6 gives Black equality, while others leave White on top. Let's have a look at the details:' Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor'

A) 14...Bb4?! 15.Nxb7 Ke7 (the only move, otherwise White wins) 16.Bxc6 Rxc6 17.Nd5+ Bxd5 18.Rxd5 Rb8 19.Na5 Ra6 20.Nb3 Rxa2 21.Rhd1 and White controls the d-file while the rook on a2 makes a weird impression. White is better.;

B) 14...Ke7 15.Bxc6 *(* note that grabbing the b-pawn is inadvisable in view of *15.Nxb7? Bh6+ 16.Kb1 Nd4!* , when Black has a lot of counterplay on the b- and c-files and our minor piece is in danger; this is too much for a single pawn, very hard to play and thus not recommendable for White*)* 15...bxc6 employs our plan number two, creating isolated pawns and trying to play around them with our knights.;

C) 14...Bh6+ 15.Kb1 Ke7! and accepting the sacrifice Jonas Hacker: 'not' 16.Nxb7 Jonas Hacker: '?' '?' '?' *(16.Bxc6 bxc6* is similar to line 'b', though slightly less accurate, as Black has ruled out the useful option of pushing the h-pawn without moving the bishop again.*)* 16...Nd4! Jonas Hacker: '!' '!' '!' '!' '!' '!' Jonas Hacker: 'again' Jonas Hacker: ', when Black has a lot of counterplay on the b- and c-files and our minor piece is in danger; this is too much for a single pawn, very hard to play and thus not recommendable for White' 17.Ba4 Rhg8 18.g3 Bokros,A (2487)-Feher,A (2191) Harkany 2009would have given Black excellent compensation after the energetic 18...Rxc3! 19.bxc3 Nxf3 20.Na5 Nd2+ 21.Kb2 Rb8+⩲/∓]

14...f5! Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: '!" For the time being Black retains his bishops. Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'For the time being Black retains his bishops. "

[14...Bxd5?! Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl, Igor' 15.Rxd5 a6 16.Bxc6+ Rxc6 17.Rhd1↑ Seifert,V (2371)-Pakleza,Z (2340) Budva 2003]

[14...Be7 Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' 15.Rhe1 Kf8 16.Re2 Bd8 17.Red2 Kg7 18.Kb1 a6 19.Bxc6 bxc6 20.Nc3 Be7 21.Na4 Rcd8 22.Nac5 Bd5 23.Nxa6 f5 24.Nc7 Bg5 25.Rxd5!? cxd5 26.Nxd5± WOODIE,R (2654)-Asterix_2006,R (2745) 3m + 0s, rated 2007]

15.Na5N Jonas Hacker: '!?' '!?' '!?' Jonas Hacker: 'The same plan as before, but with the difference that Black no longer has ...Ke7 because of our knight on d5. However, Giri is well prepared and finds the most accurate defence.' Jonas Hacker: 'The same plan as before, but with the difference that Black no longer has ...Ke7 because of our knight on d5. However, Giri is well prepared and finds the most accurate defence. Arsovic, Goran: 'N"

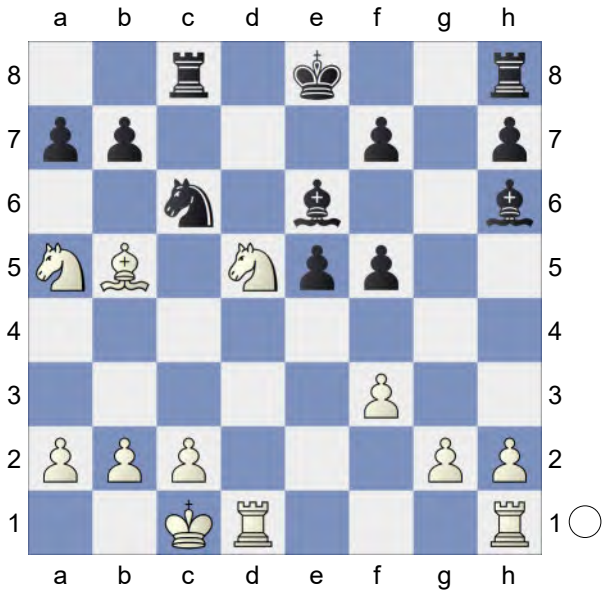
[15.Rhe1 a6 *(* Another plausible

move is *15...Bh6+* Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' *16.Kb1 Kf8∞)* 16.Bxc6+ bxc6 17.Nb6 Rb8 18.Na4 f6 Arsovic,Goran: ' ∞' Jonas Hacker: ' ∞' '∞' 19.Nac5 Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' Bd5 *(19...Bc8 20.Rd3 Be7 21.f4 Rb5 22.Rc3 Kf7 23.fxe5 fxe5 24.a4 Rb4 25.Nd3 e4 26.Ne5+ Kf6 27.Nxc6 Rxa4 28.Kb1 Bb4 29.Nxb4 Rxb4 30.Rc6+ Kg5∞* cfm,h (2566)-el-shaddai,h (2580) Engine Room 2012*)* 20.f4 Bh6 21.Nd4 Bxf4+ 22.Kb1 Bxh2 23.Nxf5 Rg8 *(Black could already repeat with 23...Rd8!? 24.Nb7 Rd7 25.Nc5=)* 24.Nxa6 Bxa2+ 25.Ka1 Be6 26.Nc7+ Kf7 27.Nh6+ Kg6 28.Nxg8 Bxg8 29.g3 f5 30.Rxe5 Bxg3 31.Rc5 ½, Da Fonseca,I (2133)-Puzone,M (2407) email 2013 h5 32.Rxc6+ Kg5≌]

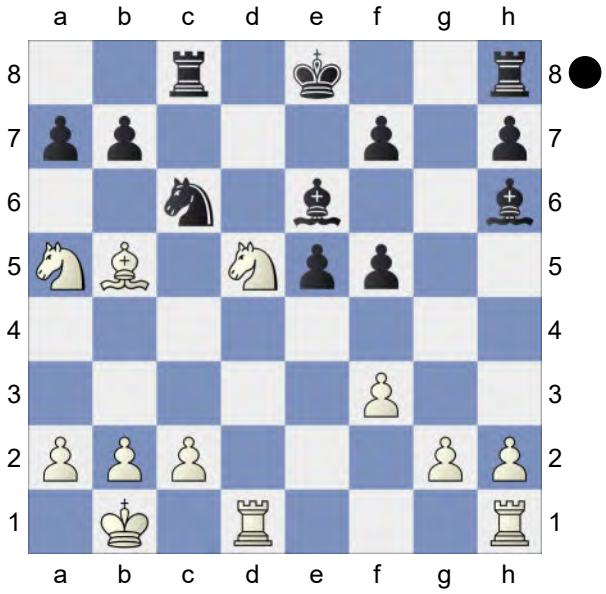
[15.Nf6+ Ke7 16.Nd5+ Jonas Hacker: ', as in R.Lagunov-S. Vaibhav, Barcelona 2019.'can lead to repetition, but Black also has Arsovic, Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'can lead to repetition, but Black also has'' Jonas Hacker: 'if Black is determined to play on, he must give up his light-squared bishop with' 16...Bxd5!? Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: '!?'' *(16...Ke8* Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' *17.Nf6+=)* 17.Rxd5 Ke6 Arsovic,Goran: ' = ' △18.Rhd1 Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' *(18.Rdd1=* Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor'*; 18.Rd3* , when the resulting position is equal but easier for White*)* 18...Nd4 19.Nxd4+ Kxd5 20.Nxf5+ *(20.Nb3+ Ke6 21.Bd7+ Ke7 22.Bxc8 Bh6+ 23.Kb1 Rxc8∓)* 20...Kc5∞ /∓]

15...Bh6+

(Diagram)



16.Kb1 Arsovic,Goran: 'Diagram



' **16...Kf8** Jonas Hacker: 'This is the only way to keep the balance.' Arsovic,Goran: '!' Jonas Hacker: 'This is the only way to keep the balance. Arsovic,Goran: '!'' **17.Nb3?!** Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: '?!'' The first concession. Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'The first concession.''

[≤17.Nxb7? Arsovic,Goran: '?' Arsovic, Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: ' ≤?'' Jonas Hacker: '?' '?' Nd4 18.Nc3 Rxc3 19.Rxd4 Rc7 20.Rd8+ Kg7 21.Rxh8 Rxb7 Arsovic,Goran: ' ∓' Jonas Hacker: ' ∓' '∓'

22.Bc6 Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' Rb6 23.Ra8 Rxc6 24.Rxa7 Rd6∓]

[Jonas Hacker: 'Sadly, we cannot hope for an opening advantage any longer, but we can go for our positional strategy with' ⩲17.Bxc6!? Arsovic,Goran: ' ⩲' Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: ' ⩲!?" bxc6 Jonas Hacker: 'with an equal game and a clear plan in mind.' 18.Nb4 c5 19.Nbc6 *(19.Nd5* Arsovic,Goran *Rg8 20.g3 Rg6∞)* 19...e4 Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' *(19...Rg8!?* Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: '!?'' *20.g3 e4⇄* Arsovic,Goran: ' ∞' Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: ' ⇄" Jonas Hacker: ' ∞' '∞'*)* 20.Nd8 Rg8∞ /=]

17...Kg7 18.Rhe1?! Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: '?!''Another inaccuracy. Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'Another inaccuracy."

[18.Nc5? Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' fails to Nd4-+ , but White should have prepared the knight sortie with the unprejudiced retreat]

[⩲18.Nc3! Δ ♘c5⇄ Arsovic,Goran: '(Stohl,Igor) Δ ♘c5⇄']

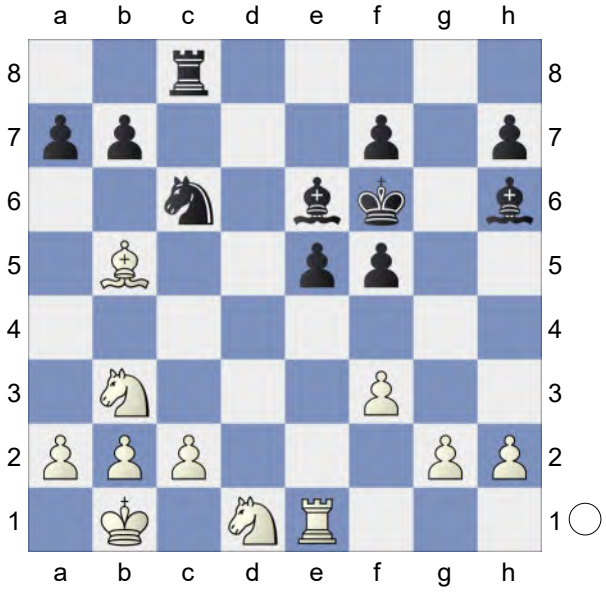
18...Rhd8 19.Nc3? Jonas Hacker: '?!' '?!' '?!' Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: '?" After the third mistake Giri firmly takes over. Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'After the third mistake Giri firmly takes over."

[19.c4!? Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: '!?" keeps more tension in the position, although after Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'keeps more tension in the position, although after'' Kf8 Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' *(19...Bg5* Arsovic,Goran *20.Nc5 Nd4∓ 21.Nxb7 Nxb5 22.Nxd8 Rxd8 23.Rxe5 Nc7 24.Nc3 Rxd1+ 25.Nxd1 Bxc4∓; 19...e4!?∓* Arsovic,Goran*)* △20.Nc5 Nd4 21.Nxb7 Nxb5 22.Nxd8 Rxd8 23.Rxe5 Nc7∓ Black is already on top.]

19...Rxd1+ 20.Nxd1

[20.Rxd1 Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' a6∓ is similar, the powerful bishops force White on to the defensive.]

20...Kf6



Jonas Hacker: 'The last few moves by Harikrishna were a bit passive, so Black is better now - his centre is strong and the bishops do an excellent job.

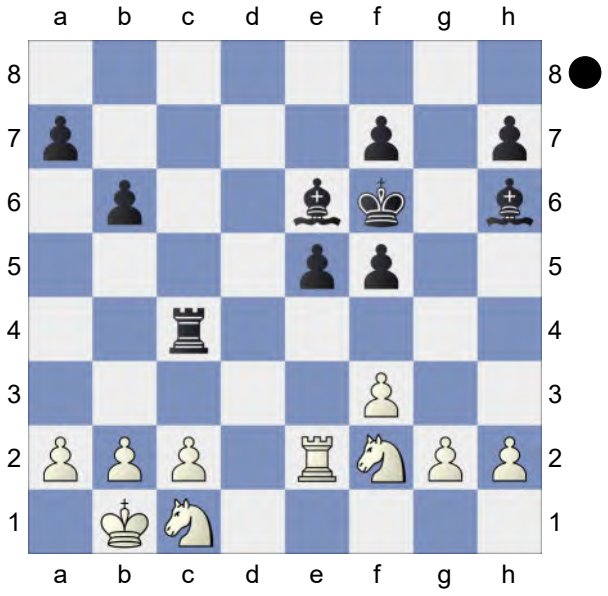
' Arsovic,Goran: ' ∓' Jonas Hacker: 'The last few moves by Harikrishna were a bit passive, so Black is better now - his centre is strong and the bishops do an excellent job.

Arsovic,Goran: ' ∓" **21.Bxc6** White finally swaps the b5-bishop, but in comparison with 17.♗xc6!? he only tries to stem Black's growing pressure. Arsovic, Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'White finally swaps the b5-bishop, but in comparison with 17.♗xc6!? he only tries to stem Black's growing pressure."

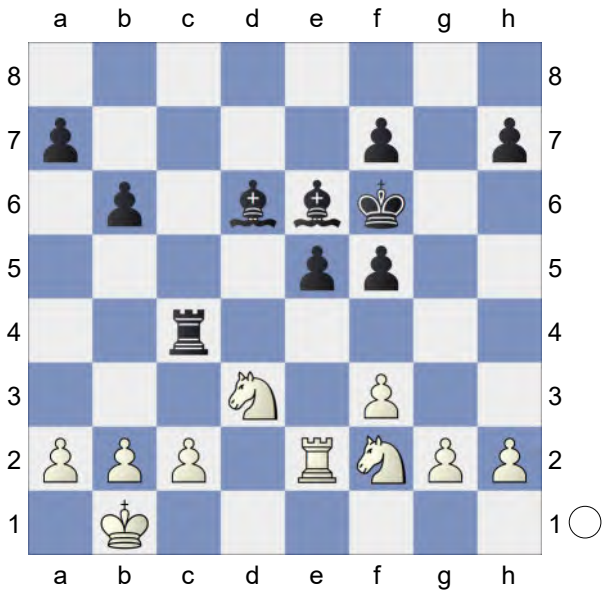
[21.Nc5? Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' Nd4 22.Nxe6 Nxb5-+]

[21.c3 Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' Ne7!↑]

21...Rxc6 22.Nf2 Rc4 23.Re2 b6 24.Nc1 Arsovic,Goran: 'Diagram



' **24...Bf8** Arsovic,Goran: '!' **25.Ncd3 Bd6**



26.b3 Rc8∓ Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: '∓" **27.g4** Black had a clear plan to improve his position. With the somewhat desperate text move Harikrishna wants to get central outposts for his bishop pair and counterplay. Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'Black had a clear plan to improve his position. With the somewhat desperate text move Harikrishna wants to get central outposts for his bishop pair and counterplay."

[27.c4 Arsovic,Goran Bd7 28.Nd1 Bc6 29.Nc3 h5∓]

27...Bd5 28.Ne1 Bb4!? Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: '!?"

[More concrete than 28...Bb7 Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' 29.gxf5 Kxf5∓]

[28...Bc6!? Arsovic,Goran 29.gxf5 Kxf5 30.Ne4 Rd8 31.Nd3 f6∓]

29.gxf5 Kxf5 Arsovic,Goran: '∓' **30.Ng2**

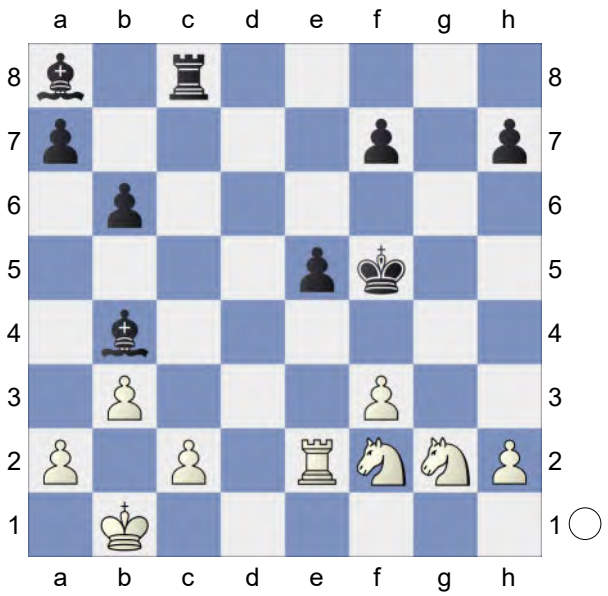
[30.Ne4 Bxe1! 31.Nd6+ *(31.Rxe1 Kf4∓)* 31...Kf4 32.Nxc8 Bb4∓ Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: ' ∓" and the connected passed pawns, supported by the bishop pair should decide the game. Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'and the connected passed pawns, supported by the bishop pair should decide the game.'' 33.Rg2 Arsovic,Goran f5∓]

[30.Ned3 Arsovic,Goran Bc3∓]

30...Ba8! Black has no need to hurry. Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'Black has no need to hurry."

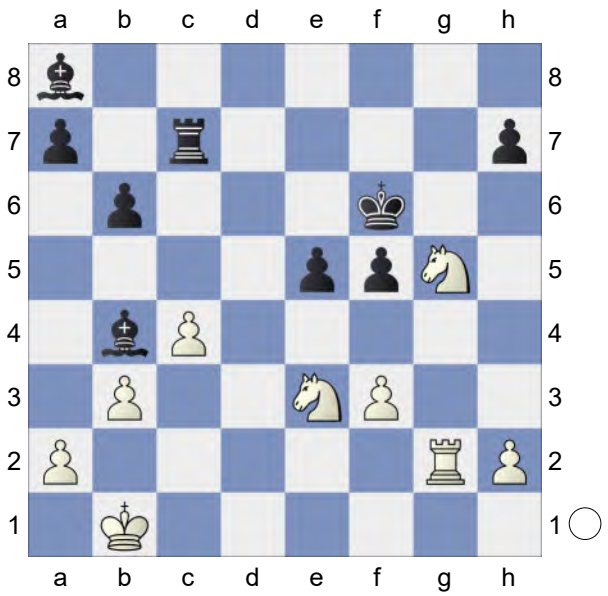
[30...Bxf3? Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' 31.Nh4+ Kf4 32.Nd3+ Kg4 33.Nxf3=]

(Diagram)



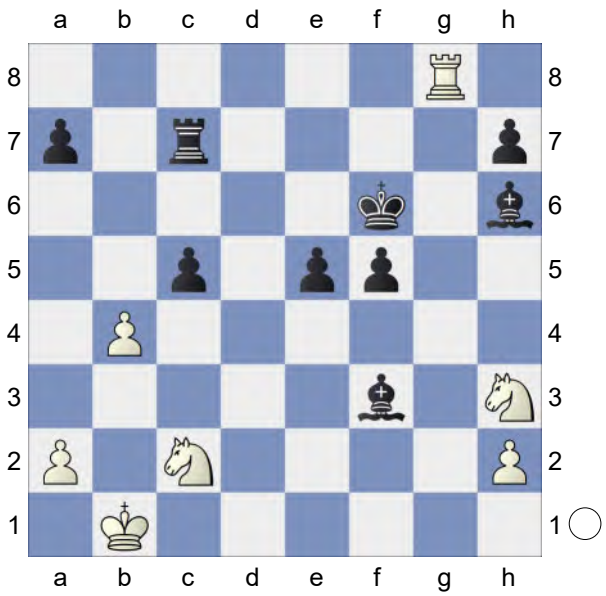
Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: '!'' **31.c4 f6** Jonas Hacker: 'The knights have no outposts, so the bishops are clearly superior, and in trying to improve his knights Harikrishna ends up making things worse.
' **32.Ne4 Ke6 33.Ne3** Jonas Hacker: '?!' '?!' '?!' **33...f5!** Arsovic,Goran: '-+' Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: '!'' **34.Ng5+ Kf6 35.Rg2**
[35.Nxh7+ Kg6 Arsovic,Goran: '-+' Jonas Hacker: '-+' '-+' 36.Nc2 Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor' Bd6 *(36...Bxf3 37.Rxe5 Be4-+)* 37.Rd2 Bb8-+]
35...Rc7

(Diagram)

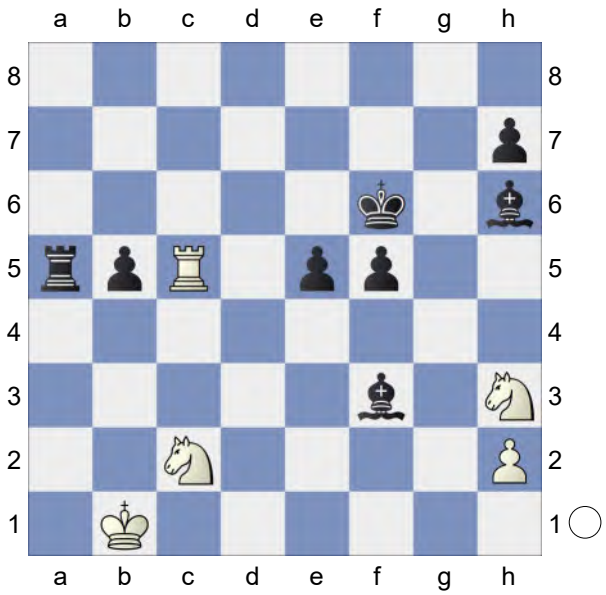


36.Nc2 Bc5! Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: '!'' **37.b4 Bf8** White's weaknesses are untenable, as his knight can't find any footholds. Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'White's weaknesses are untenable, as his knight can't find any footholds.'' **38.Nh3 Bxf3-+** Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl, Igor: '-+''Black wins a pawn and the rest is simple, as he will soon increase his material plus.
Arsovic,Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'Black wins a pawn and the rest is simple, as he will soon increase his material plus.
'' **39.Rg8 Bh6**
[39...Be7-+ Arsovic,Goran]
40.c5 bxc5

(Diagram)

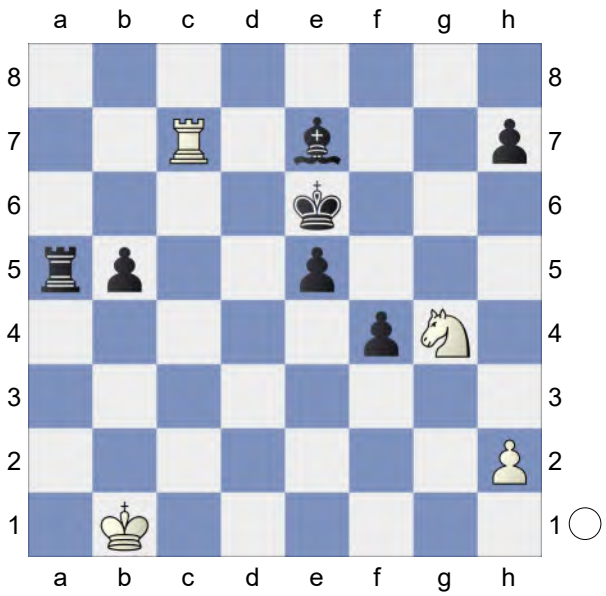


41.b5 Rb7 42.a4 a6 43.Rc8 axb5 44.a5 Ra7 45.Rxc5 Rxa5

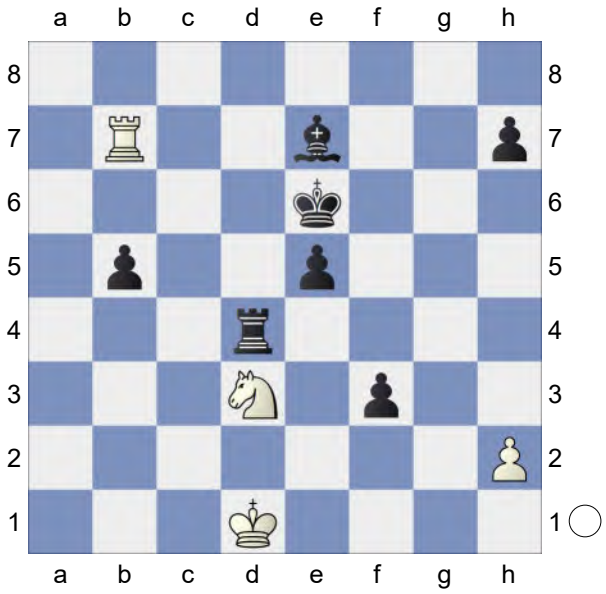


46.Nf2 Bf8 47.Rc7 Be7 48.Ne3 f4 49.Neg4+ Bxg4 50.Nxg4+ Ke6

(Diagram)

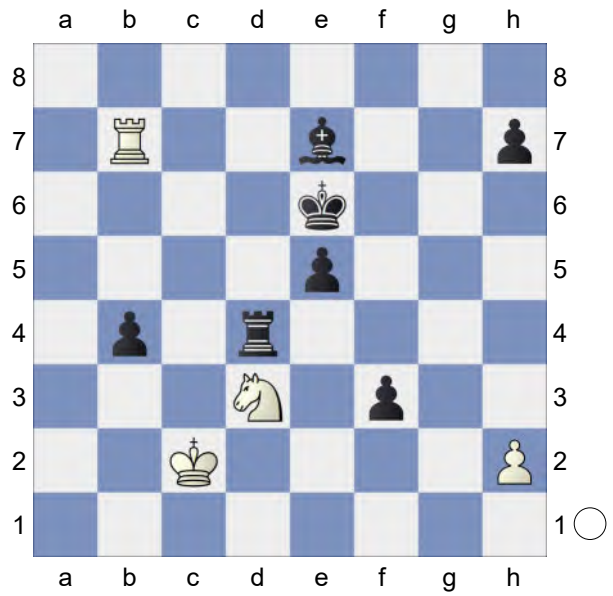


Finally the bishop pair is history, but White's position is in ruins. Arsovic, Goran: 'Stohl,Igor: 'Finally the bishop pair is history, but White's position is in ruins." **51.Nf2 Ra4 52.Rb7 Rb4+ 53.Kc2 f3 54.Nd3 Rc4+ 55.Kd1 Rd4**



56.Kc2 b4

(Diagram)



0-1

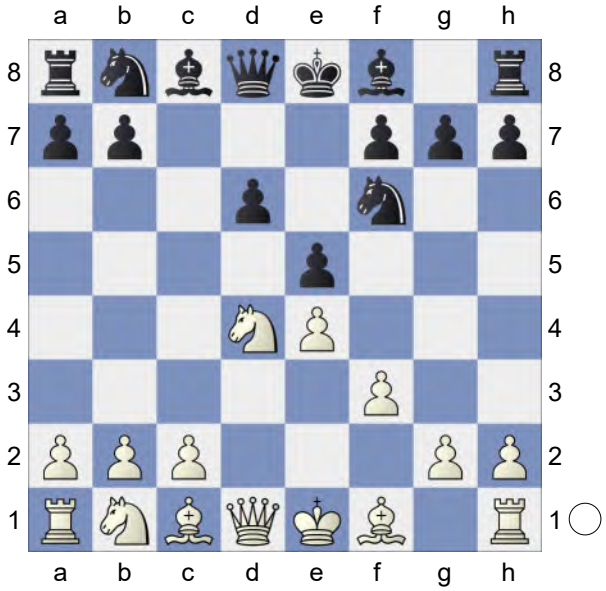
108 **B54**
□ **Andreikin,Dmitry** **2727**
■ **Tazbir,Marcin** **2561**
Universiade Men (9.9) 15.07.2013
[Jonas Hacker]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

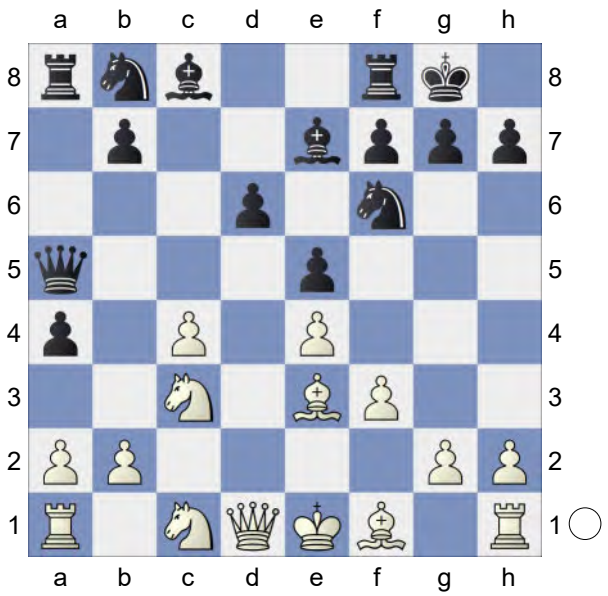
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



6.Nb3 Be7 7.c4 0-0 8.Nc3 a5 9.Be3 a4 10.Nc1 The position is equal.
10...Qa5

(Diagram)



11.Qd2 Be6

[If Black wants to prevent an immediate b2-b4 and force White to spend time on Rb1, then 11...Nc6 is the way to go, as in Game 24.]

12.b4! axb3 This time rather than retreat the queen Black takes en passant.

[12...Qxb4? 13.Rb1 Qa5 14.Bb6 Nxe4 *(14...Qa6? 15.Nd5+-)* 15.fxe4+-]

13.Nxb3 An interesting pawn structure has arisen. At first sight it appears that White now has more weaknesses, but this is not the case. He can play Nd5 at some point and recapture with the c-pawn if Black exchanges on d5. Then both players have one weak pawn on the queenside, but White has more pieces to join the fight because the central pawn chain cuts off Black's minor pieces from that flank.

13...Qd8

[After 13...Qc7 the queen is more exposed to ideas of Nb5 or Nd5.]

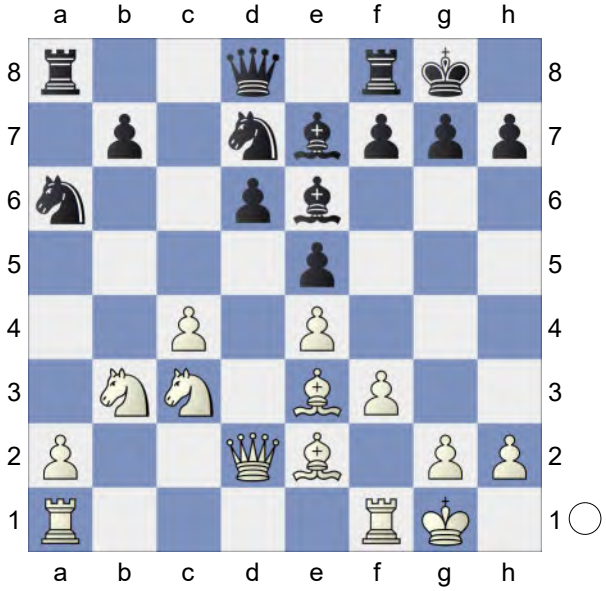
[Instead, 13...Qa3 14.Nb5

A) 14...Qa4 is an interesting way to keep the queen more active. 15.Nc7 looks good, but then Black sacs the exchange with counterplay; e.g. Nbd7 ...d5! is the strong threat. 16.Nxa8 Rxa8 17.Qd1 b5 18.Nd2 with a dynamic balance. *(18.--? -2.49/18 18.Nd2 -0.12)*;

B) 14...Qa4= 0.14/23;

C) Note that the immediate sac 14...Qxb3? 1.03/21 is insufficient, as after 15.axb3± Rxa1+ 16.Kf2 Nbd7 17.Rg1! White is ready to unpin the bishop, so Black does not have enough compensation.]

14.Be2 Na6 15.0-0 Nd7



16.Nb5 0.19/18

[The immediate 16.Nd5 does not achieve much, since Black switches to a typical dark-squared strategy with h6!? 17.Qb2 Bg5 18.Bf2 and, in contrast to the game, White has no pressure on the d-file.]

[16.Rfb1± 0.52/20]

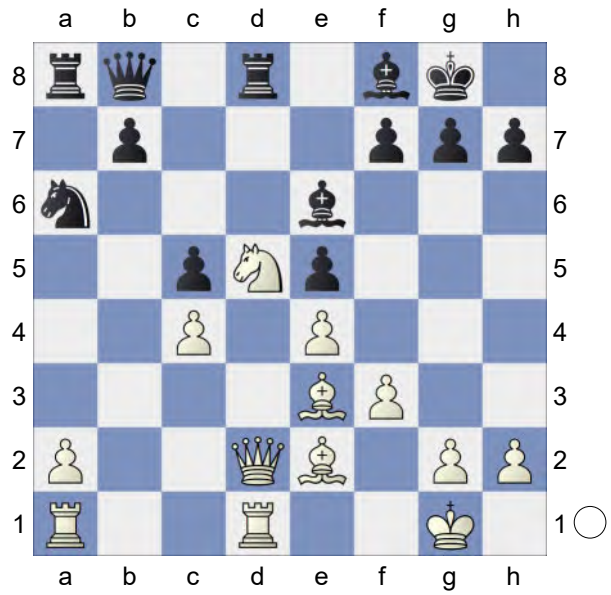
16...Ndc5= 17.Rfd1 Qb8 18.Nxc5 dxc5

[Here 18...Nxc5 was better, allowing White to take the d-pawn, as after 19.Nxd6 Qxd6 20.Qxd6 Bxd6 21.Rxd6 Nb3! 22.Rb1 Rxa2 23.Bd3

Na5 Black is close to equality.]

19.Nc3 Now that there is no target on the d-file, White sends his knight back round to the outpost on d5.

19...Rd8 20.Nd5 Bf8



21.Qb2 0.32/19 0x0.0025d93fa487dp-1022s more active pieces.

[21.a3 0.67/21 was preferrable.]

21...Nb4± In similar fashion Black starts to bring his knight to d4, but to achieve that he must give up a pawn.

22.Rdb1 Nc6

[Here 22...Ra7! is an interesting try to prepare 23...Nc6 without sacrificing the b7-pawn. White can win the exchange with 23.Nxb4 cxb4 24.Bxa7 Qxa7+ 25.Kh1 and must be slightly better, but it wouldn't be easy to make progress.]

[Obviously not 22...Nxd5? 1.47/23 22...Ra7 0.37 23.cxd5 and White has a strong protected passed pawn to go with his pressure on the b-file.]

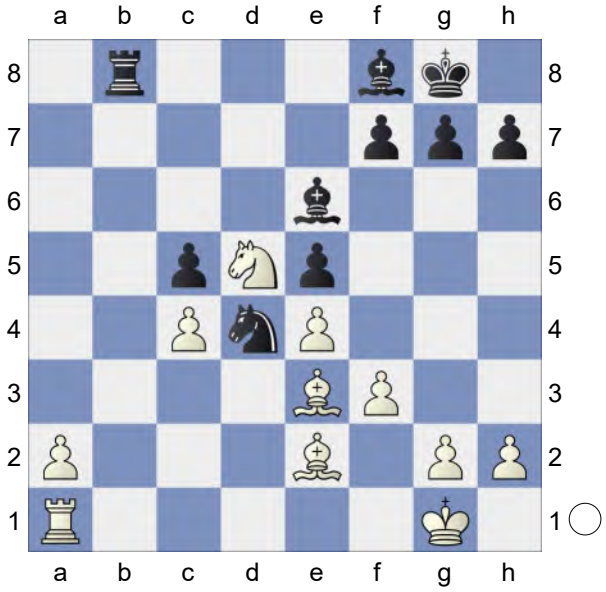
23.Qxb7 Nd4 0.87/19

[23...Qd6± 0.46/20]

24.Qxb8± Rdxb8 Black threatens to win the pawn back, so White must find a way to prevent it

25.Rxb8 Rxb8

[Not 25...Nxe2+ 1.92/23 25...Rxb8 0.93 26.Kf2 Rxb8 27.Kxe2 , as exchanging the strong knight only makes things worse for Black.]



26.Bd1 Bc8 Planning to target the c4-pawn.

[26...Rb2 1.29/21 26...Bc8 0.61 has no threat and White simply pushes the a-pawn.]

27.Ba4

[Another possibility was 27.Bd2 , intending Ba6 28.Bb3! Bc8 *(not 28...Nxb3?* 1.56/23 28...Bb7 0.64 *29.axb3* and the a6-bishop is attacked *)* 29.Kf2

A) not 29...Nxb3? 1.60/21 29...f5 0.82 30.axb3 and the pawn still cannot be captured due to Rxb3? 6.15/23 *(30...f5±* 1.48/19 *31.Bc3 fxe4)* 31.Ra8+- Be6 32.Ne7+! and wins;

B) Black should try 29...h5 0.76/20;

C) 29...Be6 1.26/20 30.Bc3 with an edge for White.]

27...Rb2 Against Bb5

[On 27...Ba6 0.77/18 27...Ra8 0.44 , White planned 28.Bxd4 cxd4 29.Bb5! Bxb5 30.Rb1 and wins.]

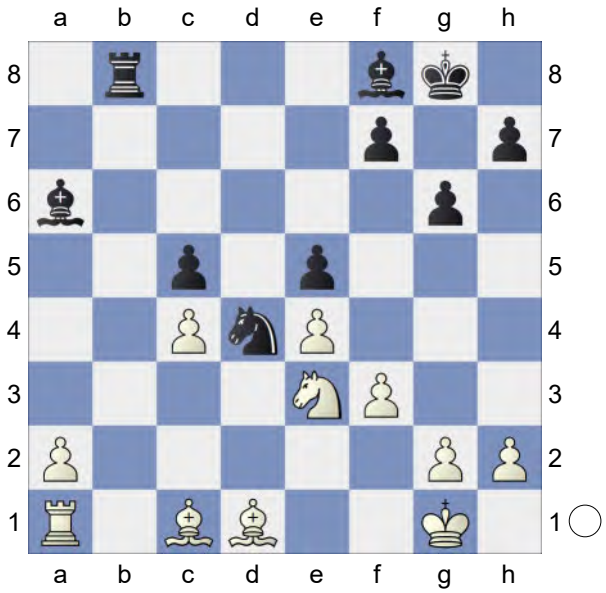
28.Bd1 0.01/22

[Better is 28.Bxd4± 0.58/19 cxd4 29.c5]

28...Ba6 0.64/20

[28...Rb8!= 0.01/22]

29.Bc1 Rb8 30.Ne3 g6

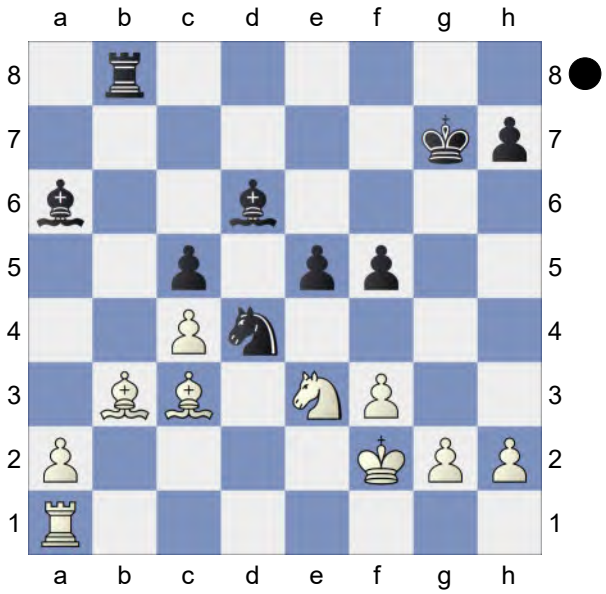


31.Bb3 Kg7

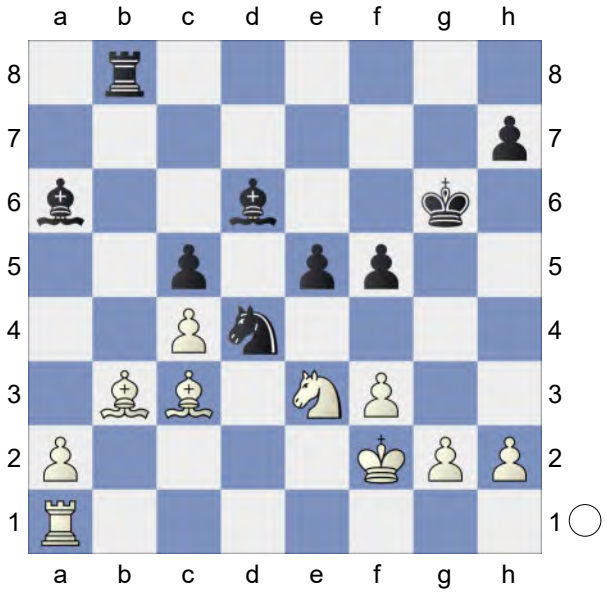
[I would prefer 31...Bh6! , improving the bishop according to the principle that everybody must join the game. After 32.Kf2 Kg7 Black has one more active piece than in the game.]

32.Kf2 Bd6 33.Bd2 f5 34.exf5 gxf5 35.Bc3

(Diagram)



Threatens to win with Bxd4. **35...Kg6**



36.Rd1 Bf8 37.g4 fxg4 38.Nxg4 Nxb3?? 2.18/21 Entirely the wrong moment to take the bishop.

[After 38...Kf5! Black is only slightly worse.]

[38...Kf5± 0.39/21]

39.Nxe5+!+- A nice zwischenzug, which wins.

[And not 39.axb3 Rxb3 40.Nxe5+ Kf5=]

[39.Bxe5 Re8 40.axb3 h5=]

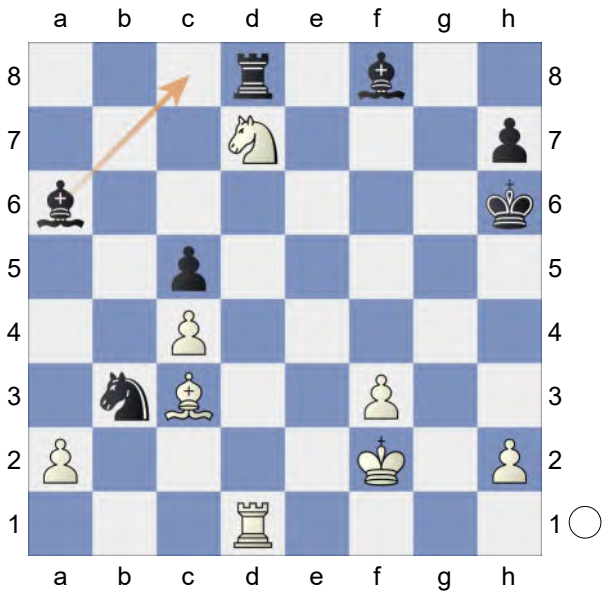
39...Kh6 3.26/22

[⌓39...Kf5 2.22/23]

40.Nd7 And one more zwischenzug.

[Less strong is 40.axb3 Rxb3 41.Bd2+ Kg7±]

40...Rd8



41.axb3 Bc8 It looks as if White has got in trouble with his pinned knight, but actually there is a good solution.

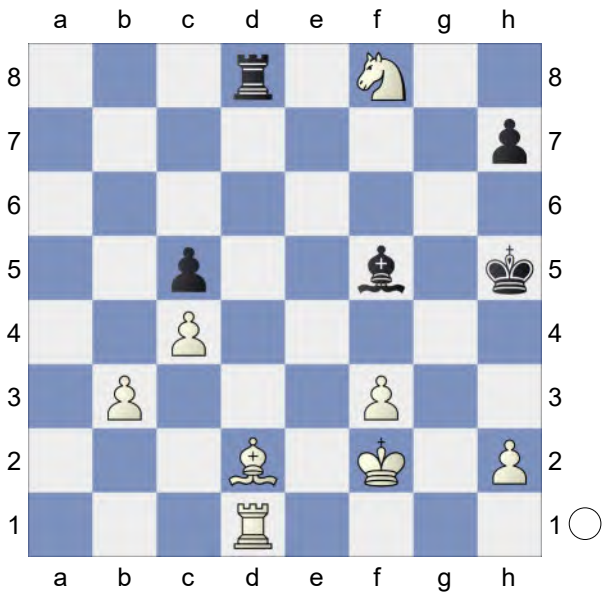
QUESTION: Can you spot how to solve the problem with the pin?

ANSWER: **42.Bd2+! Kh5** Now the knight can move again and White enjoys his two extra pawns.

43.Nf6+ 2.08/23

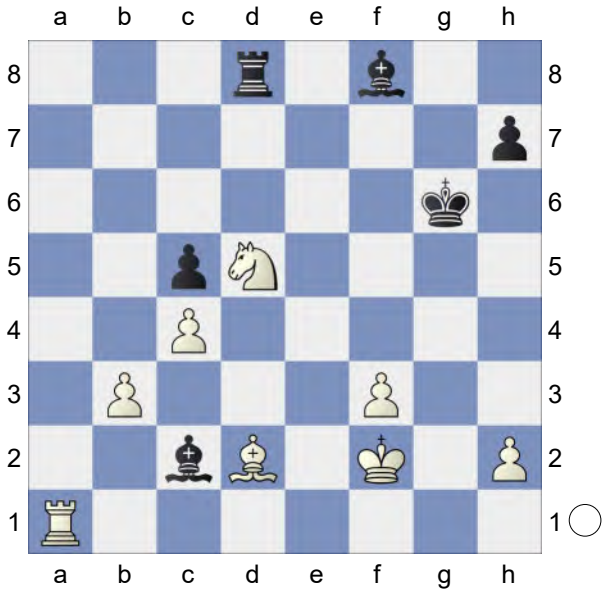
[⌓43.Nxf8 3.57/24 Bf5

(Diagram)



44.Kg3!]

43...Kg6 44.Nd5 Bf5 45.Ra1 Bc2

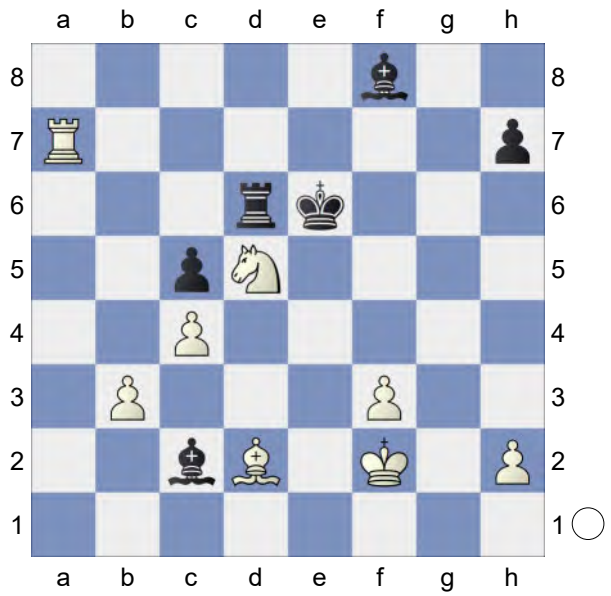


46.Ra6+ Rd6 47.Ra3 Rd7 48.Ra6+? -0.01/19

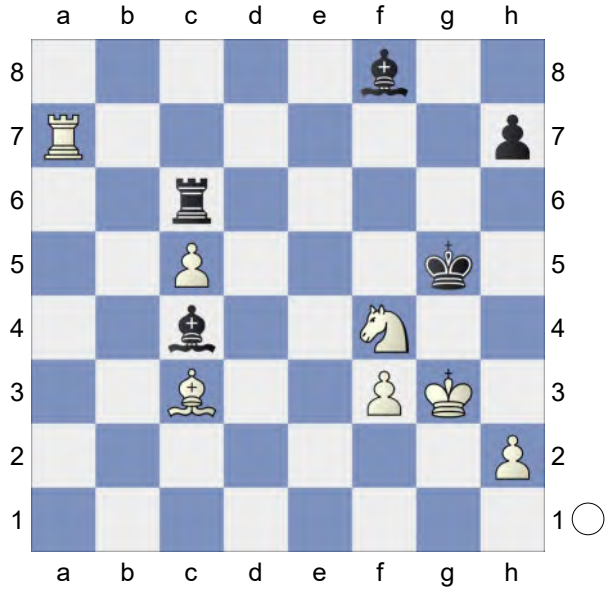
[48.Be3+- 2.04/21]

48...Rd6= 49.Ra8 Kf7 50.Ra7+ Ke6

(Diagram)

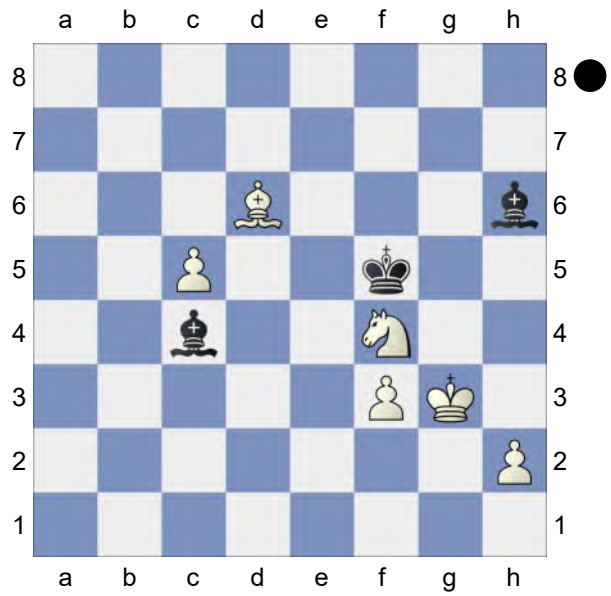


51.b4 Bb3 52.bxc5 Rc6 53.Nf4+
[Don't do 53.Rxh7 Bxc5+ 54.Be3 Bxc4 55.Nf4+ Ke5 56.Rh5+ Kd6 57.Bxc5+ Rxc5 58.Rxc5 Kxc5+-]
53...Kf6? 9.38/23
[53...Ke5 3.65/23]
54.Bc3++- Kg5 55.Kg3 Bxc4



56.Rxh7 Rh6 Prevents Rh5+. **57.Rxh6 Bxh6 58.Be5 Kf5 59.Bd6**

(Diagram)



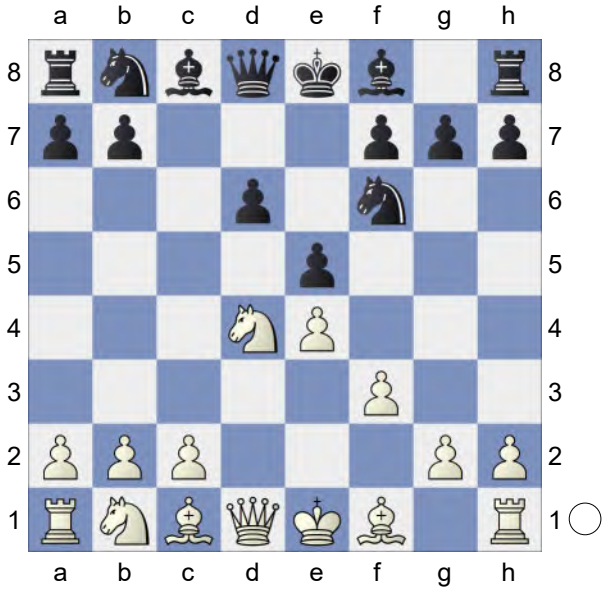
Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.21 (precise)
1-0

109 **B55**
□ **Vitiugov,Nikita** **2721**
■ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2710**
TCh-CZE Extraliga 2017-18 (7.4) 10.2.18
[Sam Collins]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53))
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4*

16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 Be6 A new move for us, with 6...d5, 6...Be7 and 6...a5 being discussed in the Archives. **7.c4 Nbd7**

[7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]

8.Be3 b5!?

[Varying from the more common 8...Rc8 9.Nc3! Bxc4 10.Bxc4 Rxc4 11.Qd3 , which seems to give White excellent compensation for the pawn.

A) 11...Rc8 12.0-0-0 -0.04/19 *(12.0-0* 0.29/18 is more appropriate.*)* 12...a6 0.34/20 *(12...d5=* -0.04/19 was preferrable.*)* 13.g4 b5 14.Kb1 b4 0.73/20 was tried in P. Michalik - S.Sethuraman, Czech Republic 2016 (1-0 in 51) and now *(14...Be7±* 0.36/19 *)* 15.Ne2± is best - the extra pawn isn't felt at all, while White's attack looks much stronger.;

B) 11...Rc6 12.0-0-0 Be7 13.g4 0-0 14.Kb1 a6 led to White wins after 15.h4 (W.So - V.Topalov, Leuven 2016, 1-0 in 38) and 15.g5 (V.Anand -R.Jumabayev, Doha 2016, 1-0 in 52).]

A natural reaction, developing the last minor piece. **9.Na3**

[9.cxb5 d5! and White risks being overrun in the centre. 10.N1d2 *(10.Be2 d4 11.Bd2 Nb6* and the knight comes to c4 with good compensation: J. Percze - I.Firnhaber, GER email 2016 (1/2-1/2 in 33)*)* 10...dxe4 11.fxe4 Here 11...Bb4 was tested in older games like F.Vallejo Pons - M.Roeder, Havana 1999 (1-0 in 33), but modern engines display a strong preference for Ng4! 12.Bg1 Bb4 13.Qf3 0-0 14.a3 Bxd2+ 15.Nxd2 Rc8⩲ with full compensation in F.Fritsche - E.Van't Hof, ICCF email 2013 (1/2-1/2 in 24).]

[9.c5 -0.17/17 9.Na3 0.26 a6 10.cxd6 Qb8 11.Be2 Bxd6 12.0-0 0-0 is completely fine for Black as in M. Andersen - I.Teplyi, Skorping 2017 (1/2-1/2 in 31) and A.Yeritsyan - V.

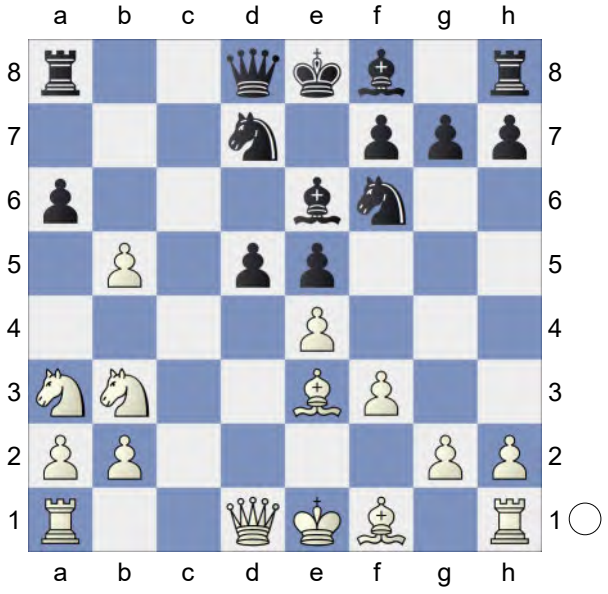
Korchmar, Voronezh 2017 (0-1 in 25).]

9...a6 10.cxb5 White has an edge.

[10.Be2 0.00/20 10.cxb5 0.37 Be7 *(*Deviating from *10...b4* which was played in an earlier email game K. Neven - S.Semenov, ICCF email 2007 (1-0 in 32).*)* 11.0-0 0-0 12.cxb5 axb5 13.Bxb5 d5! Prevents Bc4. 14.Bc6 dxe4! 15.Bxa8 Qxa8⩲ with full positional compensation for the exchange in L. Castellano -T. Makowski, ICCF email 2013 (0-1 in 53).]

[10.Bd3 Rc8 0.50/19 *(Black should play 10...b4=* -0.02/18 *11.Nc2 a5)* 11.Rc1 -0.15/20 *(11.cxb5±* 0.50/19 *axb5 12.Bxb5)* 11...b4= 12.Nc2 a5 was fine for Black in G.Hechl -J. Skuhala, ICCF email 2015 (1/2-1/2 in 67).]

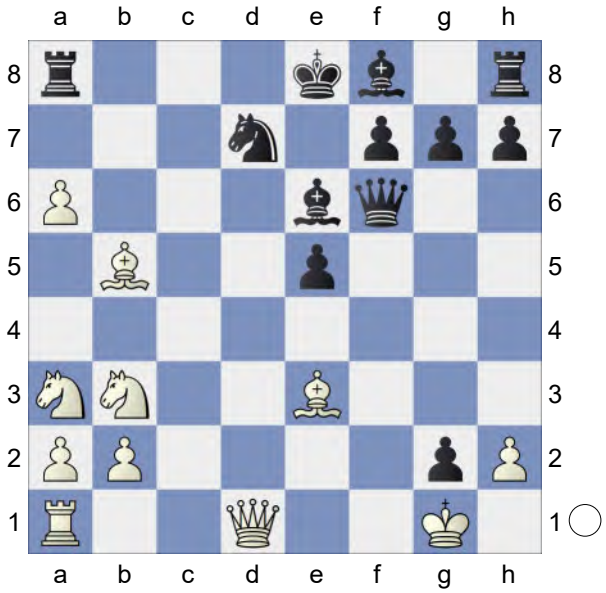
10...d5!



11.bxa6 dxe4 12.Bb5 Nd5! 0.91/18

[12...exf3 1.15/20 12...Bb4+ 0.28 13.0-0!± leads to a very strong initiative, for example *(13.Qxf3?* -0.04/19 13.0-0 0.85 *Bb4+ 14.Bd2 Bxd2+! 15.Nxd2 0-0!* and Black will collect the a6-pawn after .. .Nc5, with an excellent game. *)* 13...fxg2 14.Rxf6!

A) In the endgame after 14...Qxf6 1.43/19 14...gxf6 1.10

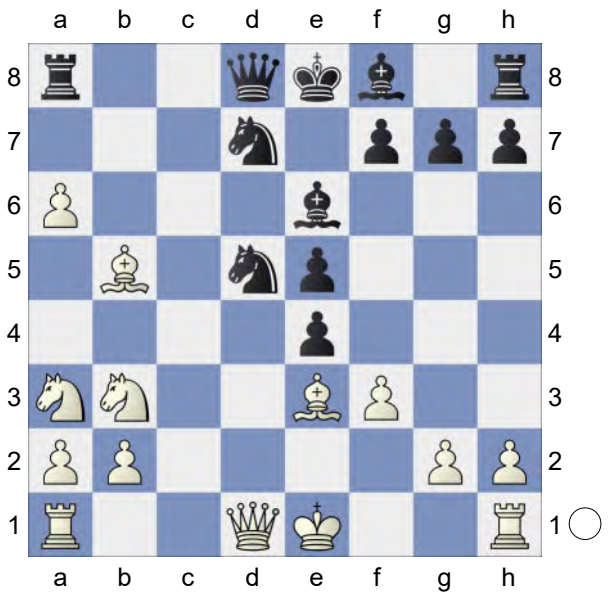


15.Nc4! aiming for Nb6. Qf1+ 2.12/5 *(15...Bb4±* 1.19/17 *)* 16.Qxf1+- gxf1Q+ 17.Rxf1± the a6-pawn is a huge asset.;

B) 14...gxf6 15.Qf3 And now Nc4 would win. Bxa3 1.31/19 *(15...Be7±* 0.56/17 *)* 16.bxa3± 0-0 2.19/19 *(16...e4±* 1.20/17 might work better. *17.Qxg2 Qc7)* 17.Rd1+- and Black's position collapses.]

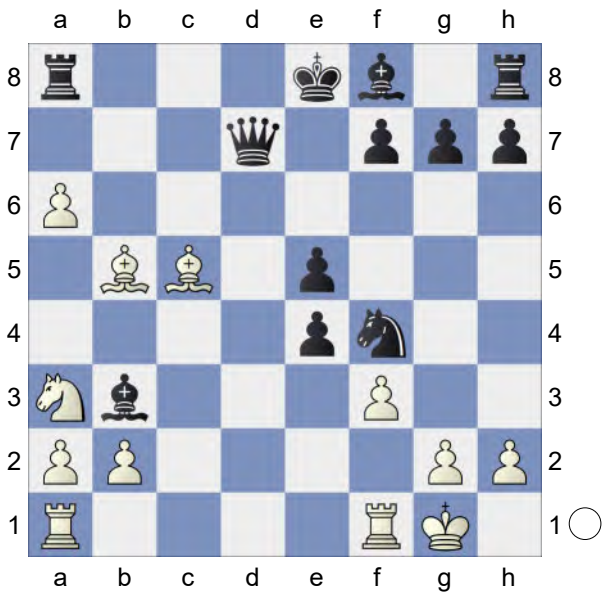
[12...Bb4+= 0.29/19 13.Bd2 Bxd2+ 14.Qxd2 *(14.Nxd2 exf3 15.Qxf3 0-0=)* 14...0-0]

(Diagram)

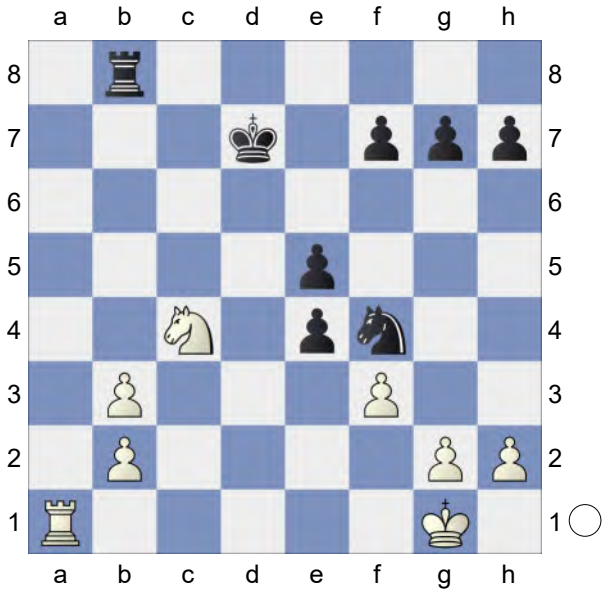


13.Bc5!± Nf4 1.20/19 I haven't found any route to a white advantage.
[⌓13...Nc7 0.88/17]
14.0-0 -0.01/19
[14.Qd2 0.66/17 14.Bxf8 1.19 exf3 15.gxf3 Qh4+ 16.Qf2 0.47/17 *(16.Bf2± 0.91/19 Ng2+ 17.Kd1)* 16...Qxf2+± 17.Kxf2 allows Black the cute equalising shot. Hoping for Rhd1. Nd3+! 18.Bxd3 Bxc5+ 19.Nxc5 Nxc5 20.Bb5+ Ke7=]
[14.Bxf8± 1.20/19 Black must now prevent Bc5. Kxf8 15.Qd6+ *(15.fxe4 Nxg2+ 16.Kf2 Nf4∓)* 15...Qe7 16.Qxe7+ Kxe7 17.0-0 *(17.fxe4 Nxg2+ 18.Kf2 Nf4±)*]
14...Bxb3= 15.Qxd7+ 0.60/5
[15.Bxd7+= 0.01/22 Qxd7 16.Qxd7+ Kxd7 17.Bxf8 Rhxf8 18.axb3 Rxa6 19.fxe4]
15...Qxd7±

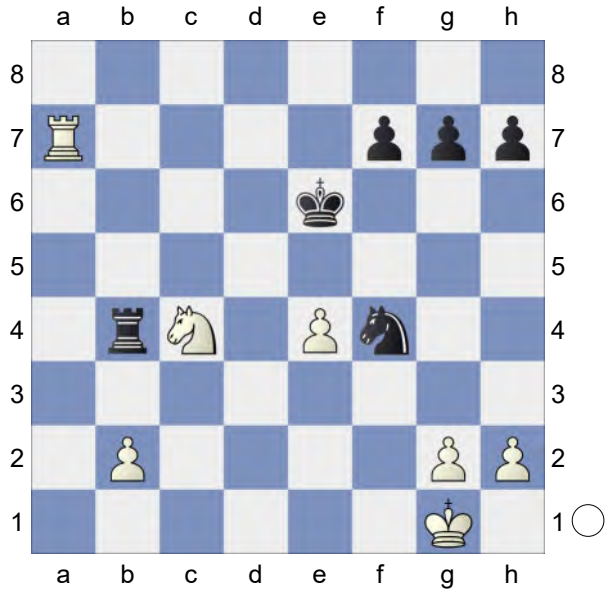
(Diagram)



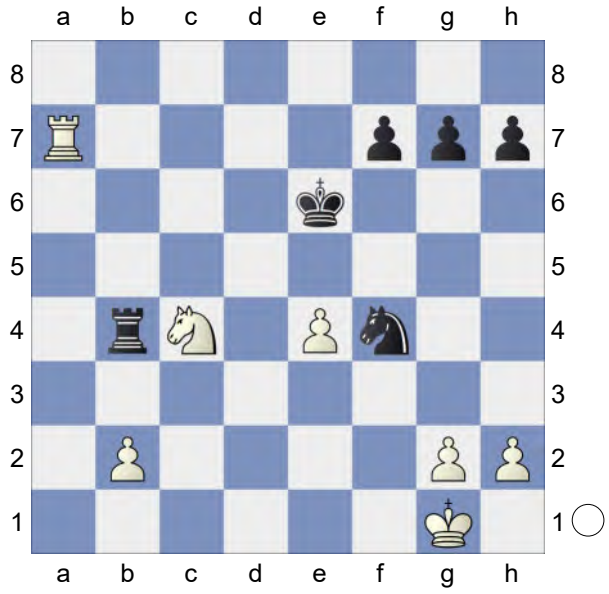
16.Bxf8 The position is equal.
[16.Bxd7+ seems wilder. Kxd7 17.Bxf8 Rhxf8 18.axb3 Rxa6 19.Nc4]
16...Rxf8 17.axb3 Chess con chili.
17...Rxa6! Threatens to win with ...Rc6!
18.Bxd7+ Kxd7 The complications have fizzled out to a level endgame.
19.Nc4
[19.fxe4 Black should prevent Nc4. Rfa8=]
19...Rxa1 20.Rxa1= Endgame KRN-KRN **20...Rb8**



21.fxe4 Rxb3 22.Nxe5+ Ke6 23.Nc4 Rb4 24.Ra6+ Ke7 25.Ra7+ Ke6



26.Ra6+ Ke7 27.Ra7+ Ke6



A very well played game by both players, who dodged several bullets.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.07 (flawless)
½-½

110 **B55**
□ **Vitiugov,Nikita** **2721**
■ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2710**
Cesko 135/67 2018
[Kitty Kat]

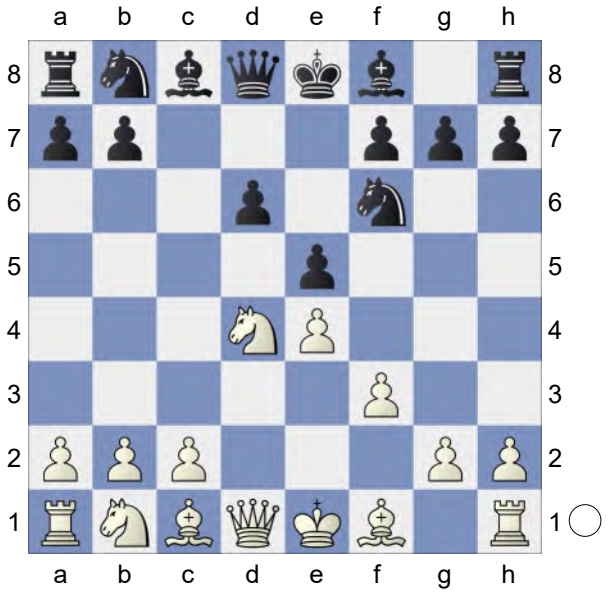
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

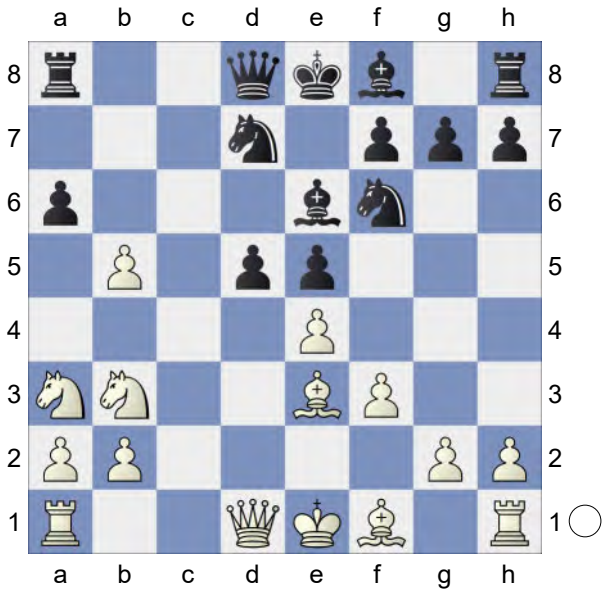
[5...e6 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 Bd8 *(17...d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3* 1-0 (27) 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]*)* 18.Kh1 Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 6.?e3 e5 7.d5_52474-Murshed,N Krasnaya Polyana (m/1) 149/26 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] ½-½ (40)]

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ?a6 8.?e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53)*)* 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.?ad1 ?b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244

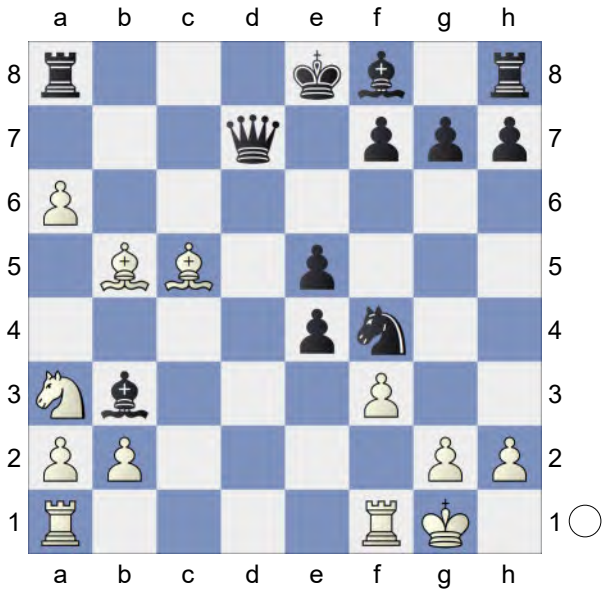
1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] ½-½]



6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 Nbd7
[7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]
8.Be3 b5 9.Na3 a6 10.cxb5
White is slightly better. **10...d5**

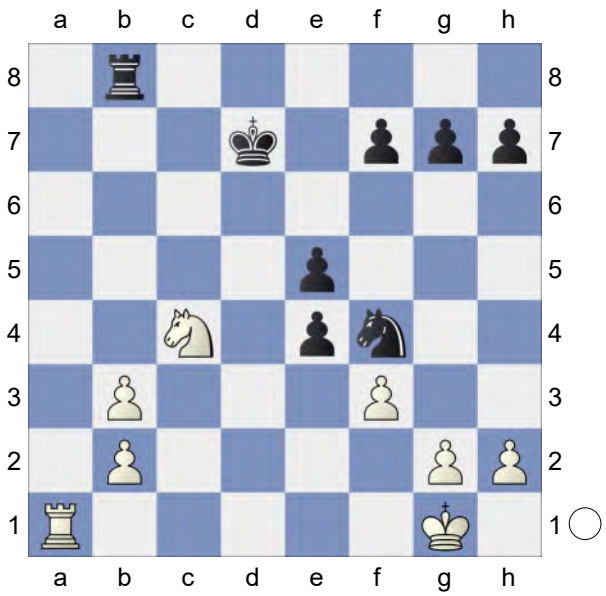


11.bxa6 dxe4 12.Bb5 Nd5 0.66/19
[⌓12...Bb4+ 0.33/16 13.Bd2 Bxd2+ 14.Qxd2 *(14.Nxd2 exf3 15.Qxf3 0-0=)* 14...0-0]
13.Bc5!± Nf4 14.0-0 0.11/19
[14.Bxf8± 0.92/19 Black must now prevent Bc5. Kxf8 15.Qd6+ *(15.fxe4 Nxg2+ 16.Kf2 Nf4∓)* 15...Qe7 16.Qxe7+ Kxe7 17.0-0 *(17.fxe4 Nxg2+ 18.Kf2 Nf4±)*]
14...Bxb3= 15.Qxd7+
[15.Bxd7+ looks sharper. Qxd7 16.Qxd7+ Kxd7 17.Bxf8 Rhxf8 18.axb3 Rxa6 19.Nc4]
15...Qxd7

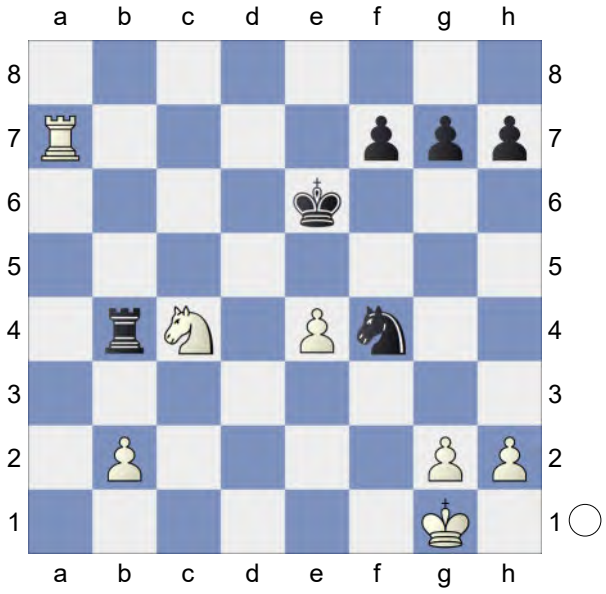


16.Bxf8
[16.Bxd7+ feels hotter. Kxd7 17.Bxf8 Rhxf8 18.axb3 Rxa6 19.Nc4]
16...Rxf8 17.axb3 Really sharp!
17...Rxa6! 18.Bxd7+ Kxd7 19.Nc4 Rxa1 20.Rxa1 Endgame KRN-KRN
20...Rb8

(Diagram)

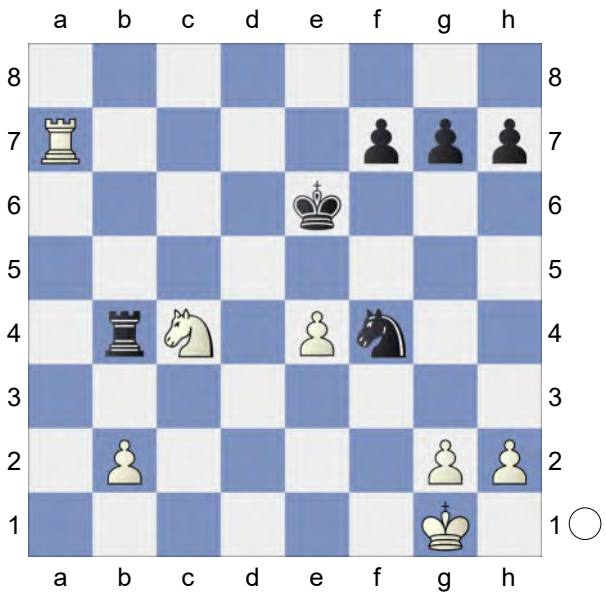


21.fxe4 Rxb3 The position is equal. **22.Nxe5+ Ke6 23.Nc4 Rb4 24.Ra6+ Ke7 25.Ra7+ Ke6**



26.Ra6+ Ke7 27.Ra7+ Ke6

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)
½-½

111	**B55**
□ **Salov,Valery**	**2710**
■ **Ljubojevic,Ljubomir**	**2580**
Sicilian Buenos Aires ARG (6)	1994
[Ftacnik,Lubomir]	

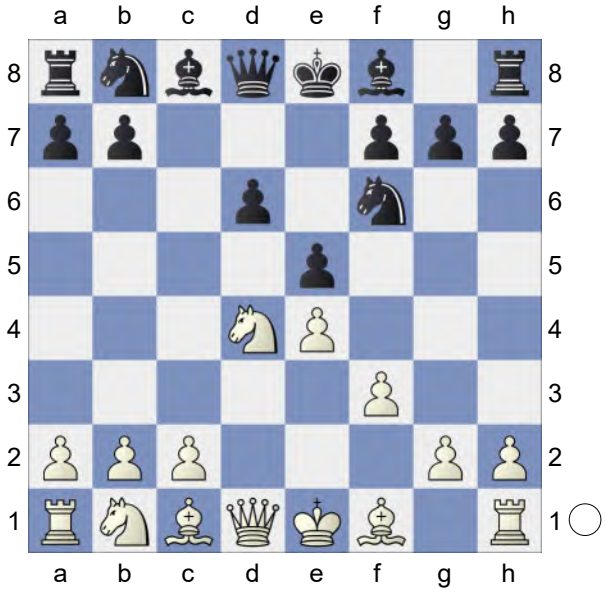
Salov,Va: 'Inf 62/202' Kitty Kat: 'B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3 ' **1.e4** Kitty Kat Ftacnik,L Efstratios Grivas Ftacnik,L Salov,Valery Ftacnik,L **1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5**

[5...a6 Kitty Kat 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022

0-1 (53))

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



Kitty Kat: 'N' **6.Bb5+ Bd7?**

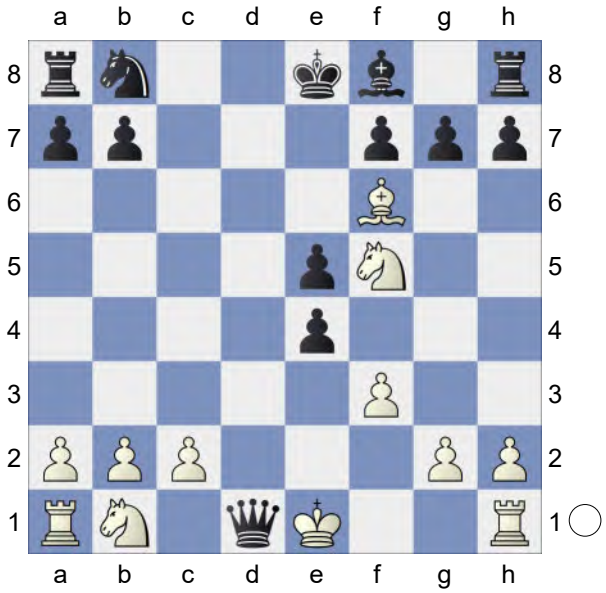
[6...Nbd7]

7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.Nf5 d5 9.Bg5! dxe4

[9...d4 10.Bxf6 gxf6±]

10.Bxf6 Qxd1+

[10...Qxf5?? 11.Qd8#]



11.Kxd1 gxf6 12.fxe4 Nc6 13.c3± 0.01/21

[13.Nc3 Rd8+ 14.Nd5 Ne7 15.Nfxe7 Bxe7±]

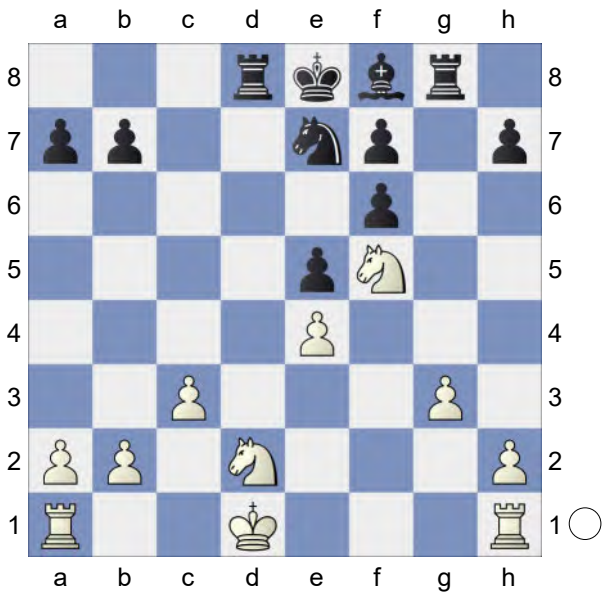
[13.Ke2± 0.35/20 Kitty Kat]

13...Rg8 14.g3 Rd8+ Salov,Va: 'N' Salov,Valery: 'N' Kitty Kat: 'The position is equal.'

[14...Rg4 Salov,Valery]

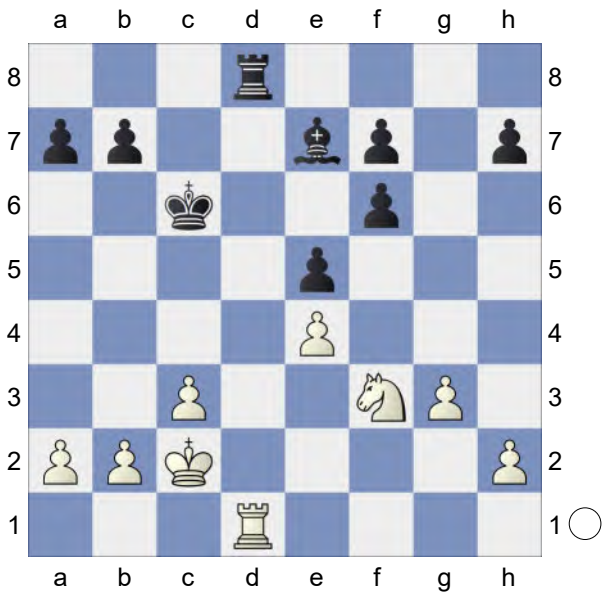
15.Nd2 Ne7

(Diagram)

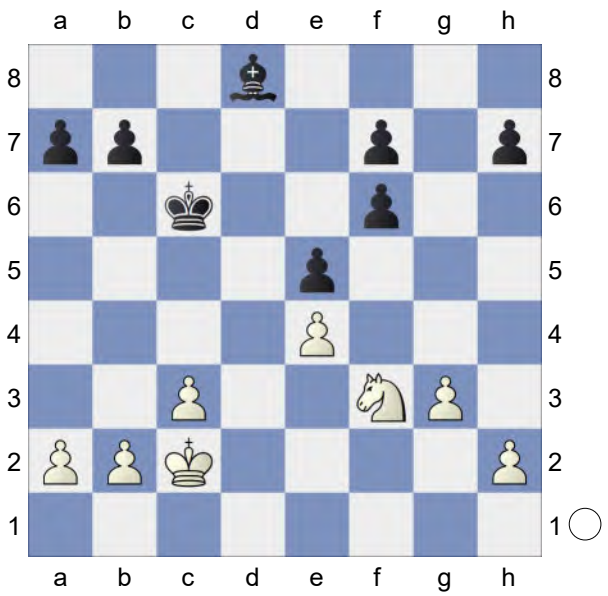


16.Kc2!
[16.Nxe7? Salov,Valery Kxe7 17.Kc2 Bh6 18.Nf3 Bg5⇄ Δ h5-h4]
16...Kd7 0.65/20
[16...Nxf5 17.exf5 Rg4 18.Rae1±]
[16...Rg6= 0.30/18 Kitty Kat]
17.Rad1! 0.28/19 Kitty Kat: ' &Bianco is more active.'
[17.Rhf1± 0.65/20 (Kitty Kat) is superior.]
17...Kc6 1.27/23
[17...Ke6 18.Nb3 Salov,Va: '!' Salov,Valery: '!' Nc6 *(18...Rxd1* Salov,Va: '?' Salov,Valery: '?' *19.Nc5#!)* 19.Rxd8 Nxd8 20.Rd1 Salov,Va: '+-' Salov,Valery: '+-' Nc6 21.Rd3+-]
[17...Nxf5 0.28/19 Kitty Kat: '=' Kitty Kat: ' remains equal.' 18.exf5+- Be7 Kitty Kat]
18.Nf3 Kitty Kat: ' Pair of Knights!'
18...Rxd1 19.Nxe7+!
[19.Rxd1 Salov,Va: '?' Salov,Valery: '?' Nxf5 20.exf5 Bh6± Salov,Va: '⇄!' Salov,Valery: '⇄!']
19...Bxe7 20.Rxd1 Rd8

(Diagram)



21.Rxd8
[21.Rf1±]
21...Bxd8 Salov,Va: '[♘♗ 5/d]' Salov,Va: '[♘♗ 5/d]' Efstratios Grivas: '(D)



This is a classical example, where the superiority of the knight vs the bishop is evident. This superiority is based on:
1. Better pawn-structure (doubled and isolated black pawns on the kingside).
2. Strong outposts on the d5- and f5-squares.
3. Potentional passed pawn on the queenside, where White's majority is

active.' Salov,Valery: '[♘♗ 5/d]' Kitty Kat: ' ±' Kitty Kat: 'Endgame KB-KN'

22.Nh4 Efstratios Grivas: 'The knight is heading for the important outpost.'

22...Be7 1.52/23

[⌓22...Bb6 1.16/21 Kitty Kat]

23.Nf5 0.93/21

[⌓23.b4 1.52/23 Kitty Kat]

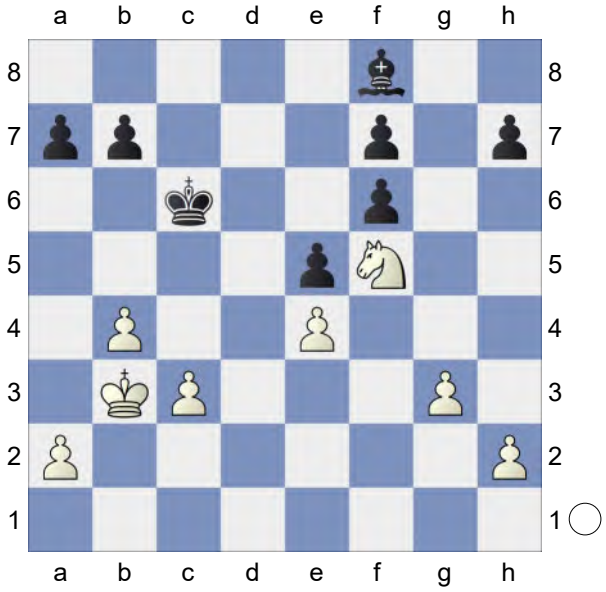
23...Bf8 1.72/21

[23...Bc5± 0.93/21 (Kitty Kat) was called for.]

24.b4 Salov,Va: '+-' Salov,Va: '+-' Efstratios Grivas: '!' Efstratios Grivas: 'Then the procedure for the creation of a passed pawn starts.' Salov,Valery: '+-' Kitty Kat: '+-' **24...Kd7**

[24...b5 (Efstratios Grivas) can only help White: 25.Kb3 a6 26.c4 Kd7 27.a4 .]

25.Kb3 Kc6



26.Kc4 a6 2.40/25

[⌓26...h5 1.96/22 Kitty Kat 27.a3 Kc7]

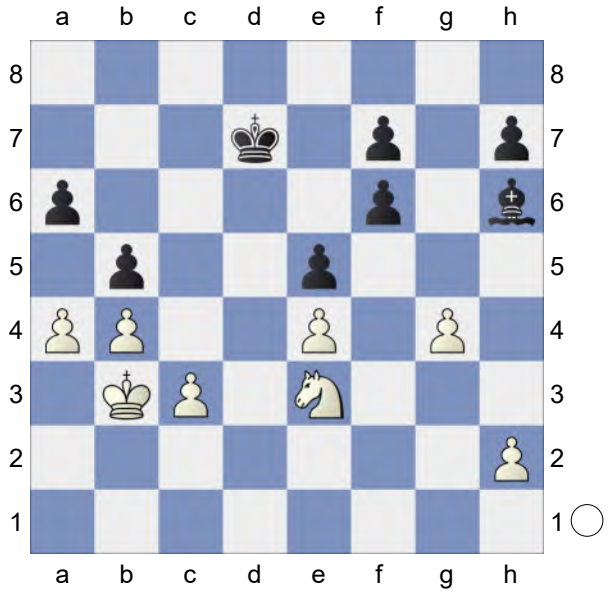
27.a4 b6

[27...b5+ 28.axb5+ axb5+ 29.Kb3 Kb6 30.c4 bxc4+ 31.Kxc4+- Efstratios Grivas: '.']

28.g4 b5+ 29.Kb3 Kd7 30.Ne3

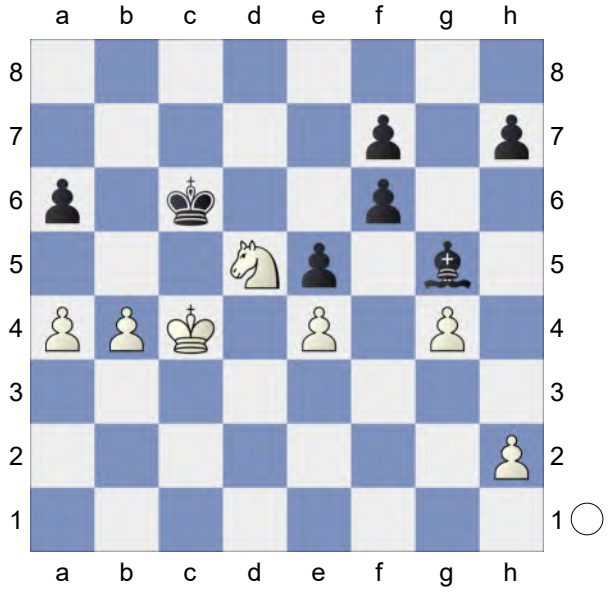
[30.axb5 axb5 31.c4+- Efstratios Grivas: 'is equally fine.']

30...Bh6



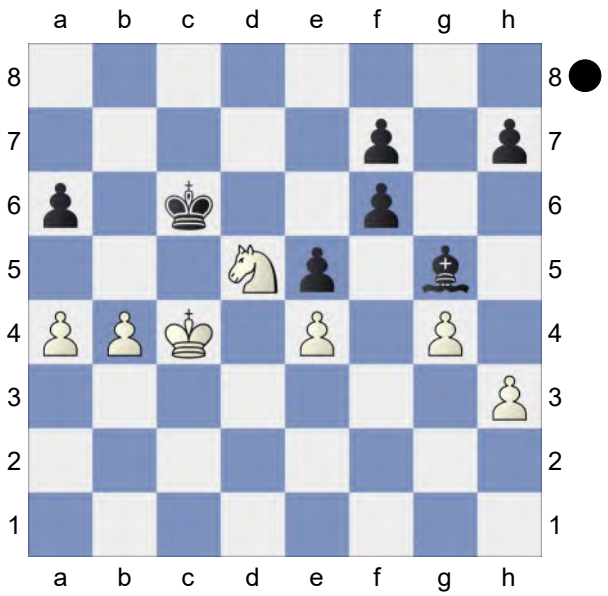
31.Nd5 Bg5 32.c4 Kc6 33.Nc3 Efstratios Grivas: 'Forcing Black's hand.'

33...bxc4+ 34.Kxc4 Bh4 35.Nd5 Bg5



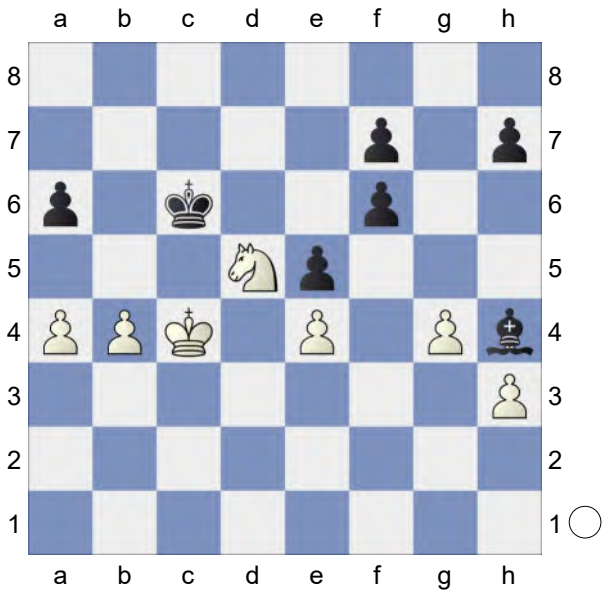
36.h3⊙ Kitty Kat: '

(Diagram)

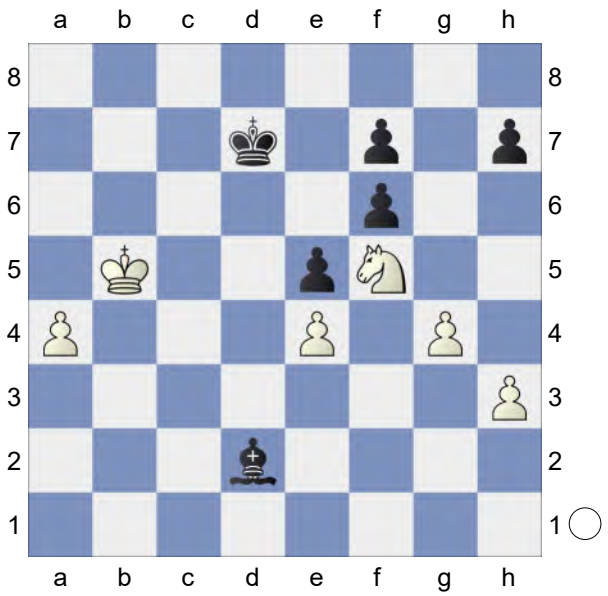


Strongly threatening Ne7+.' **36...Bh4** 5.18/27 Efstratios Grivas: '(D)

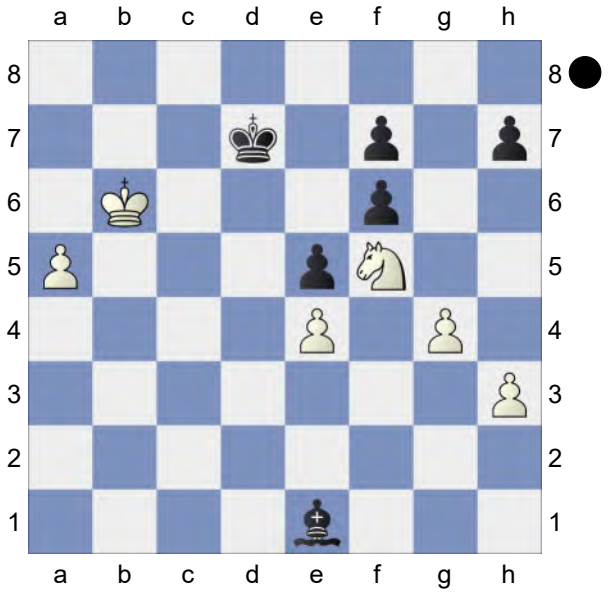
[36...Kd6 2.81/24 Kitty Kat 37.b5 a5]



Black is deprived of any counterplay, passively waiting for the end. Such a situation must clearly be avoided.' Kitty Kat: '?' **37.Ne7+ Kd7 38.Nf5** Kitty Kat: 'White is clearly winning.' **38...Be1 39.b5 axb5+ 40.Kxb5!** Efstratios Grivas: 'In general, a passed pawn should be created as distantly as possible.' **40...Bd2**



41.Kb6 Be1 42.a5 Kitty Kat: '

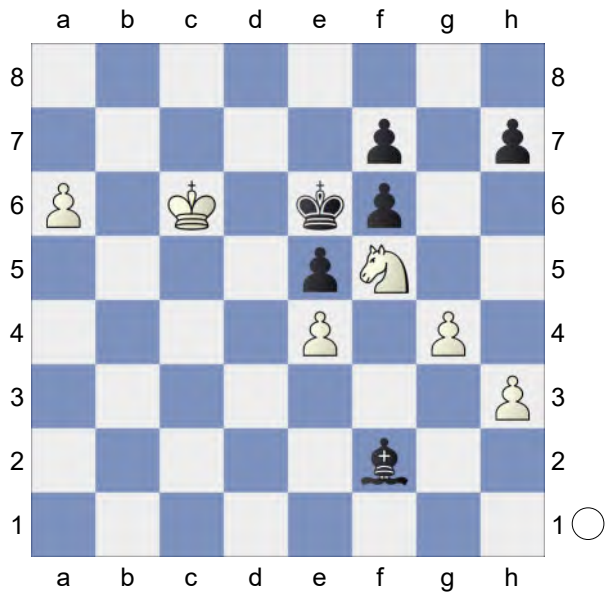


a6 is the strong threat.' **42...Bf2+** 15.44/28

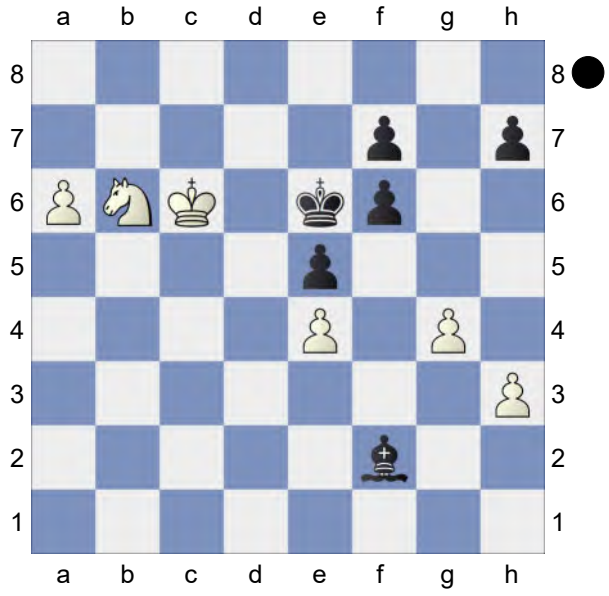
[⌓42...Kc8 5.04/28 Kitty Kat 43.Nd6+ Kd7]

43.Kb7 Ke6 44.Kc6 Salov,Va: '!' Salov, Va: '[Δ ♘d6-c8-b6]' Salov,Valery: '!' Salov,Valery: '[Δ ♘d6-c8-b6]' Efstratios Grivas: 'Black resigned due to' **44...Bg1 45.a6 Bf2**

(Diagram)



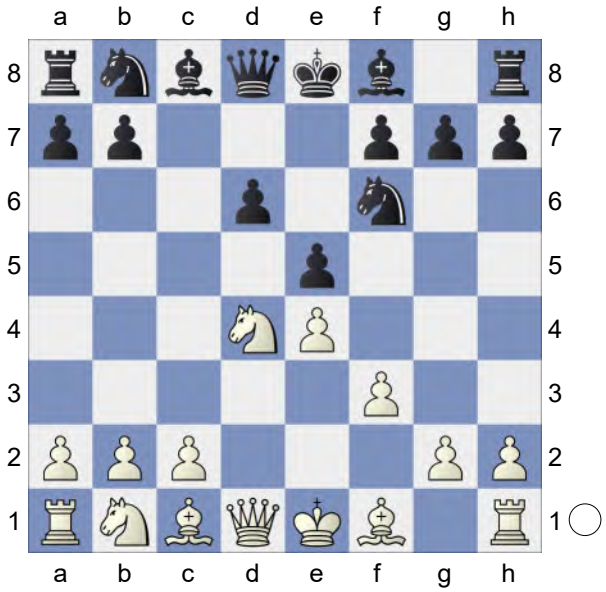
46.Nd6 Bg1 47.Nc8 Bf2 48.Nb6+-



Efstratios Grivas: '. A clear-cut technical win.' Kitty Kat: '
Weighted Error Value: White=0.22 (precise) /Black=0.49'
1-0

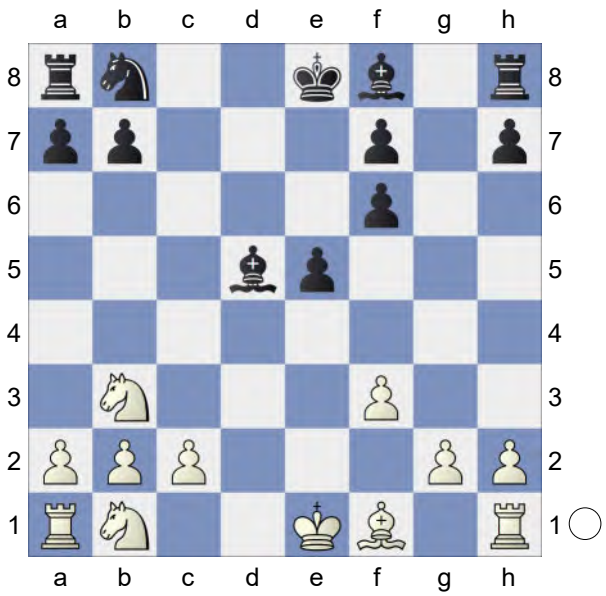
112 **B55**
□ **Adams,Michael** **2706**
■ **Pert,Nicholas** **2544**
GBR-ch 105th (8) 04.08.2018
[Fernandez,Daniel Howard]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Perhaps a predictable opening, given some of Adams' games from about a decade ago... **4...Nf6** Almost entirely a modern construction. **5.f3 e5**



6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 Not knowing an awful lot about the Rossolimo, it wasn't clear to me what Black had gained in exchange for spending two tempi on ... ♘f6-g8. However, looking at it a bit, it seems to me that Black is okay after the text. **8...gxf6 9.exd5!?** An ambitious move, but this isn't a position that rewards half-baked play. **9...Qxd5**
[9...Bxd5 10.Nc3 Bb4 11.Qd3 Nc6 12.0-0-0 Bxb3 13.axb3 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Qxd3]
10.Qxd5 Bxd5?!

(Diagram)



Presumably Nick regretted this move.

11.Nc3 Be6 12.0-0-0!

[12.Nb5 Kd7 13.0-0-0+ Kc8 14.Na5 Nc6 15.Nc4 Bc5 16.Ncd6+ Kb8 17.Bc4 a6 18.Nc3 Kc7 19.Nce4 Bxd6 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.Nxd6 Rhg8]

12...Nd7 Understandable, but this makes things worse.

[12...Nc6 13.Bb5 *(13.Ne4 Ke7 14.Nbc5 b6 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.c3 a6 17.Rd6 Bh6+ 18.Kb1 Rhc8 19.Bc4 Nd8 20.Rhd1)* 13...a6 14.Bxc6+ bxc6 15.Ne4 *(15.Na5 Bb4 16.Nxc6 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Bxa2 18.Rd6 Be6)* 15...Ke7 16.Na5 Bh6+ 17.Kb1 Rhc8 18.Nc5 Rab8 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.a4 Rb4 21.b3 Rd4 22.Kb2 Rd5]

[12...a6 13.Na5 Ra7 14.Nd5 Bxd5 15.Rxd5 b6 16.Nc4 b5 17.Nd6+ Bxd6 18.Rxd6]

13.Nb5 Ke7

[13...Kd8 14.Na5 Kc8 *(14...Rb8 15.Bc4 Bb4 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Nc4 a6 18.Nb6 axb5 19.Nxd7)* 15.Bc4]

14.Nd6!

[14.Na5 Bh6+ 15.Kb1± Nc5 16.b4 Na4]

[14.Nc7

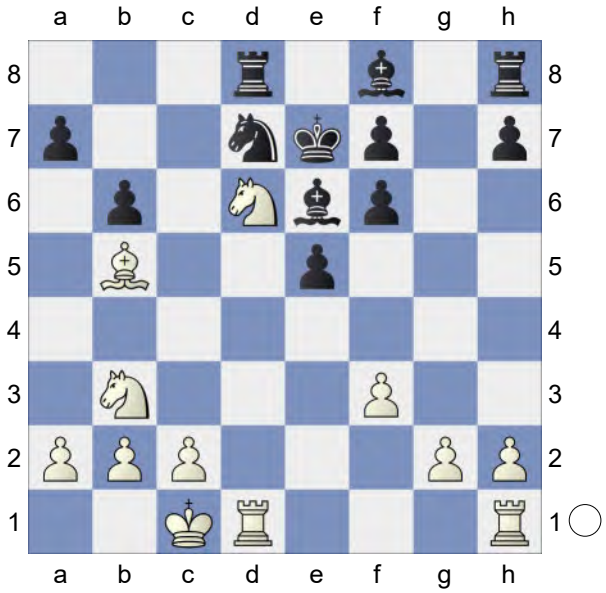
A) 14...Bh6+ 15.Kb1

A1) 15...Rac8± Adams,M-Ni, H Liverpool 2007 16.Nd5+ was a big move before, but White is basically just better after Bxd5 17.Rxd5 Nb6 18.Ra5 *(18.Rb5 Rc7 19.Bd3 Be3)* 18...a6 19.Bd3 Nc4 20.Ra4 Nd2+ 21.Nxd2 Bxd2± 22.Rd1 Be3;

A2) 15...Rad8 16.Nd5+ Bxd5 17.Rxd5 Nc5 18.Bc4 Rxd5 19.Bxd5 Rd8 20.c4 Nxb3;

B) 14...Rc8 15.Nd5+ Bxd5 16.Rxd5]

14...b6 15.Bb5 Rd8



16.Rd3 Bh6+ 17.Kb1± White has completed his clamp. **17...Nb8**

[17...a6± 18.Bc4 e4!!∓]

[17...f5 18.Bc4 e4 19.fxe4 fxe4 20.Rdd1 Ne5 21.Bxe6= Harikrishna, P-Alsina Leal,D Leon 2012 Rxd6 22.Rxd6⇄ or something will just be fine for Black as in the Berlin. Kxd6 23.Bf5± e3]

18.Rhd1

[18.Ne4!?

A) 18...Rxd3 immediately might

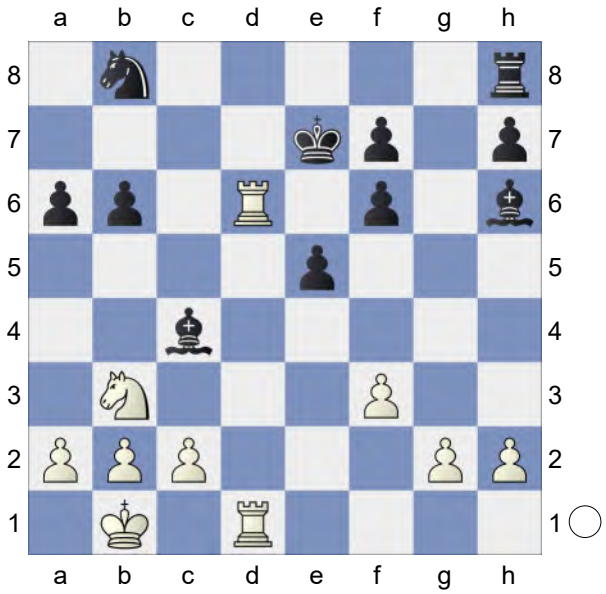
improve, getting ...b5 in a little bit faster to try and get moving. 19.Bxd3 f5 *(19...Nd7!?* was a move I wanted, looking at the demonstration board, but it is actually plausible that Black didn't like *20.Ng3!?* which jams his queenside pawns together in a slightly awkward way.*)* 20.Ng3 Kf6 As in the Stonewall Dutch, Black has an awful bishop and some disgusting structural issues, but there is nothing that badly wrong with his position in reality, because White can't break through on the side where he is that much stronger.;

B) 18...a6 19.Rxd8 Rxd8± 20.Bd3;

C) 18...Rdg8 must be okay for Black, who is now fine to take on e5 with a pawn, even if my machine does have a bizarre fixation with 19.Rc3!? Rxg2 20.Rc7+→ Kf8 *(20...Kd8± 21.Rb7)* 21.Nxf6 Kg7 22.Bf1 Rg5∞ The position is extremely concrete, and bears a strange resemblance to the McCutcheon Variation in the French. I suspect Black is okay here, but will leave the definitive assessment to the cloud engines. One of Black's cooler ideas is ... ♘d8-e6-d4. 23.h4?! is the more controlled version, but it suffers from a crucial defect in that Black may not actually want to take on e5 if given the chance. Rf5 24.Ne4!;

D) 18...f5!± The queen belongs on b1, where it attacks b6 and a2. Nick might still be defending this now if White had played this way.]

18...a6 19.Bc4 Rxd6 20.Rxd6 Bxc4



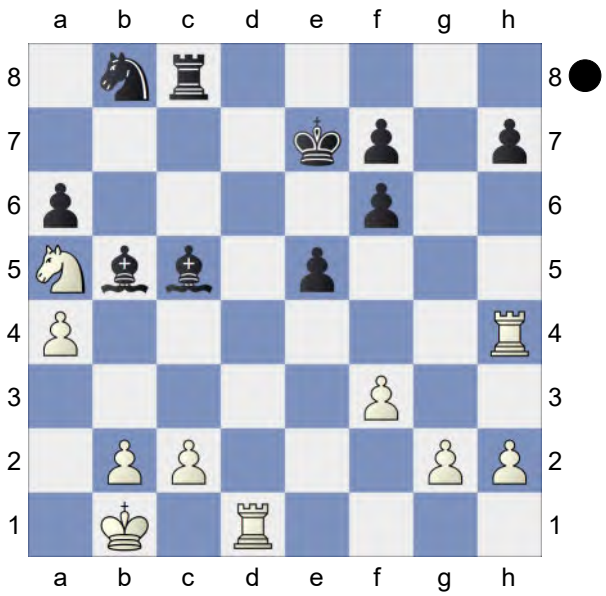
21.Rxb6 Be3 22.Rb4

[22.Rb7+ Ke6 23.Rc7! In my mind there is little question that this move brings the position from ± to ±. However, it also very suddenly sharpens matters, leaving both sides chances to go badly wrong. Bd5 *(23...Bxb3 24.axb3=* and Black has no better than perpetual. *f5!±* is a computer move to keep the advantage.*)* 24.c4 *(24.Rc3 Bb6 25.Rcd3 Bc6)* 24...Ba8 25.c5?! Now Black can counter-attack a bit. *(25.Nc5+ Bxc5!* Now Black is fully in the game, and in many lines he is sacrificing on e5. White wasn't able to find the silicon-esque 44. ♔f1!? ± and simply played a move that allowed the draw.

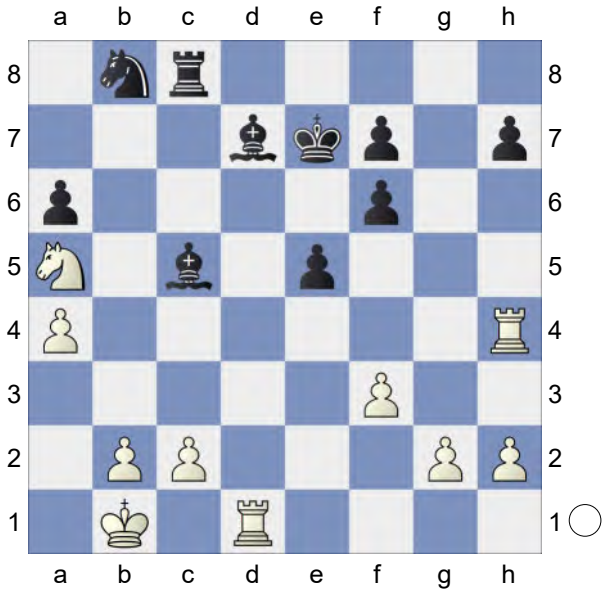
26.Rxc5?! Nc6!) 25...Bd5]

22...Rc8 23.Na5 Bb5 24.a4 Bc5 25.Rh4

(Diagram)



Bd7!



26.Rd3 -1.94/21 A double-edged decision, and probably the right one. White sets in motion a plan to eventually break with b4, and open a second front.

[26.Rxh7 -2.68/22 26.Rc4 -1.34 Bb4 27.Nb3? -4.78/20 *(27.Rxd7+ -2.24/22 Nxd7 28.Nb3)* 27...Bf5]

[26.Rc4∓ -1.44/19 is a better defense.]

26...Bd4 -1.45/19

[Black should play 26...Bf2-+ -1.94/21 27.Rc4 Rxc4 28.Nxc4 Bxa4]

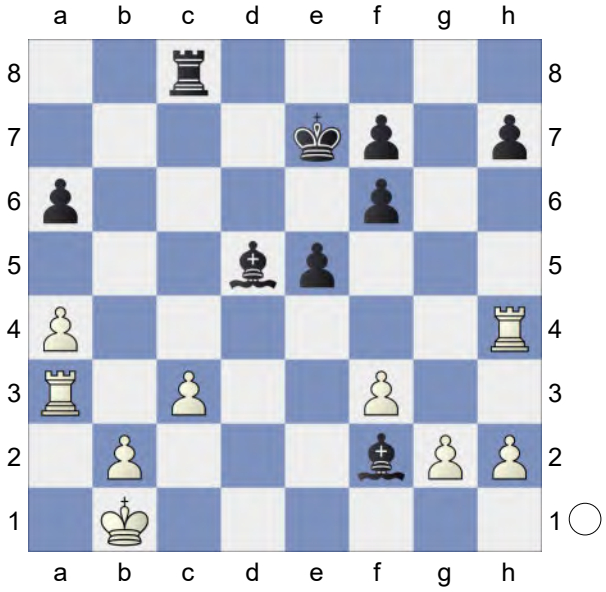
27.Rb3 -2.16/18

[27.Rd2∓ -1.45/19]

27...Nc6-+

[Weaker is 27...Bxa4 28.Rb7+ Nd7 29.c3∓]

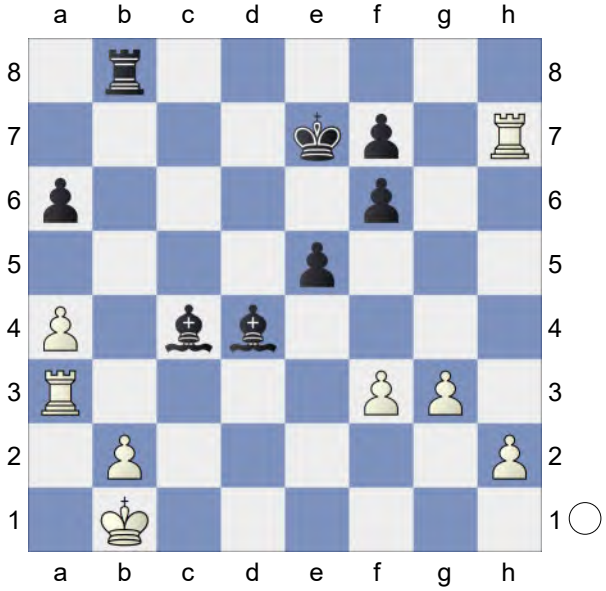
28.Nxc6+ Bxc6 29.c3 Bd5 30.Ra3 Bf2



31.Rh5

[31.Rxh7 e4 32.Rh5? -7.87/19 *(32.c4 -3.44/20 Rxc4 33.Rh5)* 32...e3]

31...Rg8 32.c4 Bxc4 33.g3 Bd4 34.Rxh7 Rb8

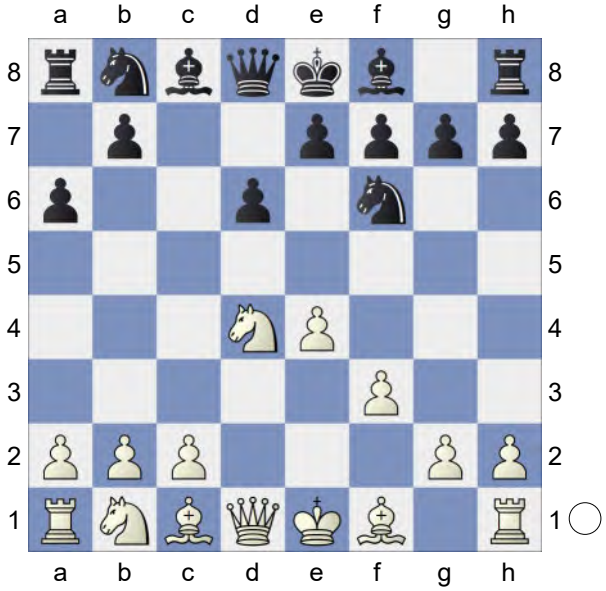


½-½

113 **B55**
□ **Sevian,Samuel** **2687**
■ **Leiva Rodriguez,J** **2366**
Speed Chess Q1 blitz (14) 10.11.2022
[Kitty Kat]

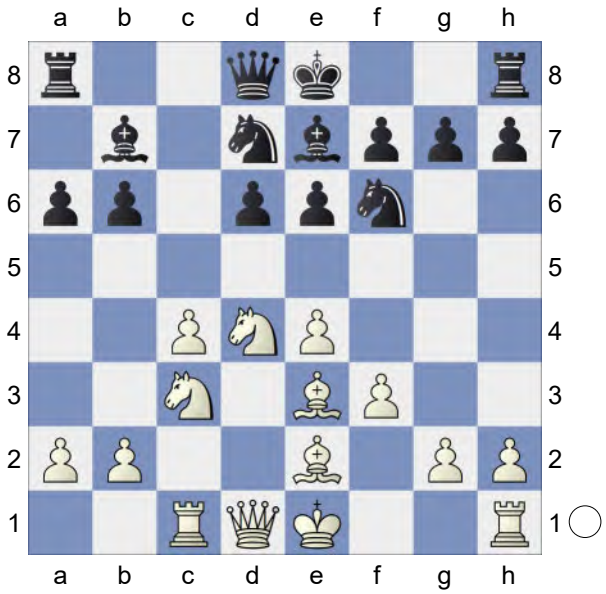
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6



6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be2 b6 9.Be3 Bb7 10.Rc1 Nbd7

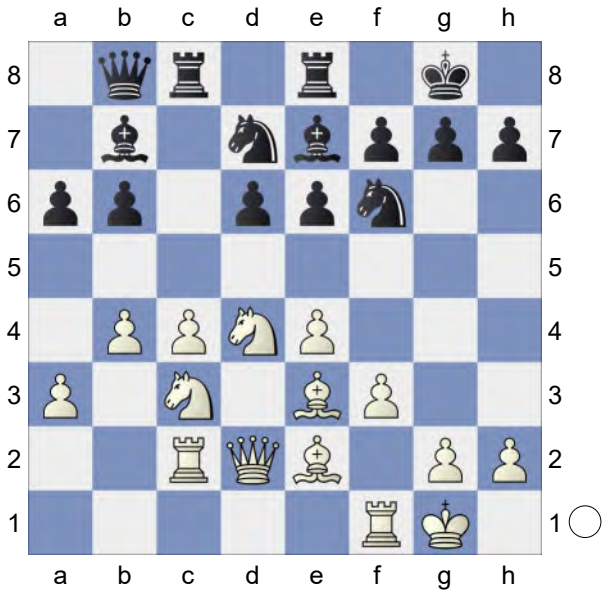
(Diagram)



White is slightly better. **11.a3 0-0 12.0-0 Rc8 13.Qd2 Qc7 14.Rc2N**

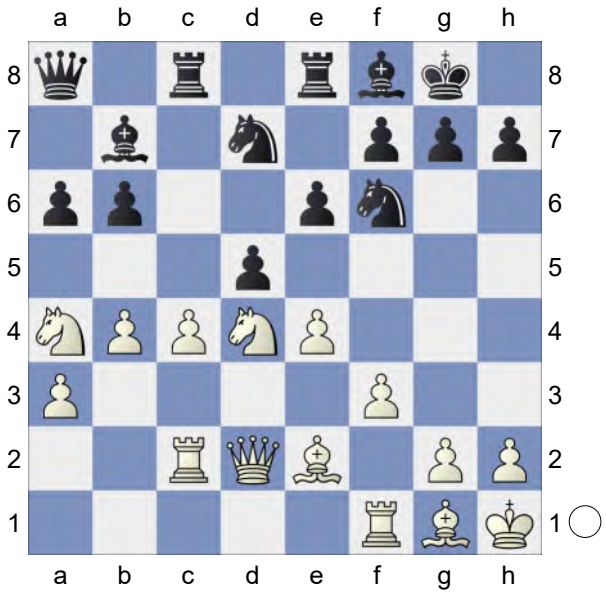
[14.b4 Rfe8 15.Kh1 Qb8 16.Rfd1 Bd8 17.Bg1 Bc7 18.Qa2 Ne5 19.Nb3 h5 20.Bf2 Ng6 21.Bf1 h4 22.h3 Nh5 23.Ne2 ½-½ (23) Xiu Deshun (2295)-Slodovski (2350) Kilkenny 1993 CYB 01 [Dragan Solak]]

14...Qb8 15.b4 Rfe8

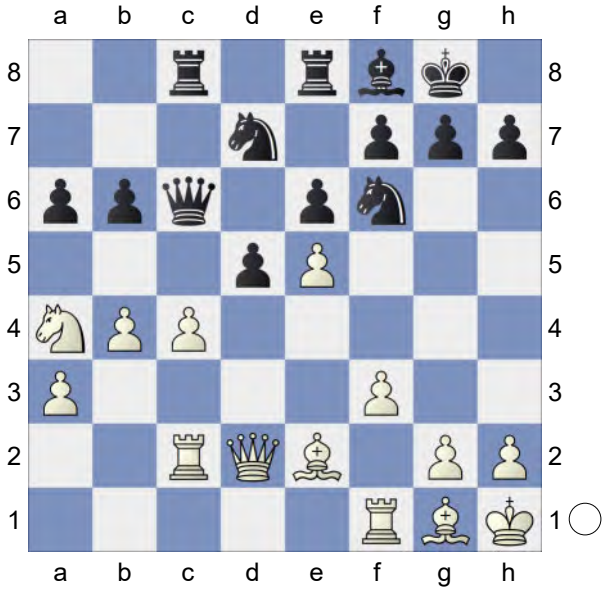


16.Kh1 Bf8 17.Bg1 Qa8 18.Na4 d5 1.01/24

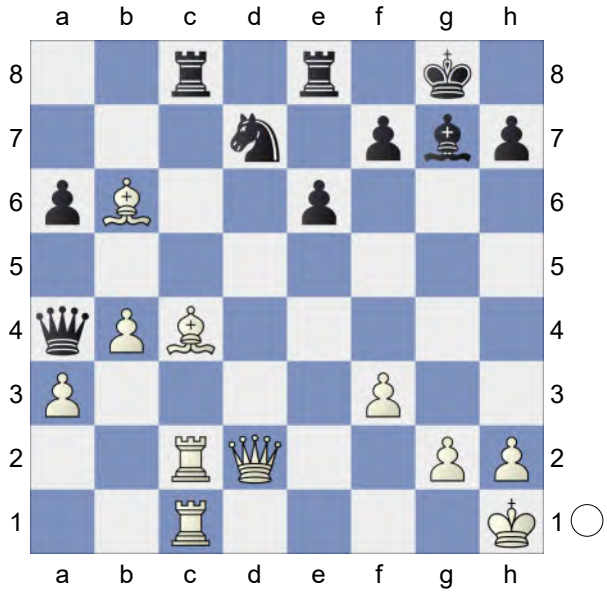
[Black should play 18...Qb8± 0.44/18]



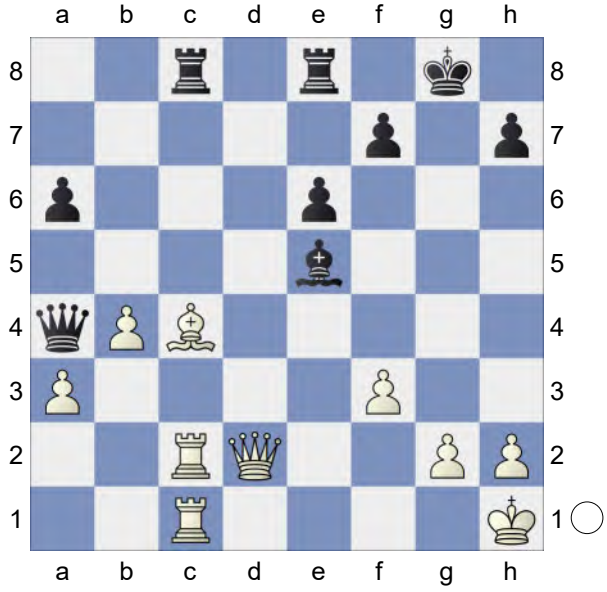
19.e5!± Bc6 20.Nxc6 &Bianco is more active.
[20.exf6?! Bxa4 21.fxg7 Bxg7=]
20...Qxc6



21.exf6 Qxa4 22.fxg7 Bxg7 0.95/22
[⌓22...Be7 1.56/21 23.Rfc1 Qxa3]
23.Rfc1 Nf6 1.59/24
[Black should try 23...dxc4 0.95/22 24.Rxc4 Rxc4 25.Rxc4 *(25.Bxc4 Ne5±)* 25...Nf6]
24.Bxb6 dxc4 25.Bxc4
[25.Rxc4 Rxc4 26.Bxc4 Qxa3±]
25...Nd7 2.15/23
[25...Nd5± 1.57/22 was called for.]



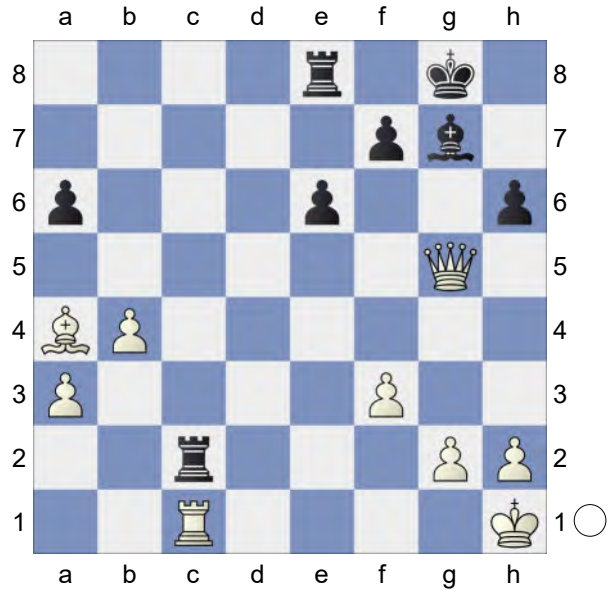
26.Bd4+- A strong pair of Bishops.
26...Ne5? 8.50/22
[26...Nf6 2.38/23 27.Rc3 Qd7]
27.Bxe5 White is clearly winning.
[Not 27.Qg5 h6 28.Qg3 Ng6+-]
27...Bxe5



28.Bb3! Rxc2 29.Qg5+ Zwischenzug, Double Attack
[Worse is 29.Bxa4 Rxd2 30.Bxe8 Bb2=]

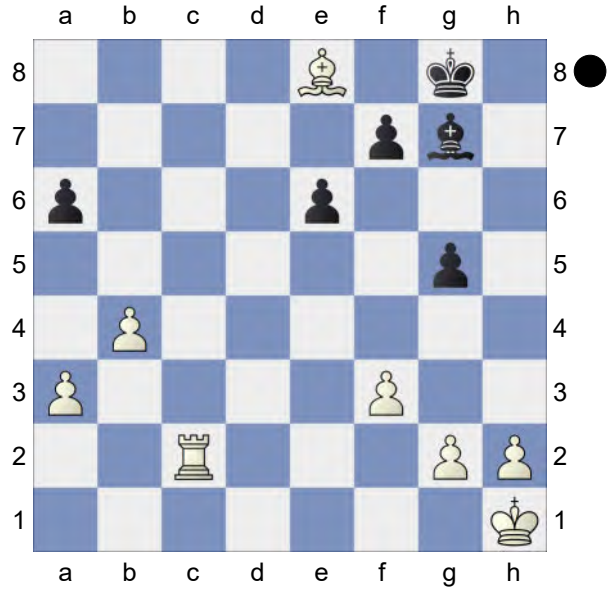
[Stronger than 29.Qxc2 Qxa3 30.Qc6 Re7 31.Qc8+ Kg7∓]

29...Bg7 30.Bxa4 h6



31.Rxc2! White threatens Qf4 and mate.

31...hxg5 32.Bxe8



Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.16 (very precise)

1-0

114 **B55**

□ **Nisipeanu,Liviu Dieter** **2686**

■ **Azmaiparashvili,Zurab** **2679**

It Pune IND (4) 06.09.2004

[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

Nisipeanu,Liviu Dieter; Stoica,Valentin: 'Nisipeanu,L.-D; Stoica,V: 'Inf 73/74''

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.f3 c5

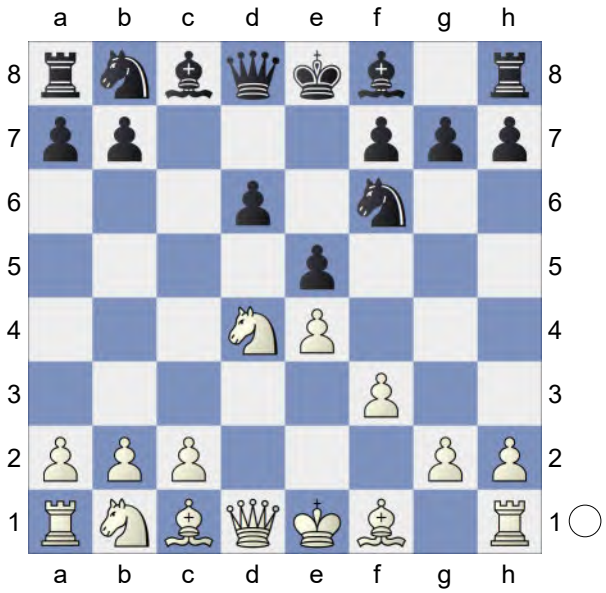
[3...e5 4.Ne2 Be7 5.c4 0-0 6.Nbc3 c6 7.Be3 Nbd7 8.d5 cxd5 *(8...a6 9.Qd2 Qc7 10.Nc1 Bd8 11.Be2 Qb8 12.0-0 cxd5 13.cxd5 b5 14.b4 Nb6 15.Rb1 Na4 16.Nxa4 bxa4 17.Nd3 Bd7 18.Nb2 Bb5 19.Rfc1 Nd7 20.Nc4 f5 21.Na5 fxe4 22.Nc6 Qb7 23.fxe4* Nisipeanu,L (2575)-Ftacnik,L (2585) Krynica (zt) 73/74 1998 CI1-130 [Nisipeanu,Liviu Dieter; Stoica,Valentin] 1-0 (60)*)* 9.cxd5 Nh5 10.Qd2 g6 11.0-0-0 f5 12.Kb1 f4 13.Bf2 a6 14.Nc1 Bh4 15.Bg1 g5 16.Nd3 Bruzon Batista,L (2668)-Magem Badals,J (2593) Barcelona 2010]

4.Ne2N

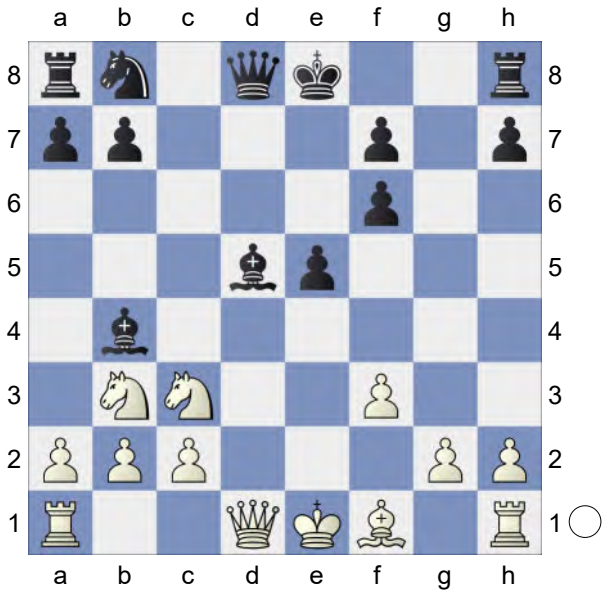
[4.d5 e6 5.c4 exd5 6.cxd5 g6 7.Nc3 a6 8.a4 Bg7 9.Nge2 0-0 10.Ng3 Nbd7 11.Be2 h5 12.Bg5 Qb6 13.Qd2 Nh7 14.a5 Qc7 15.Bh6 b5 16.axb6 Qxb6 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.0-0 h4 Barotek,M-Jonas,J Czech Republic 1994 Corr Nr. 1 [ChessBase II] 1-0 (40) 19.Nh1 Rb8 20.Na4 Qb4 21.Qf4 Qd4+ 22.Nf2 Qf6 23.Qd2 Rb4 24.Kh1 Nb6 25.Nc3 h3 26.g3 Nc4 27.Qc1 Nxb2 28.f4 Qd4 29.Bxa6 Bxa6 30.Rxa6 Nd3 31.Qd2 Nxf2+ 32.Rxf2 Nf6 33.Ra1 Re8 3.♘c3 de4 4. ♘e4 ♘f6 5.î (2290)-Kos,

P (2500) www.desc-online.de 1996 CBM 095 [Charpentier,D/Blondel,F] 0-1 (40) 34.Qxd4 cxd4 35.Na2 Ra4 36.Rd1 Nxe4 37.Rb2 Nc3 38.Nxc3 dxc3 39.Rc2 Rd4 40.Rdc1 Rd2 0-1 (40) Baron Isanta,J (2290)-Cifuentes Parada,R (2500) Manresa 1996 CBM 056 [Ernst,Thomas]]

4...cxd4 5.Nxd4 e5



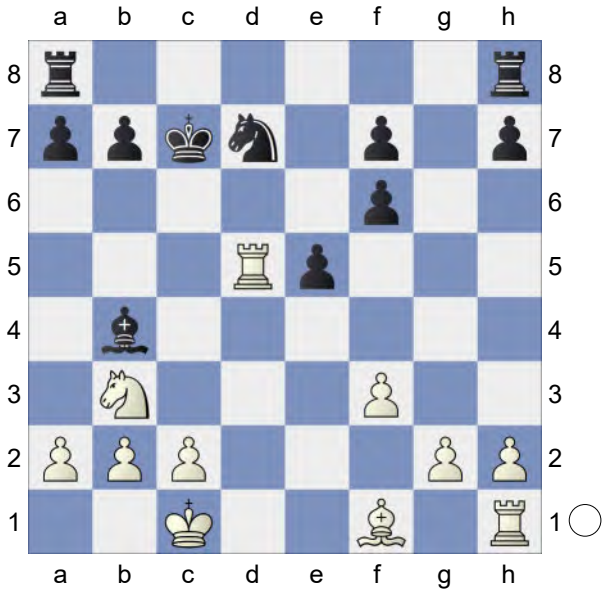
6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Bxd5 10.Nc3 Bb4



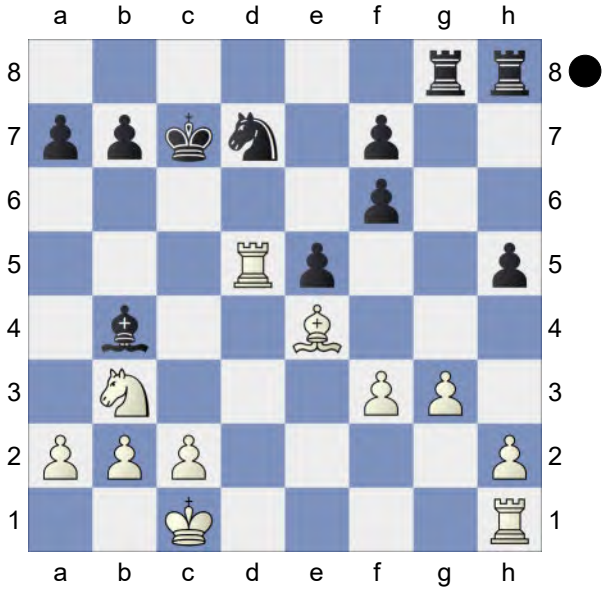
11.Qd2

[11.Qd3!? Bc6 12.0-0-0 Qxd3 13.Rxd3±]

11...Be6 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8 White is slightly better. **13.0-0-0+ Kc7 14.Nd5+ Bxd5 15.Rxd5 Nd7**

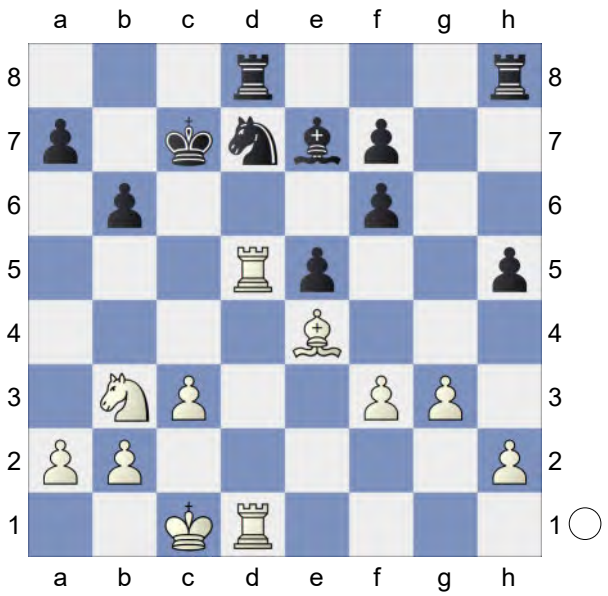


16.Bd3 Rag8 17.g3 h5 18.Be4

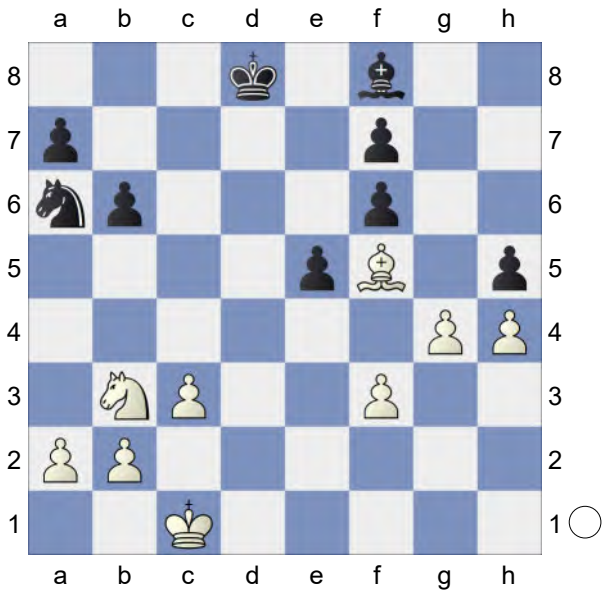


Rb5 is the strong threat. **18...b6 19.Rhd1 Rd8 20.c3 Be7**

(Diagram)

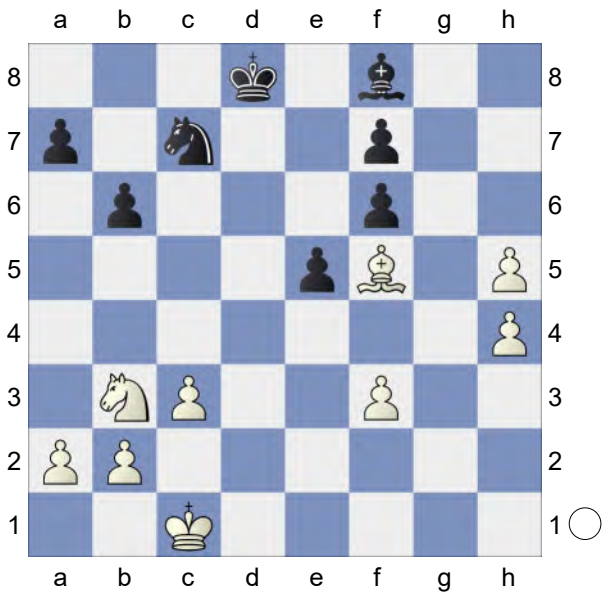


21.Bf5 Nb8 22.Rxd8 &Bianco is much more active. **22...Rxd8 23.Rxd8 Kxd8±** Endgame KBN-KBN **24.h4 Na6 25.g4 Bf8**

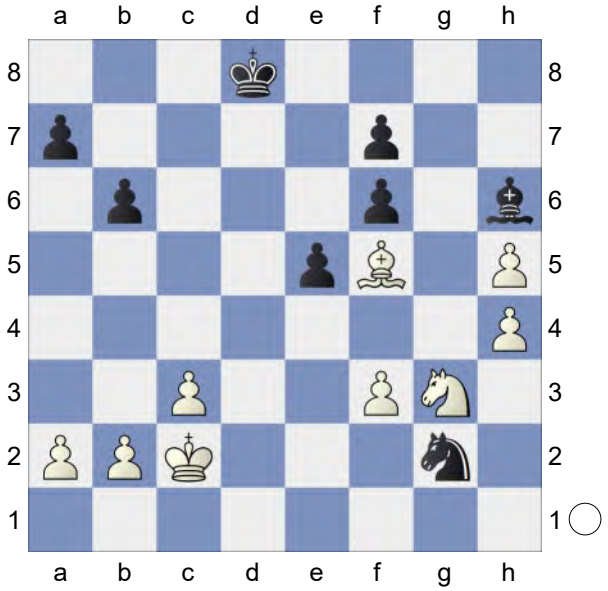


26.gxh5 Nc7

(Diagram)

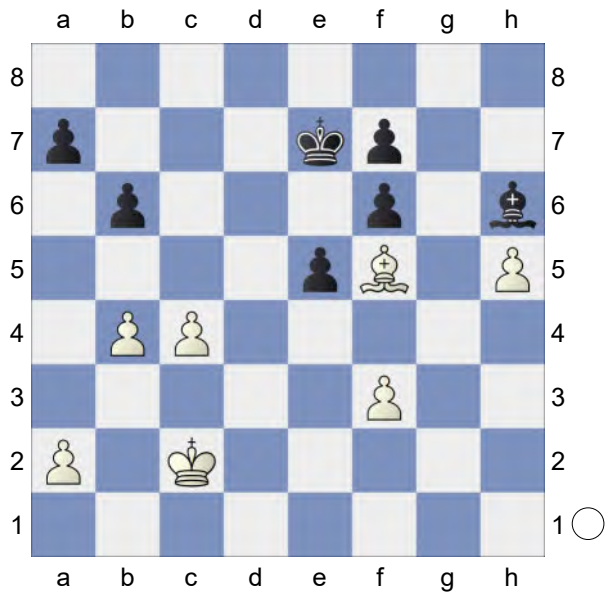


27.Nd2! Bh6 28.Kc2 Nd5 1.29/23
[28...Ne8± 0.63/21]
29.Nf1 Nf4 1.57/24
[Black should try 29...Bf4 0.99/22]
30.Ng3 Ng2

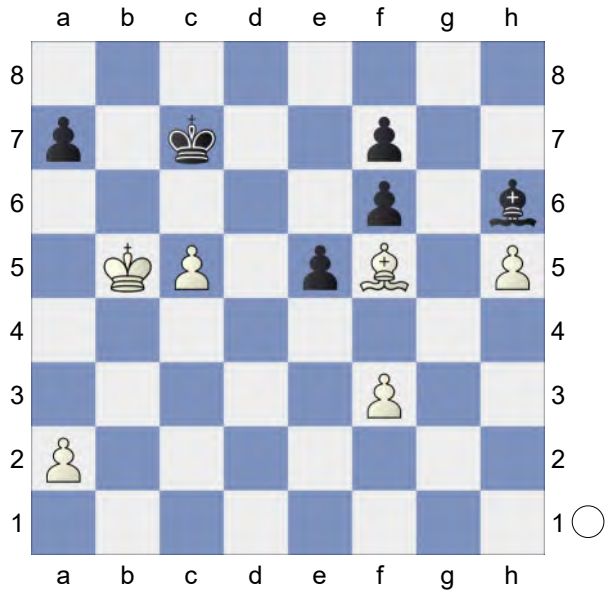


31.Be4 Nxh4 32.Nf5 Nxf5 33.Bxf5 KB-KB **33...Ke7 34.b4** 1.25/23
[Better is 34.Kd3+- 1.68/25]
34...Kf8 2.31/26
[34...Kd6± 1.25/23]
35.c4+- Ke7

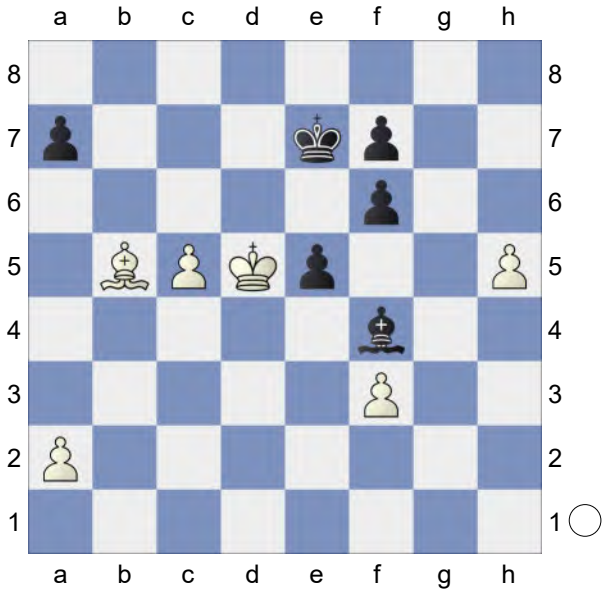
(Diagram)



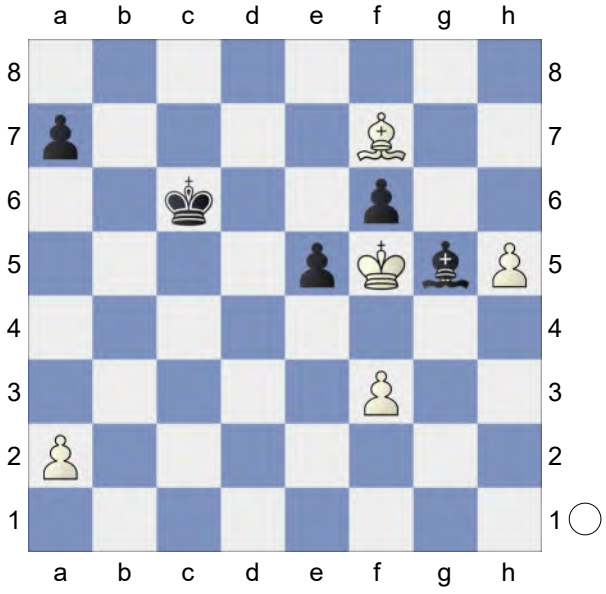
36.Kb3 1.49/25
[36.Kd3+- 1.88/25]
36...Kd6 2.22/25 Prevents c5+.
[36...Be3± 1.49/25 is a better defense. 37.Kc2 Kd6]
37.Ka4 Be3 38.Kb5 Strongly threatening Ka6. **38...Kc7 39.c5 bxc5** 2.95/28
[⌓39...Bf4 2.10/26 40.cxb6+ axb6]
40.bxc5 Bh6



41.Kc4 Kc6 42.Be4+ Kc7 43.Kd5 Kd7 44.Bd3 Bf4 4.41/26
[44...Be3 3.11/24 keeps fighting. 45.Bc4 Ke7]
45.Bb5+ White is clearly winning.
45...Ke7

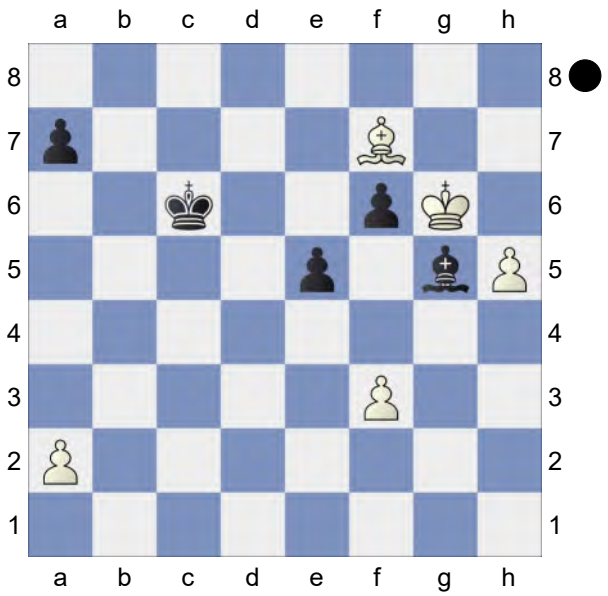


46.Ke4 Hoping for Kf5. **46...Ke6 47.Bc4+ Ke7 48.Kf5 Bg5 49.c6 Kd6 50.Bxf7 Kxc6**



51.Kg6

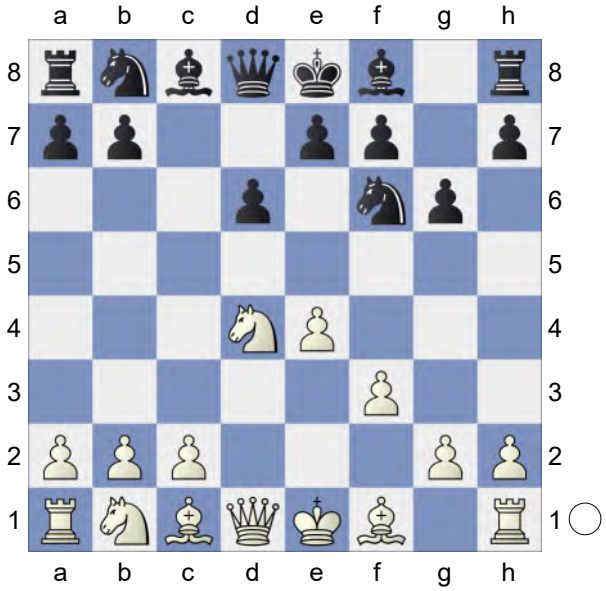
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.19 (very precise)
1-0

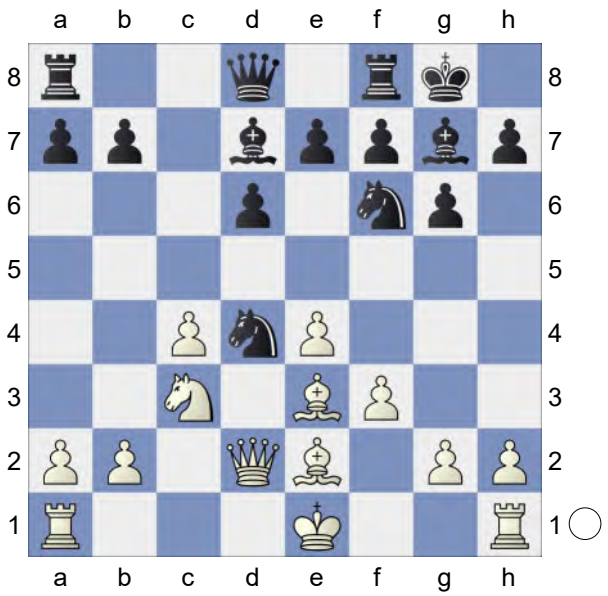
115 **B38**
☐ **Painkiller3** **2679**
■ **Idisjuda** **2660**
Blitz 28.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B38: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind with 5...Bg7 and 7...0-0
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 g6N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

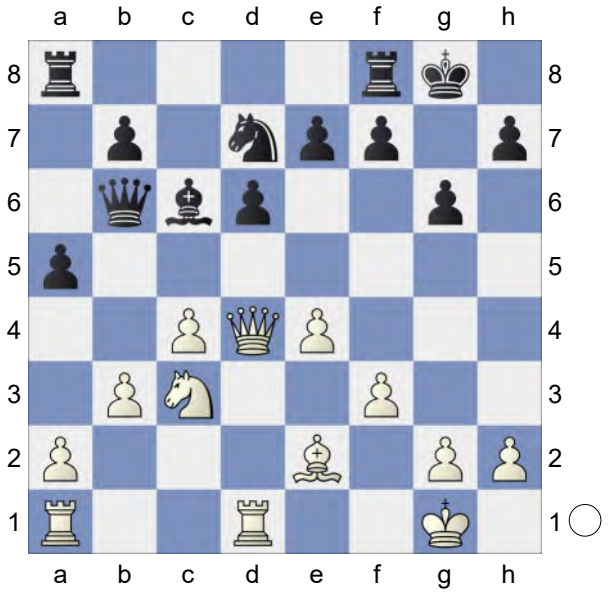


6.c4 Bg7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Nc3 Nc6 9.Qd2 Bd7 10.Be2 Nxd4

(Diagram)

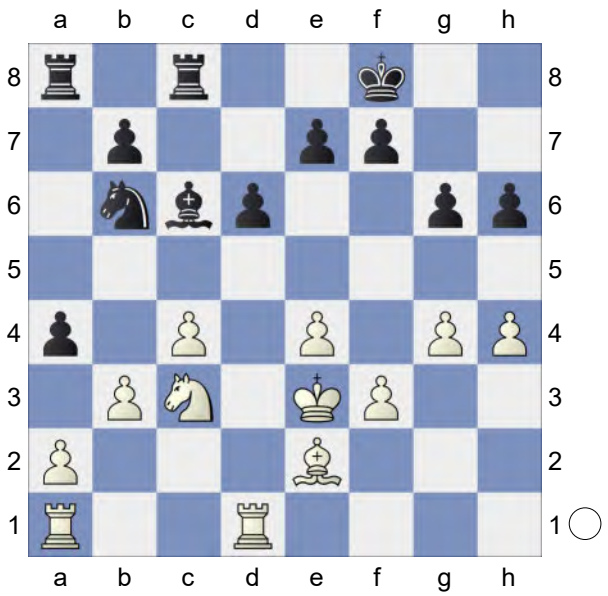


11.Bxd4 Bc6 12.0-0 a5 13.b3 Nd7 14.Rfd1 Bxd4+ 15.Qxd4 Qb6



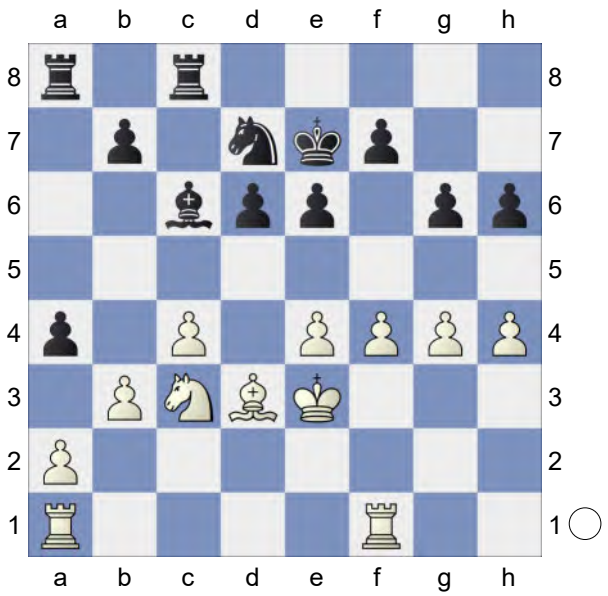
16.Qxb6 The position is equal.
[16.h4 with more complications. Qb4 17.a3 Qc5 18.Kf2]
16...Nxb6 17.Kf2 Rfc8 18.Ke3 Kf8 19.h4 h6 20.g4 a4

(Diagram)

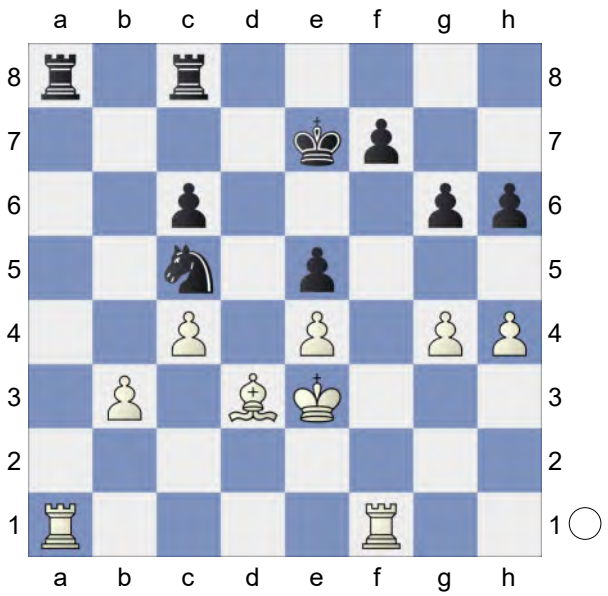


21.Kd4 e6 22.f4 Ke7 23.Bd3 -0.18/17
[23.Rf1 0.16/17 feels stronger.]
23...Nd7
[23...g5!?]
24.Ke3 -0.50/18
[24.b4= 0.01/17 b6 25.Be2]
24...Nb6 -0.01/18
[24...g5!∓ -0.50/18]
25.Rf1 -0.39/19
[25.Kd4= -0.01/18 deserves consideration.]
25...Nd7 0.32/18
[25...g5∓ -0.39/19]

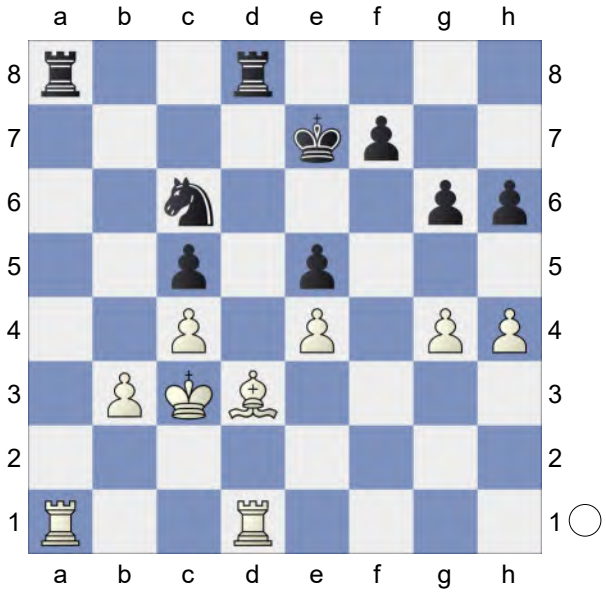
(Diagram)



26.Ne2 -0.74/21
[26.b4± 0.32/18 keeps the upper hand.]
26...Nc5 -0.22/18
[26...g5∓ -0.74/21 White must now prevent ...gxf4+. 27.Rg1 *(27.fxg5 hxg5 28.hxg5 Ne5∓)* 27...Nc5]
27.Nd4 axb3
[27...e5 is interesting. 28.Nxc6+ Rxc6 29.b4 Nxd3 30.Kxd3 Rac8]
28.axb3 e5 29.fxe5 dxe5 30.Nxc6+ bxc6

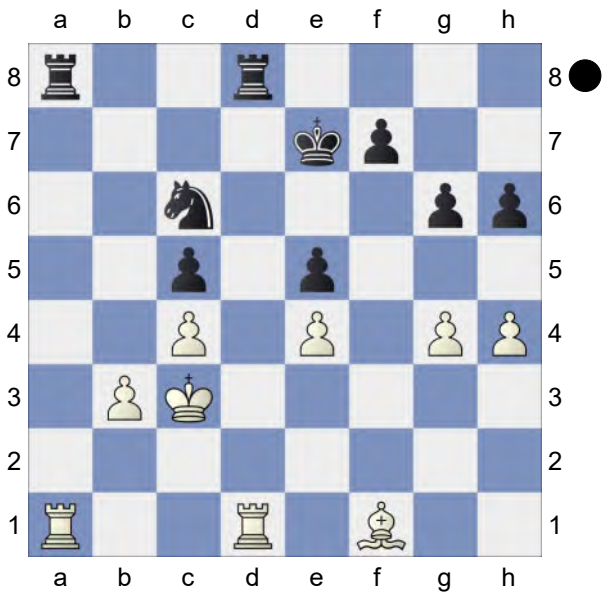


31.Bc2 -0.32/21
[31.b4= -0.01/23 Nb3 32.Rxa8 Rxa8 33.h5]
31...Ne6 32.Kd3 Rd8+ 33.Kc3 Nd4 0.01/21
[33...c5∓ -0.50/22]
34.Bd3 -1.33/22
[34.b4!= 0.01/21]
34...c5 -0.60/21
[34...Rxa1!∓ -1.33/22 35.Rxa1 Nxb3! 36.Ra7+ Kf6]
35.Rfd1 -1.35/21
[White should play 35.Ra4∓ -0.60/21]
35...Nc6 -0.54/21
[Worse is 35...Rab8 36.Bc2∓]
[35...Rxa1!∓ -1.35/21 36.Rxa1 Nxb3! 37.Ra7+ Kf6 38.Ra6+ Kg7]

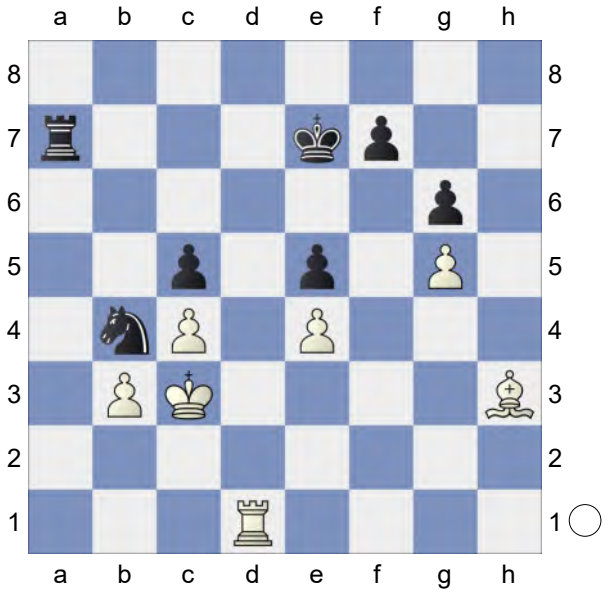


36.Bf1 -1.53/23
[36.Ra4∓ -0.54/21]

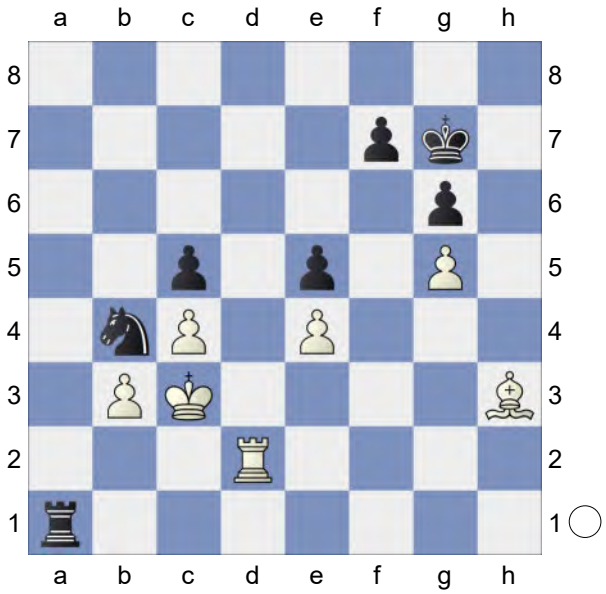
(Diagram)



36...Nb4 -1.13/24
[⌓36...Ra2!! -1.53/23 Threatens to win with ...Rxd1. 37.Rxa2 Rxd1]
37.g5? -5.50/25
[37.Rxa8∓ -1.13/24 Rxd1 38.Be2 Rc1+ 39.Kd2 Rc2+ 40.Kd1]
37...hxg5 38.hxg5 Rh8? -1.25/24
[38...Ra2-+ -5.07/25 and Black stays clearly on top. (-> ...Rc2#) 39.Rxa2 Nxa2+ 40.Kc2 Rxd1 41.Kxd1 Nc3+ 42.Kc2 Nxe4]
39.Rxa8∓ Rxa8 Endgame KRB-KRN
40.Bh3 Ra7

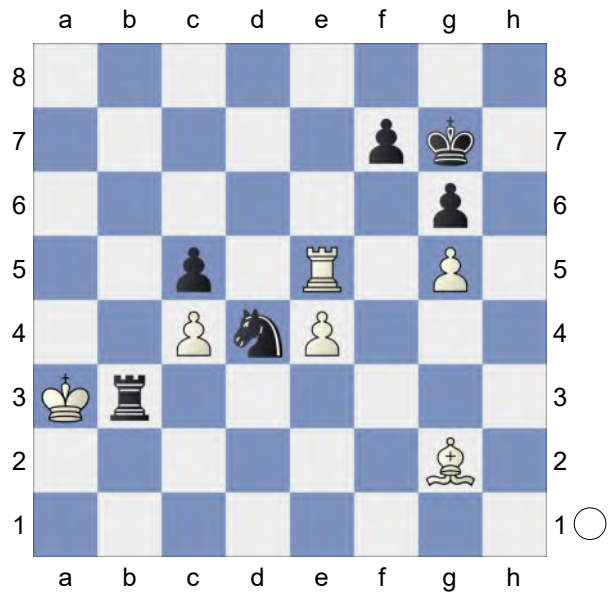


Prevents Rd7+. **41.Bg4 Rb7** -0.44/25
[41...f6!∓ -1.04/26]
42.Rd2 Ra7 -0.01/22
[42...Rc7∓ -0.67/25]
43.Bh3 -1.13/23
[43.Rd1!= -0.01/22]
43...Kf8 -0.01/22
[43...f6!∓ -1.13/23]
44.Rd8+!= Kg7 0.43/25
[44...Ke7= -0.01/27 45.Rc8 Kd6]
45.Rd2? -1.13/25
[45.Rc8± 0.43/25]
45...Ra1!∓

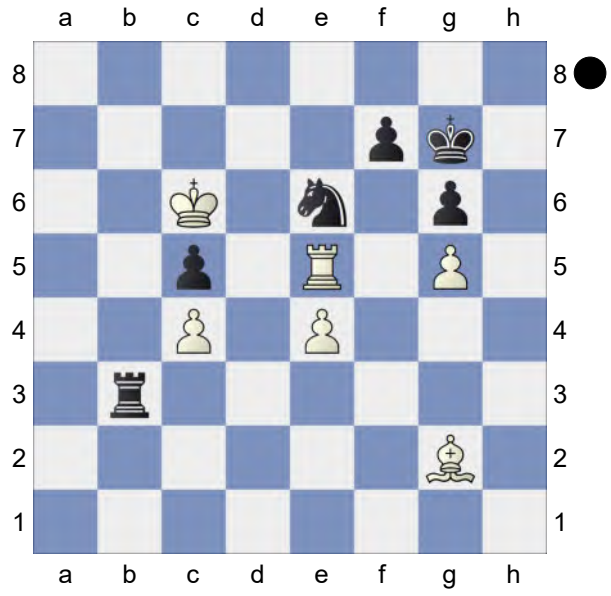


46.Kb2 -1.36/24
[⌓46.Rd7 -0.94/25]
46...Re1 -0.89/22
[⌓46...Rg1! -1.36/24 47.Ka3 Rxg5]
47.Bg2 -1.85/25
[47.Ka3∓ -0.89/22]
47...Re3-+ 48.Ka3 Nc6 49.Rd5 -2.00/21
[49.Rb2∓ -1.58/22]
49...Nd4 50.Rxe5? -4.78/24
[50.Rxc5 -1.93/23 Rxb3+ 51.Ka4]
50...Rxb3+

(Diagram)

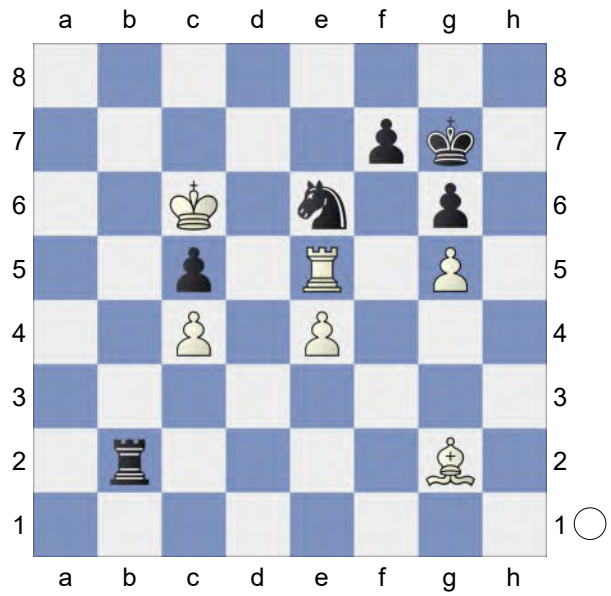


51.Ka4 Rg3 52.Bf1 Ne6 -1.63/25
[52...Rg1 -5.15/25 53.Rxc5 Rxf1]
53.Kb5 Rf3!
[And not 53...Rxg5 54.Rxg5 Nxg5 55.Kxc5=]
[53...Nxg5 54.Kxc5 Rg1 55.Bd3∓]
54.Bg2 Rb3+ 55.Kc6

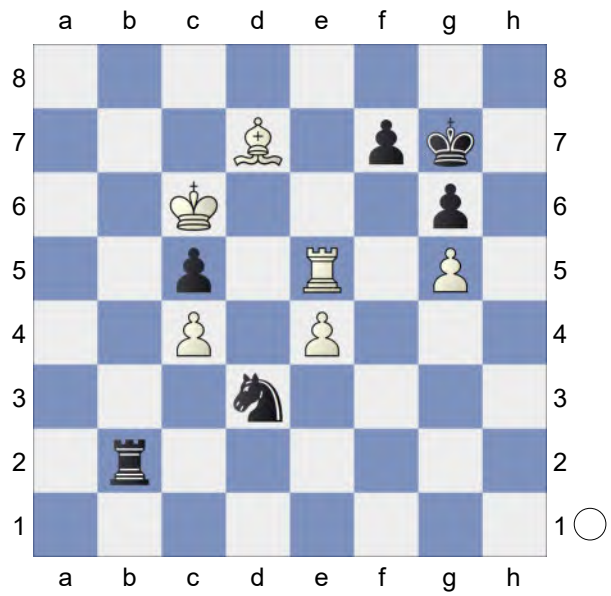


Rb2? 0.06/22
[Black should try 55...Nf4!-+ -3.09/23 56.Rxc5 Nxg2]

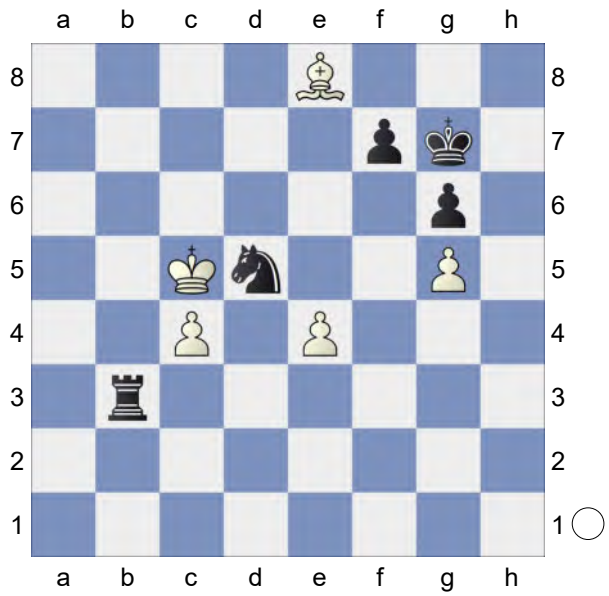
(Diagram)



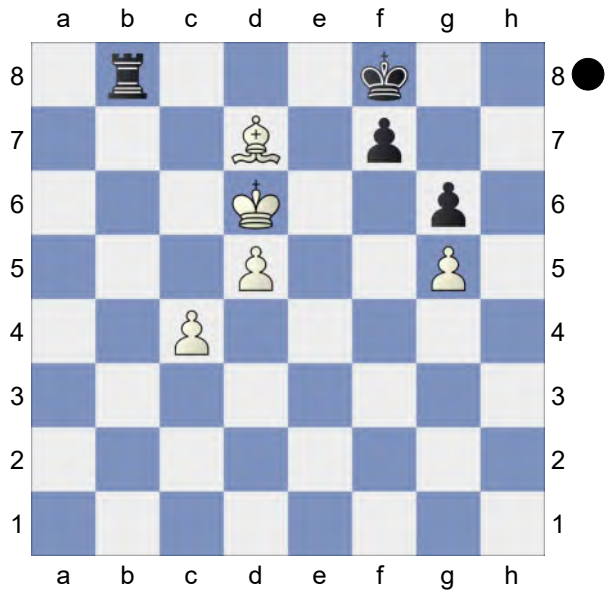
56.Bh3= Nf4 57.Bd7 Nd3 0.76/24
[57...Rc2!= 0.09/23 keeps the balance.]



58.Rd5 0.33/24
[Better is 58.Re7!± 0.76/24]
58...Rb3!± 59.Be8 -0.01/21
[59.Kd6± 0.31/22]
59...Nb4+ 1.06/22
[59...Kf8= -0.01/21 remains equal. 60.Bd7 Ra3]
60.Kxc5± Strongly threatening Rd7.
60...Nxd5



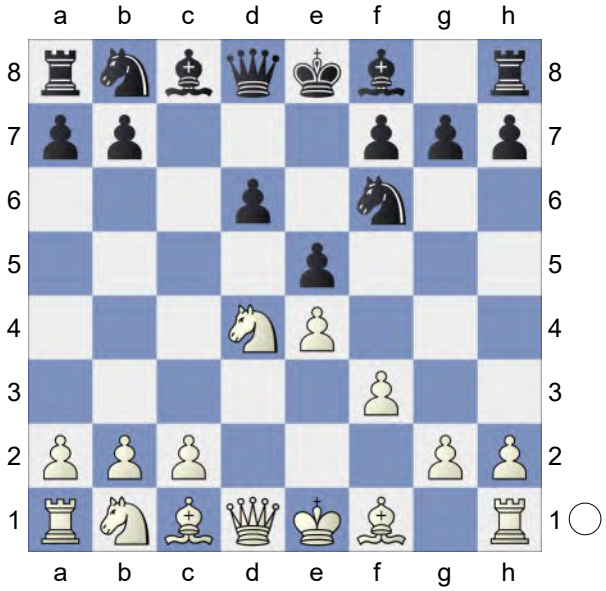
61.exd5 Rb8? 7.04/23
[61...Kf8± 1.27/23 62.Bb5 Ke7]
62.Bd7 Kf8 63.Kd6



A wild game.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.62/ Black=0.68
1-0

116 **B54**
□ **Ivanchuk,Vassily** **2678**
■ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2731**
Julius Baer GenCup Prelim rapid (4.8)
[Fitzsimons,David]

Nb6 also wins quickly. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5**



6.Nb3 d5! This is considered to be the cleanest theoretical equaliser.
[6...Be6 Also received a high-level test recently, albeit in another online game. 7.c4 Nbd7 8.Nc3 *(8.Be3 b5!?* is an additional option Black gets with this move-order, ö-ö (27) Vitiugov,N (2721)-Duda,J (2710) Czech Republic 2018 [Sam Collins]*)* 8...Rc8 9.Be3! Bxc4 10.Bxc4 Rxc4 11.Qd3 was noted by Rowson back in 2004 as giving White excellent compensation. Fast forward to 2022 and White still has very good practical chances.
A) 11...Rc6?! 12.g4!? looks quite strong for White. *(12.0-0-0* is another possible move-order. Black can prevent g2-g4 by playing

h5!? but it's not clear if this is enough to equalise: *13.Kb1 a6* 1/2 (33)-1/2 (33) Murzin,V (2336)-Bulatova,K (2007) Moscow RUS 2018. The following instructive manoeuvre is worth noting: *14.Na1! Be7 15.Nc2 0-0 16.Nb4* White is now in complete control of the d5 outpost. *Rc8 17.Rhg1±* with the makings of a strong attack for the pawn.*)* 12...Be7 13.0-0-0 0-0 *(13...Nb6?* allows a typical regrouping: *14.Na5! Rc7 15.Kb1 0-0* 1-0 (55) Perez Candelario,M (2612)-Gomez Garrido,C (2479) chess24.com INT 2020 *16.Bxb6 axb6 17.Nc4±* is clearly very good for White.*)* 14.Kb1 b6 1/2 (60)-1/2 (60) Kamer,K (2328)-Radovanovic, N (2400) Kragujevac SRB 2019 *(14...a6?* Black's Queenside counterplay is far too slow. *15.g5 Nh5 16.h4 Re8 17.Nd5 Bf8 18.Qd2! Qb8 19.Qg2±* with a very strong attack, 1-0 (52) Anand,V (2779) -Jumabayev,R (2611) Doha 2016 *)* 15.Qb5!? Qa8!? Black prepares to bring his King's Rook to the c-file. 16.g5! Ne8 17.Nd5 Bd8 18.h4± Black's pieces look quite congested on the back rank and the extra pawn has no real relevance.;

B) 11...Rc8! This appears to be best, facilitating an future ...d6-d5 break, when e4xd5 won't come with tempo.

B1) 12.0-0-0?! allows d5! 13.exd5 Bb4 with strong counterplay for Black: 14.Bd2 0-0 15.Kb1 Nb6= 1/2 (54)-1/2 (54) Mastrovasilis,D (2571)-Esen, B (2513) Bursa 2010;

B2) 12.0-0!? is also quite a decent try. a6! 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.Qxd5 Rb8 15.Rfd1 Be7 16.Na5 White has some positional pressure for the pawn. Nf6 17.Qd2 Black must be precise: Qc8! *(17...0-0?!* allows *18.Nc4!±* 1-0 (48) Tairova,E (2342) -Sjugirov,S (2412) Kirishi 2006 *)* 18.Rac1 Qe6= is a nice regrouping, solidly protecting d6.;

B3) 12.Bxa7!? Regaining the pawn seems to be White's best shot at an edge. 12...b6 13.0-0 *(13.a4?!* 1-0 (51) Zhang,P (2613) -Sutovsky,E (2654) Beersheba 2005. This allows *d5!∓* with excellent play for Black. *)* 13...Be7 14.a4 d5!? *(14...0-0* 1/2 (56)-1/ 2 (56) Kokarev,D (2579) -Gabrielian,A (2494) Voronezh 2008 *15.a5!?±* is still quite promising for White.*)* 15.exd5 Bb4= Black gives up a pawn for activity and secures equal chances.]

[6...Be7 ö-ö (53) Mastrovasilis, D (2621)-Naiditsch,A (2712) European Rapid Ch., Warsaw 2011 [Richard Palliser]]

7.Bg5 Be6!? This is Black's simplest option.

[7...d4!? is a more ambitious alternative that is new for our site. 8.c3 Nc6

A) 9.Bc4!? Be7= looks fine for Black, 0-1 (67) Szwed,J (2360)-Kapnisis,S (2450) Heraklion GRE 2022;

B) 9.Bb5 is a reasonable try from Correspondence practice. Qb6!? *(9...h6!?=* also looks OK for Black,

1/2 (36)-1/2 (36) Kruse,H (2435)-Riccio,E (2460) FICGS 2017*)* 10.Qd3 Nd7 11.N1d2 h6 12.Bh4 White simply completes his development. dxc3 13.bxc3 Be7! This looks like the most accurate way for Black to equalise. 14.Bxe7 Kxe7 The King is quite safe here and further simplification is likely. 15.a4 Nc5 16.Nxc5 Qxc5 17.Nb3 Qb6= Black is fine, but I'd like to continue further to show an interesting tactical sequence: 18.a5!? Nxa5! 19.Nxa5 Rd8! 20.Qe2 Be6! Black has full compensation for the piece as the White Knight and Bishop are awkwardly-placed. 21.Bc4 Rac8! 22.Bxe6 Kxe6 White isn't helped by the fact that he is unable to castle at the moment. 23.Nxb7 This is probably White's best bet, forcing simplifications, and the Correspondence game that reached this position was agreed drawn, 1/2-1/2 (23) Helbich, J (2516) -Raijmaekers,R (2496) ICCF 2017 *(23.Nc4!? Qc5 24.Nd2 Qxc3 25.Rd1 Rd3⩲* with two pawns and a bind for the piece, Black has full compensation.*)* 23...Qxb7 24.Qa6+ Qxa6 25.Rxa6+ Rd6 26.Rxa7 Rxc3 27.0-0 White finally manages to castle. Rc2 could potentially be dangerous, but White is able to play 28.Rfa1!= which will force the exchange of Rooks if Black tries to invade the second rank.;

C) 9.cxd4 This looks like the most critical try.

C1) 9...exd4? allows 10.Bb5 Bb4+ 11.Bd2 *(11.N1d2* 0-1 (46) Ivanchuk,V (2678)-Bellahcene, B (2517) Europe-Echecs INT 2021. This game was the reason I checked this line from White's point of view last year, but it looks like Black is doing well after *Qb6!∓)* 11...Bd6 *(11...Be7?* drops the d-pawn under more unfavourable circumstances after *12.Ba5! Qd6 13.Qxd4±)* 12.Ba5! *(12.Na3!?* is also possible. *0-0* 1/2-1/2 (42) Grischuk,A (2780)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2754) Khanty-Mansiysk 2015 *13.Bxc6! bxc6 14.Ba5⩲* picks up the d-pawn again for insufficient compensation.*)* 12...Qe7 13.Bxc6+ bxc6 14.Qxd4**±** doesn't give Black enough compensation.;

C2) 9...Nxd4? 1-0 (27) Pniaczek, M (2312)-Volkov,M (2222) chess.com INT 2022 10.Nxd4 Qxd4 11.Qxd4 exd4 12.Nd2**±** simply leaves Black with a weak d-pawn.;

C3) 9...Bb4+! Black's only move to secure equality.

C3a) 10.Nc3 is a calmer alternative, but Black should be fine: exd4 11.a3! Be7 12.Nb5 0-0

C3a1) 13.N5xd4? should be avoided: Nxe4! This theme crops up a lot in these lines! 14.Nxc6 *(14.Be3 Nxd4 15.Qxd4* 1/2-1/2 (48) Nguyen,A (2298)-Krastev,A (2380) Magdeburg GER 2021 *Nd6!∓* gives Black a strong initiative.*)* 14...Qxd1+

15.Rxd1 Bxg5 16.fxe4 bxc6∓ leaves Black with the two Bishops and much better development, 0-1 (43) Djidjeli, S (2074)-Bellahcene,B (2501) Europe-Chess INT 2020;

C3a2) 13.N3xd4 Qb6!? *(13...Nxe4!?* sacrifices a pawn for excellent compensation after *14.Nxc6 Qxd1+ 15.Rxd1 Bxg5 16.Ncxa7 Nc5 17.Nxc8 Rfxc8 18.Kf2 Bf6⩱* The game is likely to end in a draw. *)* 14.Be3 Rd8 1/2-1/2 (32) Oleksienko,M (2620) -Cheparinov,I (2684) Doha 2014. Black has a fair amount of pressure here. White's best bet is to play 15.Qd3!? threatening a potential discovered attack on the Black Queen, and Black should force perpetual with Qa5+ 16.Bd2 Qb6 17.Be3 Qa5+=;

C3b) 10.Bd2!? This provokes insane complications.

C3b1) 10...exd4? doesn't work at all: 11.Bxb4 Nxb4 12.Bb5+ Bd7 0-1 (55) Barron,M (2108)-Ioannidis,E (2411) chess.com INT 2020. Now, 13.Qd2! a5 14.Nxd4± picks up a clear pawn for White.;

C3b2) 10...0-0!? Cheparinov suggests this as a novelty in his recent Najdorf repertoire for Chessable, but it has been played in a Correspondence game and I actually checked it myself about a year ago.

C3b21) 11.d5?! Nxe4! This is a forced line that leads to a draw. This was in both Cheparinov's and my analysis. 12.dxc6 Qh4+ 13.g3 Nxg3 14.hxg3 Qxg3+ 15.Ke2 Bg4!! *(15...e4!!* is another 0.00 direction!*)* 16.fxg4 Qxg4+ 17.Kf2!? This attempt to play on doesn't really bear fruit after *(17.Ke1 Qg3+=)* 17...Qxd1 18.Bxb4 Qg4 19.Bxf8 Qf4+ #11 forcing a draw anyway after 20.Kg2 Qe4+ 21.Kg1 Qe3+=;

C3b22) 11.Bxb4 Nxb4

C3b221) 12.dxe5?! Nxe4! is once again possible, despite the fac that White can exchange Queens immediately: 13.Qxd8 Nc2+ 14.Kd1 Nf2+ *(14...Rxd8+ 15.Kxc2 Nf2=* is another move-order. *)* 15.Kxc2 Rxd8= is another move-order. 16.Rg1 Bf5+ Black clearly has tremendous activity here. 17.Kc3 a5 Black's attack continues into the endgame! White's struggles with his

development and exposed King easily compensate for his extra piece.

C3b2211) 18.Nxa5 does not change much. Rxa5 19.Nd2 Rc8+ 20.Kb4 *(20.Kd4 Rd8+=* is another draw.*)* 20...Rd5! 21.Nc4 Bd3 #19 White must repeat with 22.Kb3 Rb5+ 23.Ka4 Rd5 24.Kb3 Rb5+=;

C3b2212) 18.N1d2 Rac8+ 19.Nc4 and now Nd1+! 20.Rxd1 Rxd1 leaves Black in a commanding position despite White's extra material. 21.a4 White prevents ...b7-b5. Be6! 22.Nbxa5 b6 White can't avoid returning his extra material. 23.Nb7 Rxc4+ 24.Bxc4 Rxg1 25.Bxe6 fxe6 26.g4 Rh1= #18 This should probably end in a draw as well.;

C3b2213) 18.Kc4 Bd3+ *(18...Nd3!?=* and*; 18...b6!?=* are other possibilities mentioned by Cheparinov.*)* 19.Bxd3 Nxd3 Despite the further simplications, White's King is perilously-placed. 20.Nc3 This is probably the most challenging move for Black to face, but he has sufficient counter-chances: *(20.N1d2 Nxe5+ 21.Kb5!?* leads to a ridiculous perpetual after *Rd5+ 22.Kb6 Ra6+ 23.Kxb7! Rc6!* White is obviously very lucky not to be mated here. *24.Rac1! Rd7+ 25.Kb8 Rd8+=* is an easy way to force the draw.*)* 20...b5+!! 21.Kxb5 Capturing with the Knight would allow ... Ra8-c8+. Rab8+ 22.Ka4 *(22.Kc6 Rbc8+=)* 22...Nxb2+ 23.Kxa5 Nc4+= #20 with an amusing perpetual.;

C3b222) 12.Qd2 is another attempt mentioned by Cheparinov. Nxe4! This is yet again possible! 13.fxe4 Qh4+ 14.Kd1 Bg4+ 15.Be2 exd4 Black has full compensation for the material in all lines.

16.Bxg4 *(16.Qxb4 Bxe2+ 17.Kxe2 Qxe4+ 18.Kf2 Qe3+* is another perpetual. *19.Kf1 Qf4+ 20.Kg1 Qe3+=)* 16...Qxg4+ 17.Qe2 Qg5 18.N1d2 d3 19.Qf3 a5⩱ #13 Black has ongoing compensation for the piece thanks to White's King being stuck in the centre.;

C3b223) 12.a3! This is White's most challenging continuation. 12...Nxe4! 13.g3! Declining the piece is the most accurate continuation. *(13.axb4?! Qh4+ 14.g3 Nxg3 15.hxg3 Qxh1 16.d5* doesn't prevent Black from opening lines: *e4!∓* is very dangerous for White.*)* 13...exd4!? This is where Cheparinov and I deviate from the Correspondence game. *(13...Nd5!? 14.fxe4 Ne3 15.Qd3 exd4 16.N1d2 Qf6 17.Rc1±* was eventually drawn, but I feel that White has made some progress towards consolidating, 1/2 (37)-1/2 (37) Baum,H (2260) -Sikorski,R (2131) LSS 2018*)* 14.fxe4! This is White's best bet. *(14.axb4* should ultimately lead to equality after *Qe7 15.Be2 Qxb4+ 16.N1d2 Nxd2 17.Nxd2* and now *d3! 18.Bxd3 Re8+ 19.Be2 Bf5* gives Black dangerous play. White should try to exchange Queens even if it means returning the material: *20.Qa4! Qxa4 21.Rxa4 Bd3 22.Ne4 Bxe2 23.Kxe2 f5 24.Ke3 fxe4 25.Rxe4=* should be drawn. *)* 14...Nc6 15.N1d2 Ne5 16.Qe2 Be6 #15 Cheparinov stops here claiming attacking chances for Black. I'd like to go a little further and claim that Black still has to prove his compensation is sufficient after 17.Qb5!? Qg5 18.0-0-0± , but he would certainly have decent practical chances.;

C3b3) 10...Bxd2+? helps White to develop: 11.Qxd2! exd4 *(11...Nxd4? 12.Nxd4 Qxd4 13.Qxd4 exd4* 1-0 (54) Gascon Del Nogal, J (2461)-Kilic, E (2417) chess.com INT 2022 *14.Na3!±* Black has no

compensation for the weak d-pawn. *)* 12.Bb5 0-0 *(12...Qb6 13.Bxc6+ bxc6 14.Qxd4±* picks up the pawn immediately, 1-0 (67) Pahl,E (2203)-Florstedt,J (2359) Magdeburg GER 2022 *)* 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Qxd4**±** also wins a pawn, 1-0 (18) Gascon Del Nogal, J (2449)-Zanette,E (2115) chess.com INT 2022;

C3b4) 10...Nxe4!? A very ambitious idea! 11.Bxb4! Qh4+ 12.g3 Nxg3 13.hxg3

C3b41) 13...Qxg3+?! gives White good chances to consolidate after 14.Kd2 Nxb4 15.Bb5+ Ke7 16.Qc1! *(16.Qe1!? Qg2+ 17.Be2±* is also reasonable.*)* 16...Qg2+ 17.Be2 Qg5+ 18.Kd1 Black runs out of constructive checks. Qxc1+ 19.Kxc1**±** gives White good chances, with a piece for two pawns in the ending, 1/2-1/2 (37) Mastrovasilis, D (2580)-Navara,D (2739) Poland 2017;

C3b42) 13...Qxh1! Black grabs the Rook and threatens ... Bc8-h3 already.

C3b421) 14.Ba3 is another possibility, but Black appears to be fine after Bh3! 1/2-1/2 (60) Danin,A (2587) -Volokitin,A (2677) Austria 2017 15.Qd3! 0-0-0 *(15...Bxf1 16.Qxf1 Qxf1+ 17.Kxf1 exd4 18.N1d2 0-0-0=* also gives equal chances in this unbalanced endgame. *)* 16.N1d2 Bxf1 17.Qxf1 Qh6= gives Black enduring compensation for the piece.;

C3b422) 14.Bc5 Bh3! 15.N1d2 0-0-0! Black completes development and forces White to play creatively in order to survive: 16.Qc2 Bxf1 can be met by 17.0-0-0! transferring the King to relative safety. Qh6 18.Rxf1 b6 1-0 (41) Bick,G (2375) -Bakhmatsky,V (2442) Vienna AUT 2019. White still has to play accurately to draw: 19.Qf5+ Kb8 20.Ba3 exd4 21.Qxf7 Ne5 22.Qf5 Nc4 This looks quite scary to face OTB for White. 23.f4 Ne3 *(23...Nxa3 24.bxa3 Rhe8=* is also sufficient, 1/2 (28)-1/2 (28) Wadle,M (2142)-de Paz Gonzalez,Y (2109) ICCF 2021 *)* 24.Qe5+ Kc8 25.Qe4 Nxf1

and now 26.Na5! is simplest, exposing the Black King further. *(26.Qa8+!? Kc7 27.Qxa7+ Kc6 28.Nf3=* is also enough to draw. *)* 26...bxa5 27.Qa8+ Kc7 28.Qxa7+ Kc8 29.Qa8+ Kd7 30.Qb7+ Ke6! *(30...Ke8 31.Qe7#)* 31.Qe4+ Kd7= and White has earned his perpetual check.]

8.Bxf6!? gxf6 9.exd5

[9.Bb5+!? was noted in the archives as being under-explored, and it scores exceptionally well for White, albeit over a small number of games. Nc6! 10.exd5

A) 10...Qxd5?! probably isn't the most accurate, but it's still not so bad for Black. 11.Qxd5 Bxd5 12.Nc3 was noted as potentially interesting for White by John Shaw in the archives. Be6! *(12...Bb4? 13.0-0-0!±* is great for White, as the Black light-squared Bishop is enprise and he is ahead in development, 1-0 (22) Svane,F (2501)-Eynullayev,A (2333) chess.com INT 2022*; 12...0-0-0?! 13.Nxd5 Rxd5 14.Bc4 Rd7 15.c3±* gives White a safe edge, 1-0 (39) Liang Jinrong (2462)-Wei Yi (2244) Guangzhou CHN 2010*)* 13.Na5 1-0 (24) Svane,F (2421)-Chen,R (2165) chess.com INT 2020 *(13.0-0-0!? Rc8⇄* looks solid enough for Black.*)* 13...0-0-0!N is a powerful pawn sacrifice: 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Bxc6 Rg8 16.g3 Bb4≌ with excellent play for Black.;

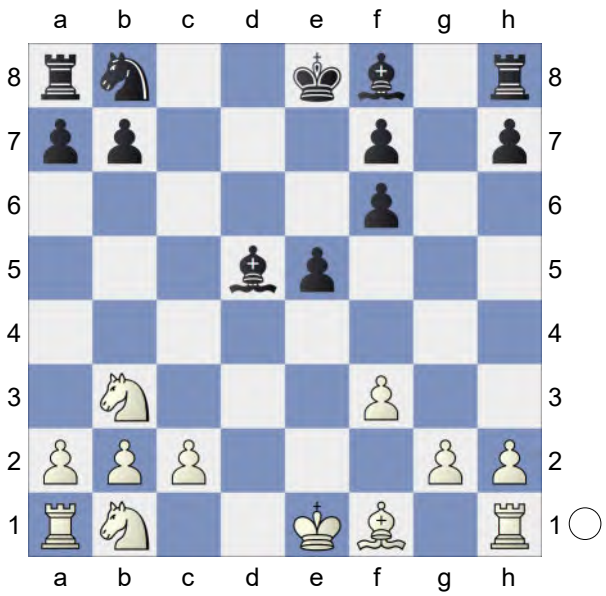
B) 10...Bxd5 11.Nc3 Bb4 *(11...Be6!?=* may be even more accurate. *)* 12.Qd3!? This is a reasonable try for an edge from White. Bxc3+ *(12...Bxb3?! 13.axb3 Qxd3 14.Bxd3 Rd8 15.0-0-0±* leaves White with a clear advantage on the light-squares, and Black was unable to hold this Correspondence game, 1-0 (53) Fagerström,M (2286) -Ylipartanen,J (2062) ICCF 2017*)* 13.bxc3!? Be6 1-0 (67) Laurent-Paoli,P (2483)-Lucas,A (2337) Rochefort FRA 2022. Now, 14.0-0-0!? Qxd3 15.cxd3 Rc8 16.d4!? gives White some mild pressure: exd4 17.Nxd4 Ke7 18.Bxc6 bxc6 19.Rhe1 c5 20.Nf5+ Kf8 21.Nd6 Rb8 22.Re4 looks slightly more pleasant for White but should be holdable for Black, after, for example, Rb6!?⇄]

9...Qxd5

[9...Bxd5?! is a definite mistake in this exact position: 10.Nc3± Bb4?! 11.Qd3!± is quite strong for White, 1-0 (43) Kramnik,V (2759)-Schiendorfer,E (2321) Zuerich 2009]

10.Qxd5 Bxd5

(Diagram)



11.Nc3 Be6! Alternatives have been checked in the archives, but this is basically the only move for Black.
12.Nb5!? This move is described as a "one trick pony" by Giri.
[12.0-0-0!? Rowson considered this to be best in the archives and it's the first choice of modern engines. Nd7!? *(12...Nc6!?* is another reasonable try. *13.Bb5! Rc8⇄* looks solid enough for Black. *14.Nd5 f5 15.Nf6+ Ke7 16.Nd5+ Ke8 17.Rhe1!?* Now that Black can't castle, White brings his last piece into play. *a6 18.Bxc6+ bxc6 19.Nb6 Rb8 20.Na4 f6!=* #5 This is given by Giri in his Najdorf course for Chessable. The position is equal but unbalanced enough to play for a win with either colour.*)* 13.Nb5!? Bh6+ *(13...Ke7!? 14.Nc7 Rd8!* This idea looks bulletproof for Black. *15.Nd5+ Bxd5 16.Rxd5 Bh6+ 17.Kb1 Nc5!!=* Fantastic! White has no prospects for an advantage after this. transposes to 13...Ke7!? *18.Bc4 Rxd5 19.Bxd5 Nxb3 20.axb3 b6=* Sam gave this line in the archives and it still looks like a clean equaliser.*; 13...Kd8!?* 1/2-1/2 (20) Kravtsiv,M (2645)-Areshchenko,A (2678) Rivne 2016 *14.Kb1!?⩲* steps out of a potential check from h6 and prepares to play Nb3-a5 next, with some pressure. *)* 14.Kb1 Ke7 15.Nc7 Rac8? This move is careless and enables White to achieve lasting pressure: *(* It's not too late to equalise: *15...Rad8! 16.Nd5+ Bxd5 17.Rxd5 Nc5!!=* transposes to 13...Ke7!?*)* 16.Nd5+ Bxd5 17.Rxd5 Nb6 1-0 (41) Zhu, J (2464) -Wagner,D (2358) Astana KAZ 2022 18.Ra5± with a clear advantage.]
12...Kd8!?
[12...Kd7!? is very likely to transpose]
[12...Na6! is recommended by Giri in his Najdorf course and is the engine's first choice. 13.0-0-0 Ke7= This retains the option of playing ...h7-h5 before developing the Bishop on h6 and looks fine for Black. *(13...Bh6+ 14.Kb1 Ke7=* is also OK, 1-0 (50) Varga,Z (2441)-Shahil,D (2434) Budapest HUN 2021*; 13...Rc8??* however, should be avoided after *14.Nxa7 Ra8 15.Nb5 Bh6+ 16.Kb1±* 1-0 (42) Ivanchuk,V (2678)-Salem,A (2677) chess.com INT 2022, with a clear extra pawn for White. *)*]
13.0-0-0+ Kc8 14.Na5!? Some alternative moves for White were considered in the archives.
[14.Nc3! may seem like an admission of failure, but it may also be White's best move! Nd7 15.Nd5 h5 1/2 (26)-1/2 (26) Nabaty,T (2690)-Sjugirov, S (2652) Batumi 2018 [Sam Collins] The engine likes White after 16.Kb1!⩲ as Black still has some

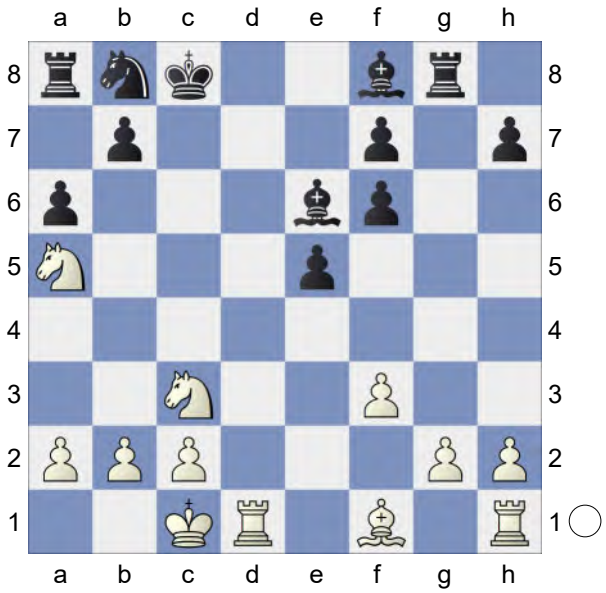
difficulties completing his development.]

14...a6!

[14...Nc6!? allows White's Knights to hop all the over the place, but this seems to be no trouble for Black: 15.Nc4 Bc5 16.Ncd6+ Kb8 17.Bc4 a6 18.Nc3 Kc7 *(18...Rg8!?= is a decent alternative.)* 19.Nce4 Bxd6 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.Nxd6 Rhg8= ö-ö (126) Malakhov,V (2510)-Tyomkin,D (2385) Holon 1995, was also quoted by Sam in the archives,]

15.Nc3 Rg8?

[15...Nc6! 16.Nb3! *(16.Nxc6?! bxc6∓* Black's Queenside pawns are easily defended and his Bishops are quite strong.*)* 16...f5!?= gives Black decent counterplay with the two Bishops.]



Black should prioritise his Queenside development. **16.g3?!** This is too slow and allows Black the chance to rectify his previous error. **16...Nd7?!**

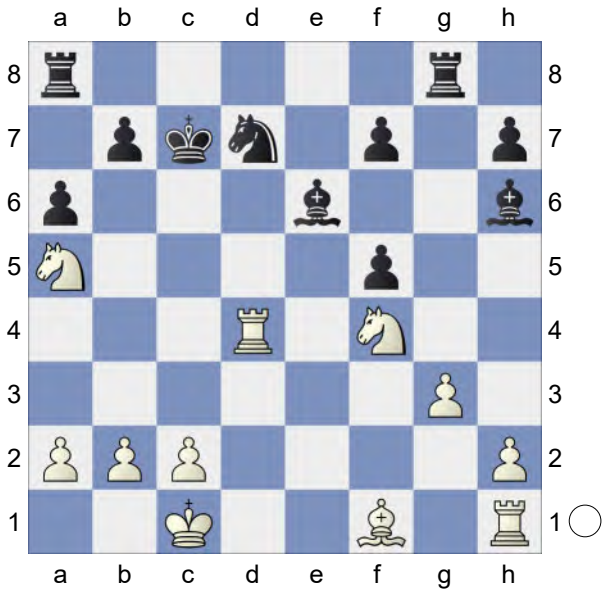
[16...Nc6!= is once again fine for Black.]

17.Nd5!± gives White a nice advantage.

17...f5 18.f4!? Ivanchuk wastes no time in fixing Black's doubled f-pawns on light squares.

[18.Kb1± also gives White an edge.]

18...exf4! Duda plays dynamically, opening diagonals for his dark-squared Bishop. **19.Nxf4 Bh6 20.Rd4** Preparing to recapture on f4 with the Rook. **20...Kc7**



21.Bg2 1-0 Black must play accurately to soak up White's pressure. **21...Nc5**

[21...Rab8!? might be a bit stronger. 22.Kb1 allows Bxf4! 23.Rxf4 Rg4! 24.Rf2 h5⇄ with decent counterplay.]

22.Rhd1?! This natural move throws away White's advantage.

[22.Kb1!± should be prioritised, threatening to move the Knight from f4: Rg4?? 23.Nd5+! Kb8 24.Rxg4 fxg4 25.Nb6 Ra7 26.Bd5 Bxd5 27.Nxd5+- leaves Black hopelessly tied up.]

22...Rac8?!

[22...Rg4!= gives Black enough pressure to maintain equality.]

23.Kb1!± White doesn't miss his second chance to unpin the Knight. **23...Kb8?** The King will come under fire along the

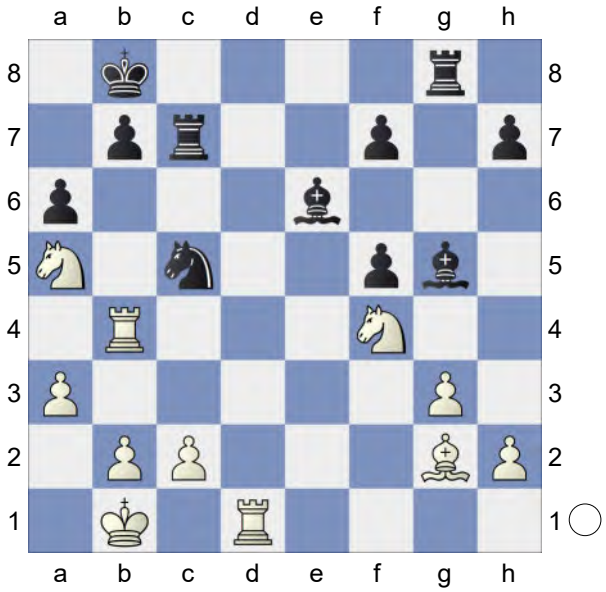
b-file in the near future.

[23...Bxf4! is a better bet, but White maintains an edge following 24.Rxf4 Rg4 and now 25.Rdd4!± ensuring a piece recapture on f4.]

24.a3± Bg5 25.Rb4

[25.Nxe6! fxe6 26.Rc4± gives White a clear advantage. Apart from his King, all of his remaining pieces are more active than Black's.]

25...Rc7

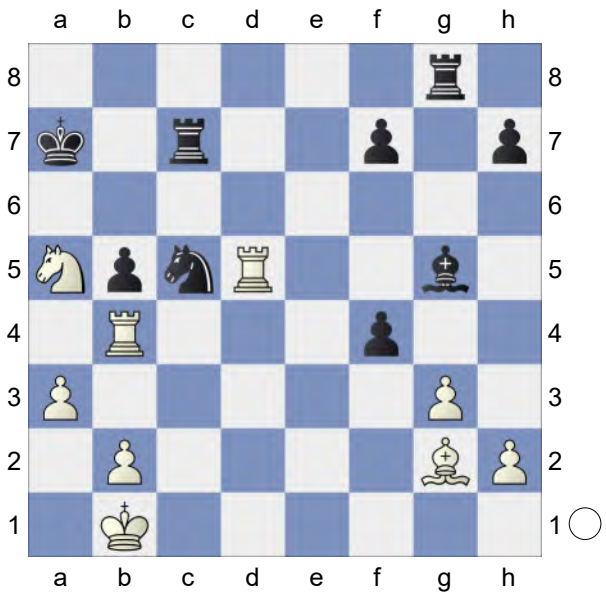


26.Rd6 Ka7?? Black misses what should have been his final chance to reduce White's pressure.

[26...Bxf4! 27.Rxf4 Bc8 28.Bh3± is definitely a bit better for White, but Black can continue to put up stiff resistance.]

27.Nd5! Rd6-b6 will follow, and White's pressure is tremendous. **27...Bxd5 28.Rxd5+- b5?!** This weakening move doesn't help Black's cause. **29.c4! f4!?** Black feels obliged to jettison a pawn on the Queenside in order to create some counterplay on the opposite side of the board. **30.cxb5 axb5**

(Diagram)



31.Rxb5 fxg3 32.hxg3 Be7 33.Rf5 Rxg3 Black has managed to regain his pawn, but White can retain a winning advantage with accurate play. **34.Bd5??** The Ukrainian genius slips up and gives Black a chance to get back in the game.

[34.Nc6+! Ka6 35.Bf1! is the way to go, creating a mating net around the Black King. Rxc6 36.Rb3+ Nd3!? 37.Bxd3+ forces Black to give up the exchange for no compensation after Rxd3 38.Rxd3+-]

34...Bd6?? Duda misses his one chance to create confusion and Ivanchuk converts his advantage mercilessly from here on in.

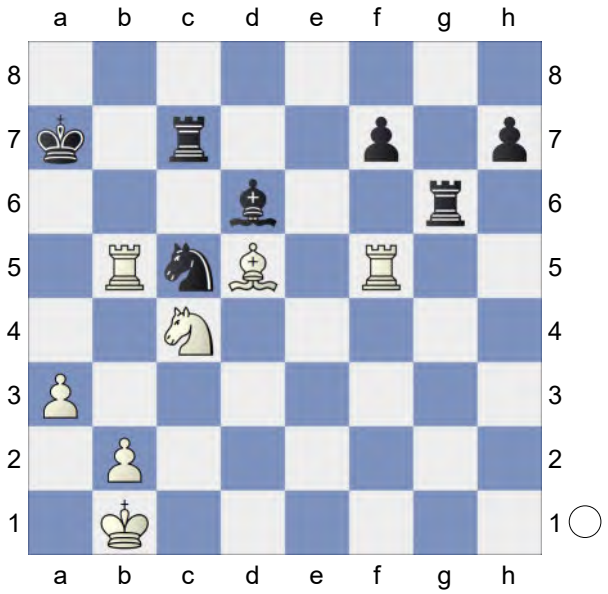
[34...Rg1+! 35.Ka2 Nd3!⇄ is suddenly difficult for White to handle.]

35.Nc4

[35.Nc6+ Ka6 36.Rb4+- is probably even stronger.]

35...Rg6

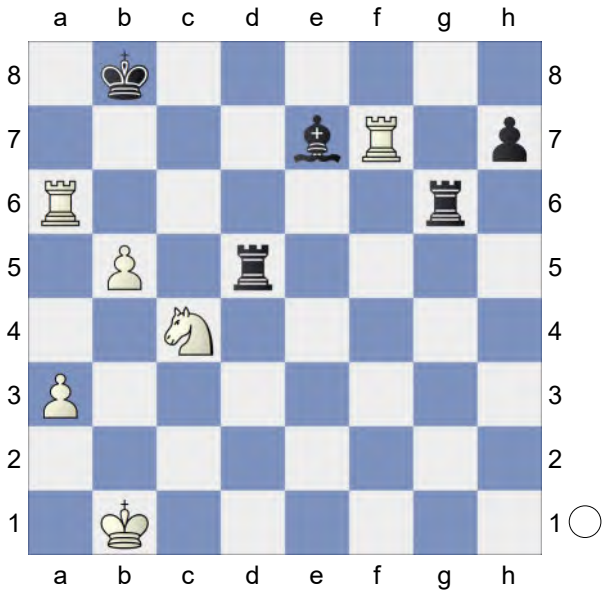
(Diagram)



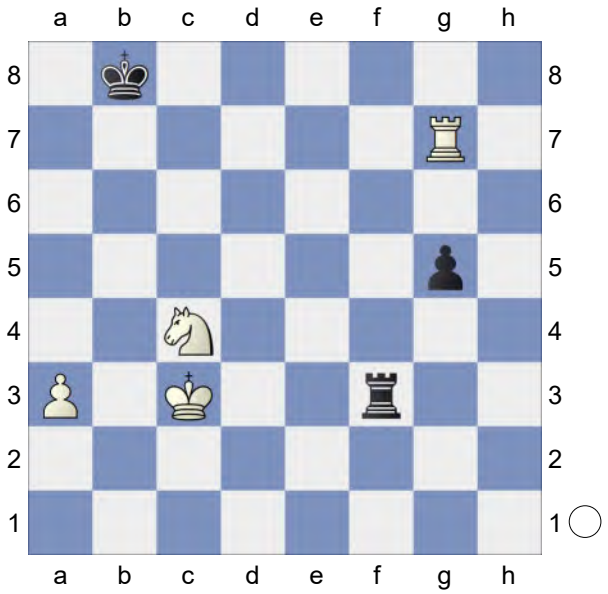
36.Ra5+ Na6 37.b4 White even includes his b-pawn in the attack. **37...Be7 38.b5 Rc5!? 39.Rxf7!?** At the end of the coming sequence, White retains an extra piece.

[39.Ka2!+- is the engine's first choice. White has numerous winning moves, however. Taking on a6 with either Rook or pawn would do.]

39...Rxd5 40.Rxa6+ Kb8



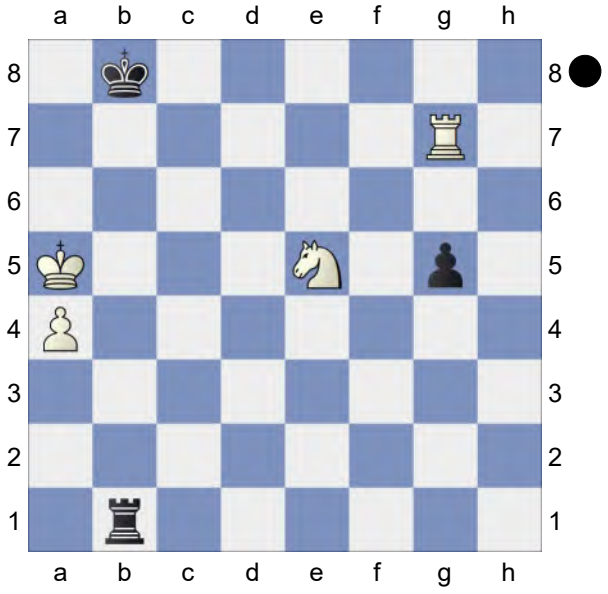
41.Rxg6 Rxb5+ 42.Kc2 hxg6 43.Rxe7 There's no way to get rid of the a-pawn and White wins easily. **43...Rf5 44.Rg7 g5 45.Kc3 Rf3+**



46.Kb4 Rg3 47.a4 Rg1 48.Ne5

[48.Nb6+- also wins quickly.]

48...Rb1++- 49.Ka5



5 f3 remains an interesting surprise weapon. 7...d4!? is a very challenging and complex continuation for Black. Duda's 7...Be6 also equalises, but Black must be accurate and White has a couple of interesting options along the way. Ne5 Rb1+ Ka5 5 f3 remains an interesting surprise weapon. 7...d4!? is a very challenging and complex

continuation for Black. Duda's 7...Be6 also equalises, but Black must be accurate and White has a couple of interesting options along the way.
1-0

117 **B54**
□ **Morozevich,Alexander** **2676**
■ **Fedoseev,Vladimir** **2667**
Nutcracker Rapid 2016 (1.1) 21.12.2016
[Kitty Kat]

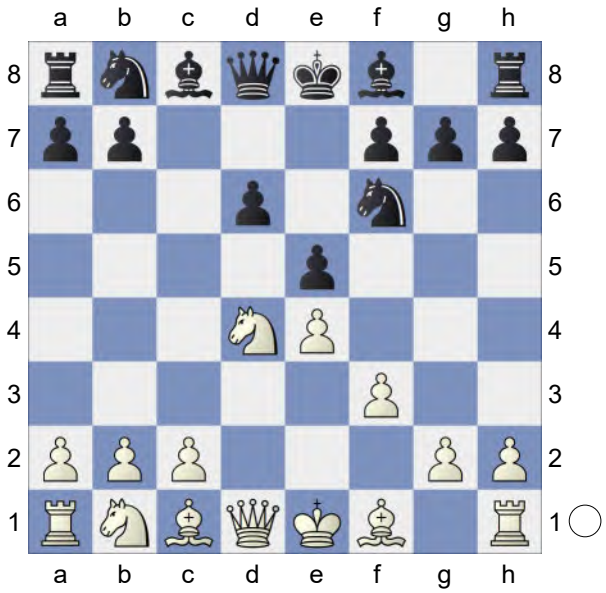
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

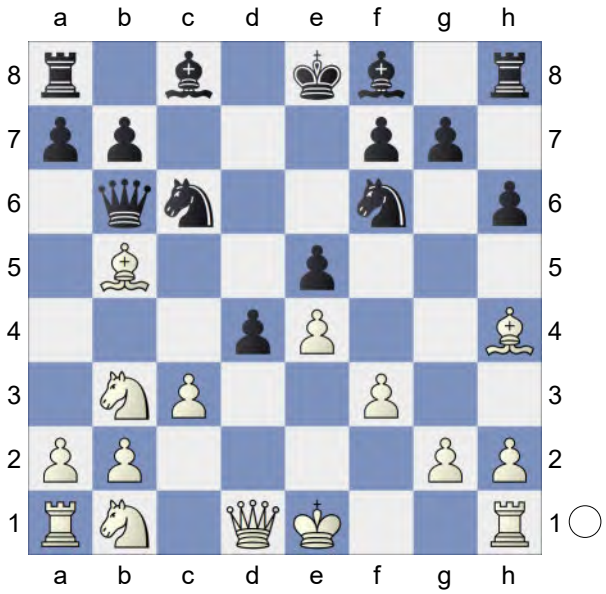
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



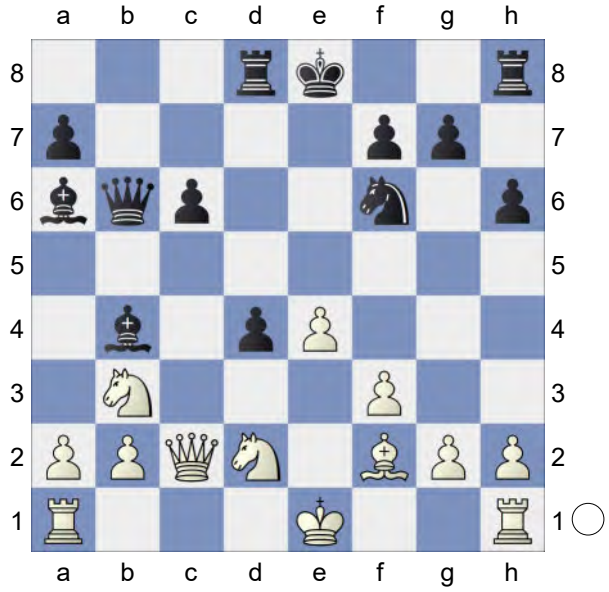
6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4! 8.c3! Nc6 9.Bb5 h6 10.Bh4 Qb6



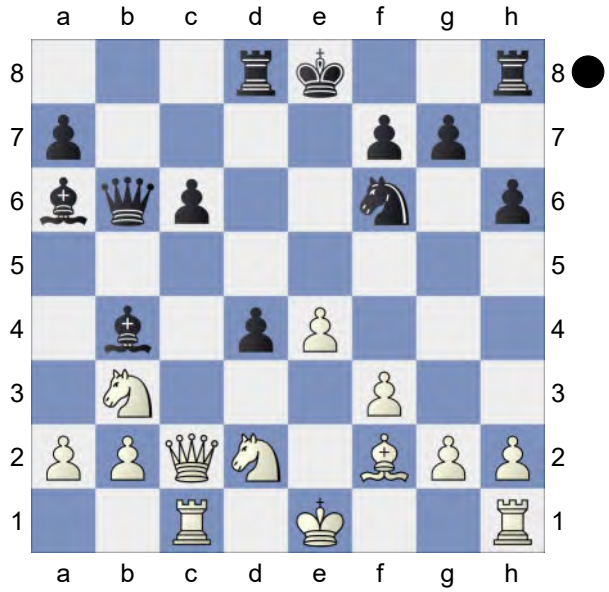
11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.cxd4

[Much weaker is 12.Bxf6 gxf6

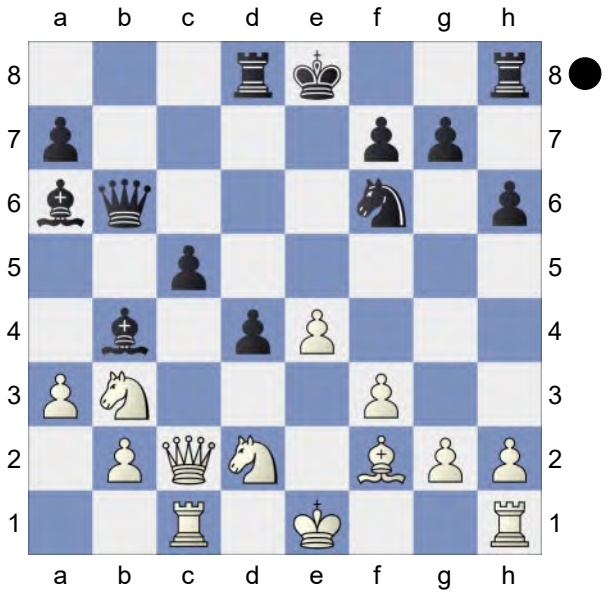
13.cxd4 Ba6∓]
12...Ba6! 13.Bf2 -0.62/21
[13.Bg3= -0.01/21]
13...Rd8!∓ 14.N1d2 exd4 -0.95/21
[14...Nd7∓ -0.60/20]
15.Qc2 Bb4



16.Rc1 -1.54/20
[⌓16.a3 -0.93/18 Qb5 17.Nc1]

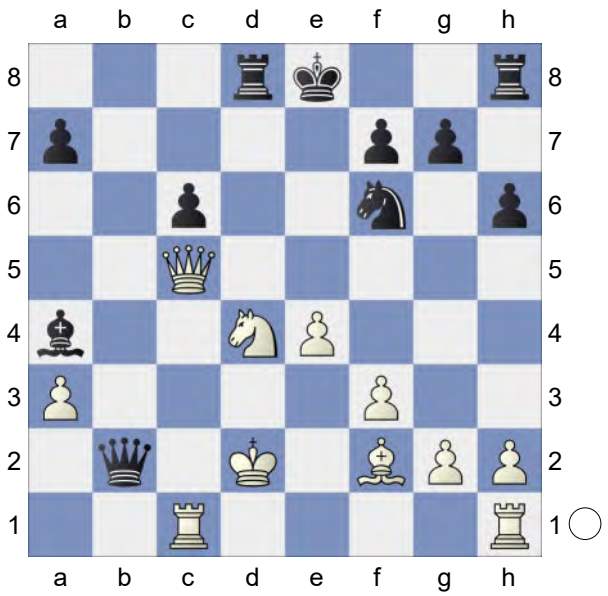


16...Bb5? 0.45/21 A strong pair of Bishops.
[16...c5!∓ -1.54/20 Strongly threatening ...Nd7. 17.a3 *(17.Nxc5? Rc8∓)*



17...Qb5!]
17.a3± Ba5 1.12/20
[17...Bxd2+± 0.63/20 is superior. 18.Qxd2 0-0]
18.Qc5 0.18/20
[18.Nc5± 1.12/20 Hoping for b4. Bxd2+ 19.Qxd2]
18...Bxd2+ 1.36/23
[18...Qxc5? 19.Nxc5 Nd7 20.a4 Nxc5 21.Rxc5 Bxd2+ 22.Kxd2 Bxa4 23.Ra1±]
[18...Nd7= 0.18/20 remains equal. 19.Qxd4 0-0]
19.Kxd2± Ba4 20.Nxd4 The board is on fire. **20...Qxb2+**

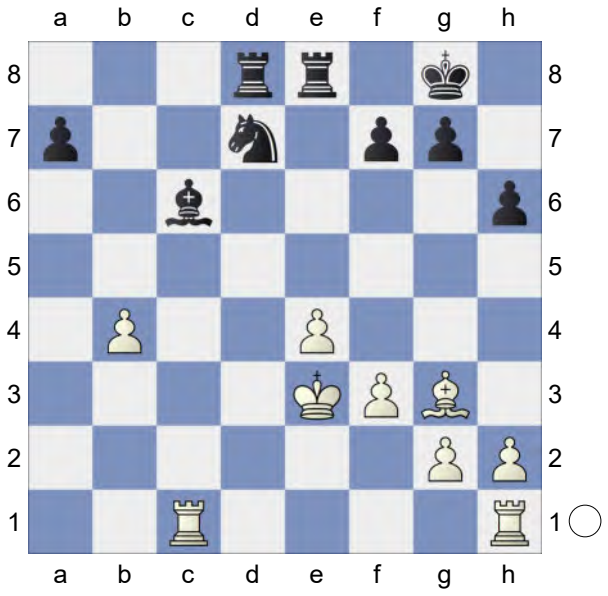
(Diagram)



21.Ke3 Nd7 Inhibits Qe5+. **22.Qb4** Active counter play! **22...Qxb4 23.axb4 0-0 24.Bg3** 1.03/21 Against Rb8

[Better is 24.Nxc6 1.49/21 Rde8 25.g4 *(25.Nxa7 f5±)*]

24...Rfe8 25.Nxc6 Bxc6



26.Rxc6 Nb6 27.Ra1 0.69/22

[White should play 27.b5± 1.25/21]

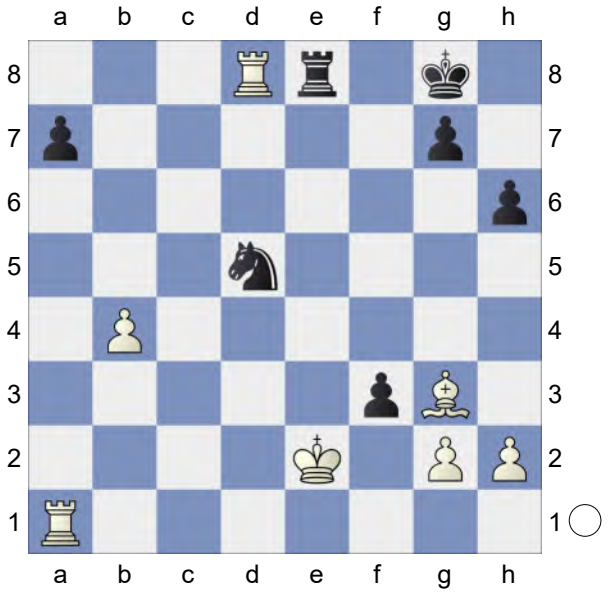
27...Nd5+!± 28.Ke2 f5! 29.Rd6↑ aiming for Rxd8. White has the initiative.

29...fxe4 30.Rxd8

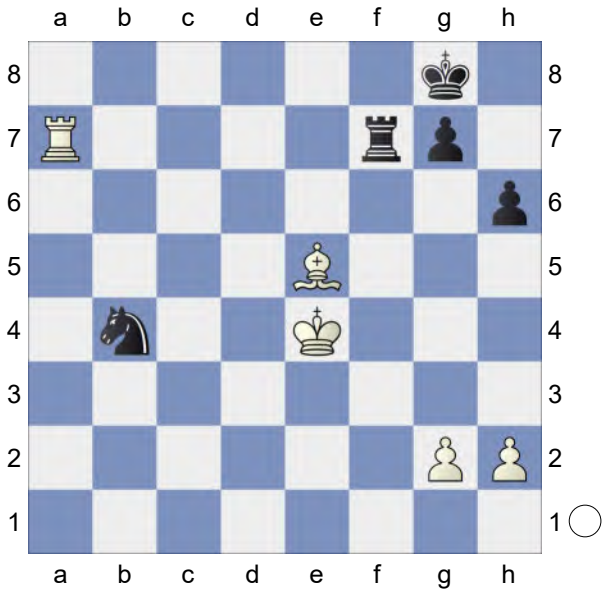
[But not 30.Rxa7 exf3+ 31.Kxf3 Re3+ 32.Kf2 Rf8+ 33.Kg1 Nc3=]

[30.fxe4 looks sharper. Rxd6 31.Bxd6 Rxe4+ 32.Kd3]

30...exf3+



31.Kxf3 Rxd8 32.Rxa7 Threatens to win with Be5. **32...Nxb4** The position is equal. **33.Be5 Rf8+ 34.Ke4 Rf7!**



White really could win this.

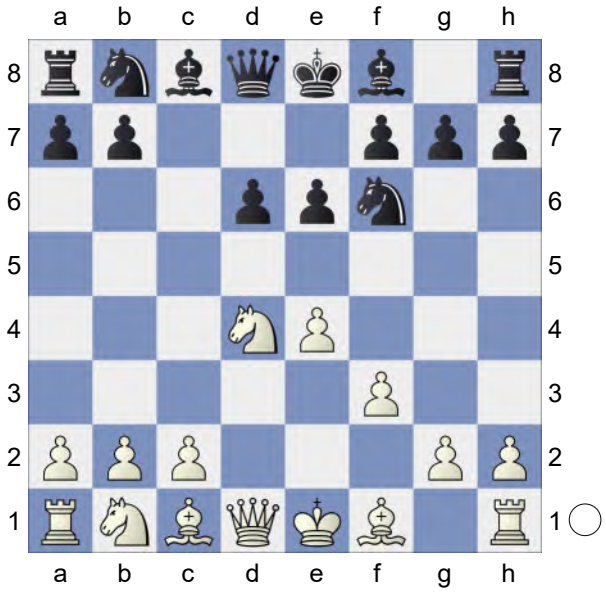
Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.20 (precise)

½-½

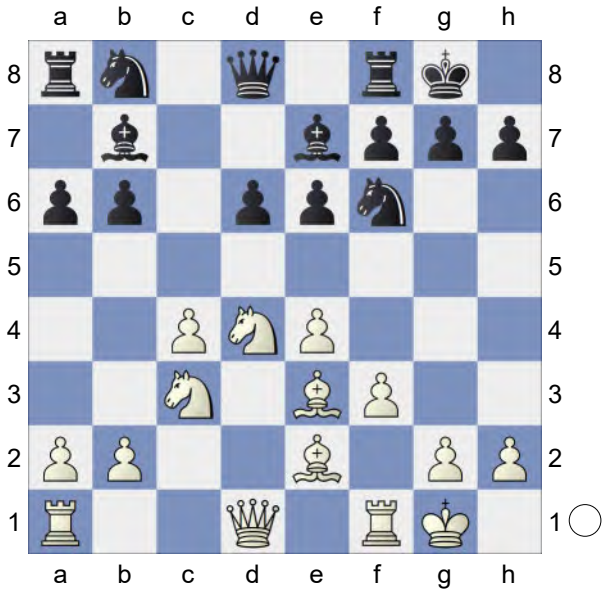
118 **A31**
□ **Malakhov,Vladimir** **2675**
■ **Wang,Hao** **2696**
CHN-chT 4th Chiva (15) 04.12.2008
[Kitty Kat]

A31: Symmetrical English: 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 d4

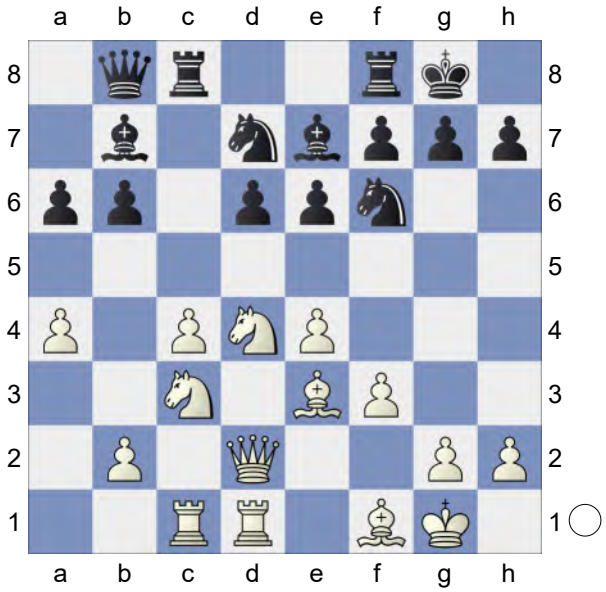
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e6



6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7

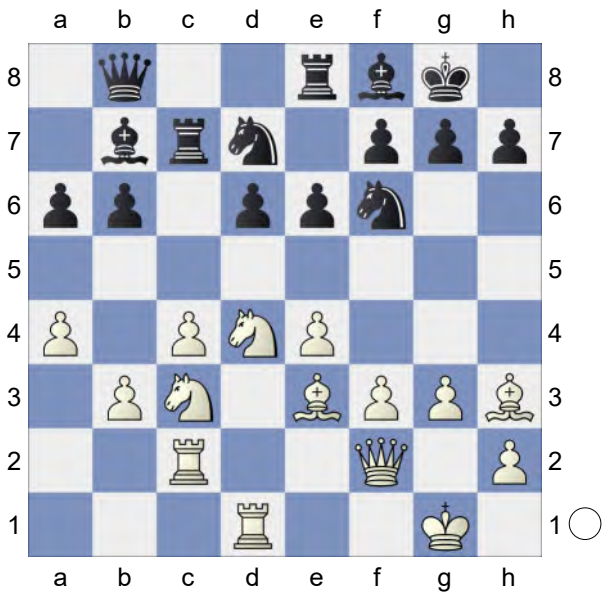


11.Qd2 Nbd7 12.a4 Rb8N
[12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 *(13...Qc7 14.Nb3 Nc5 15.axb6 Qxb6 16.Nxc5 dxc5 17.Na4 Qc7 18.Bf4 Qc6 19.Qc2 Nd7 20.e5 f6 21.Bd3 f5 22.Rfe1 Qc7 23.Qe2 Kh8 24.Bd2 Nb8 25.Bc3 Nc6 26.Rad1 Nd4 27.Bxd4 cxd4 28.Qc2* Dylong,A (2039)-Mrazek,R (1955) Bohumin 2023 ½-½ (31) *)* 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.Rad1 Qb6 14. b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson]]
13.Rfd1 Qc7 14.Rac1 Rbc8
White is slightly better. **15.Bf1 Qb8**

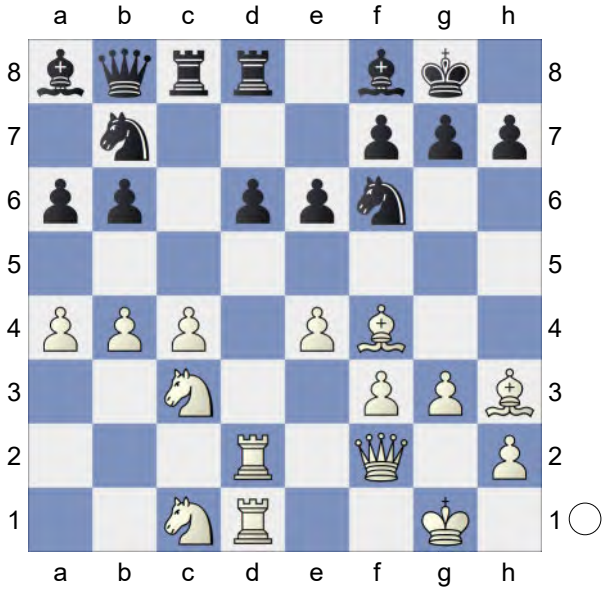


16.Qf2 Rfe8 17.g3 0.01/21
[17.b3± 0.36/16]
17...Bf8 18.b3 -0.45/19
[18.g4= 0.10/17]
18...Nc5 0.35/17
[Black should try 18...d5!∓ -0.45/19
19.cxd5 exd5]
19.Bh3 Ncd7 20.Rc2 Rc7

(Diagram)

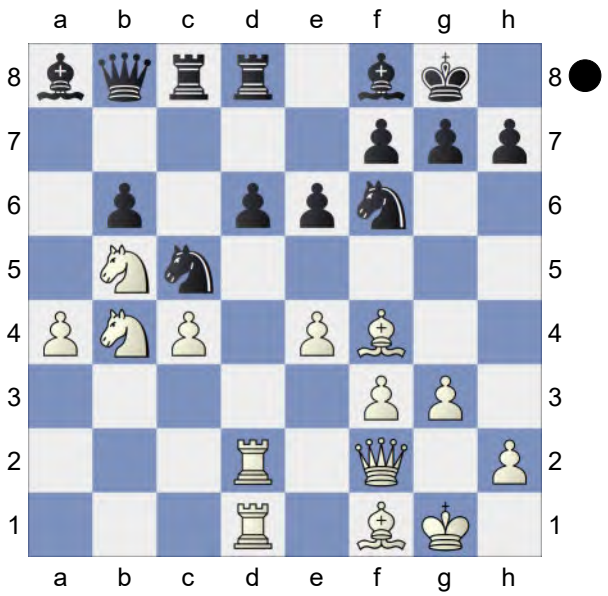


21.Nde2 -0.71/19
[21.g4= 0.25/16]
21...Ba8 0.27/15
[21...d5!∓ -0.71/19]
22.Rcd2 Nc5 23.Nc1 Rcc8 24.Bf4↑ White has some pressure. **24...Red8 25.b4 Nb7**

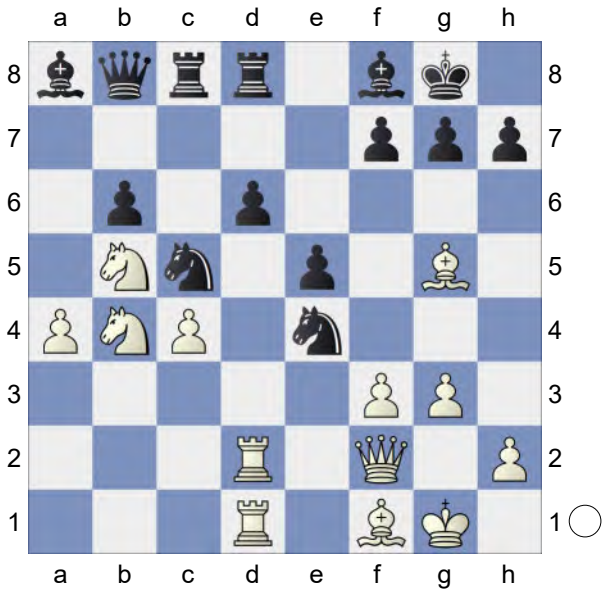


26.Bf1 a5 27.N1a2 axb4 28.Nxb4 Nc5 29.Nb5 -1.45/22
[29.Rb2= 0.01/17]

(Diagram)

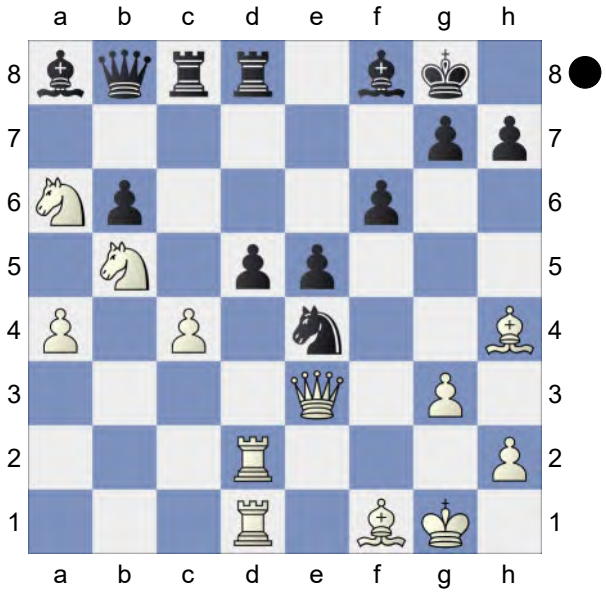


29...e5? 0.82/20
[29...Ncxe4!∓ -1.45/22 30.fxe4 Nxe4]
30.Bg5± &Bianco is more active.
30...Nfxe4

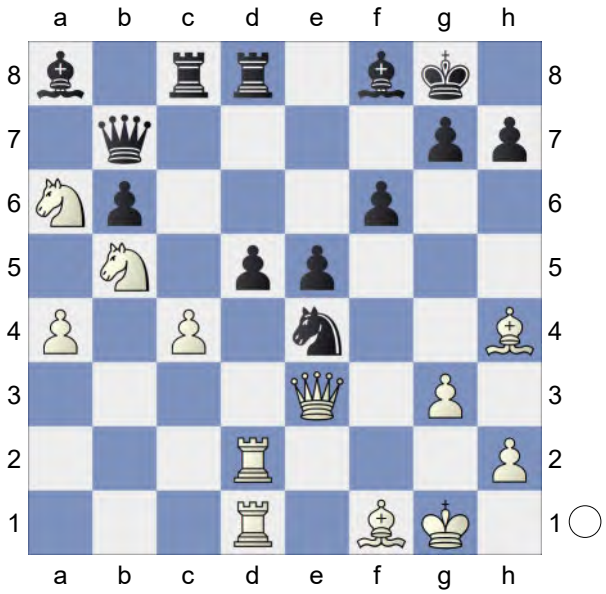


31.fxe4 Nxe4 32.Qe3 -0.35/21
[32.Qf5!± 1.01/21]
32...f6!∓ 33.Bh4 -0.91/20
[33.Na6 Qb7 34.Bg2 Rxc4∓]
[33.Bg2= -0.01/21 remains equal. Nxd2 34.Na6 Nxc4 35.Qe2 *(35.Qb3 Bxg2 36.Nxb8 Bb7∓)* 35...Bxg2 36.Nxb8]

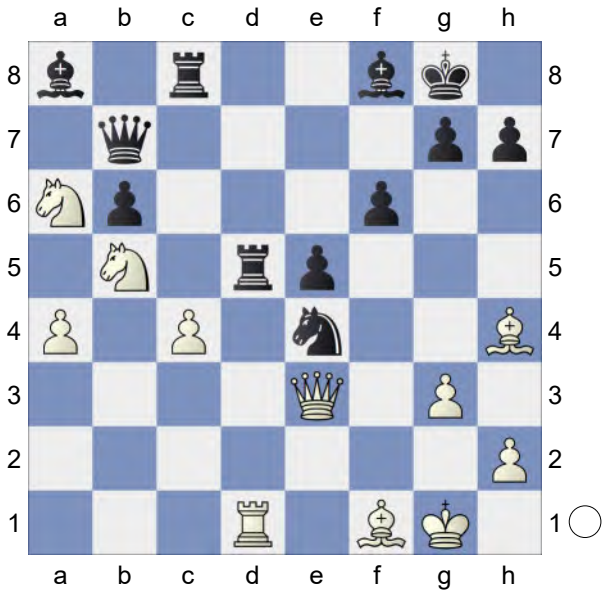
33...d5!∓ 34.Na6
[34.Nxd5? Bc5 35.Rd4 Bxd5 36.cxd5 Nd6-+]



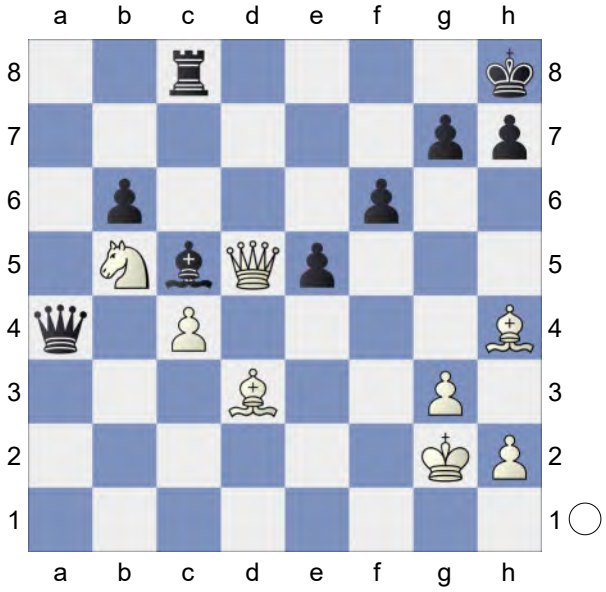
34...Qb7 1.23/22
[34...Nxd2!∓ -1.45/22 and life is bright. 35.Nxb8 Bc5! 36.Qxc5 *(36.Nd4? Bxd4 37.Qxd4 Nf3+ 38.Kf2 Nxd4-+)* 36...Rxc5 37.Rxd2 Rxb8]



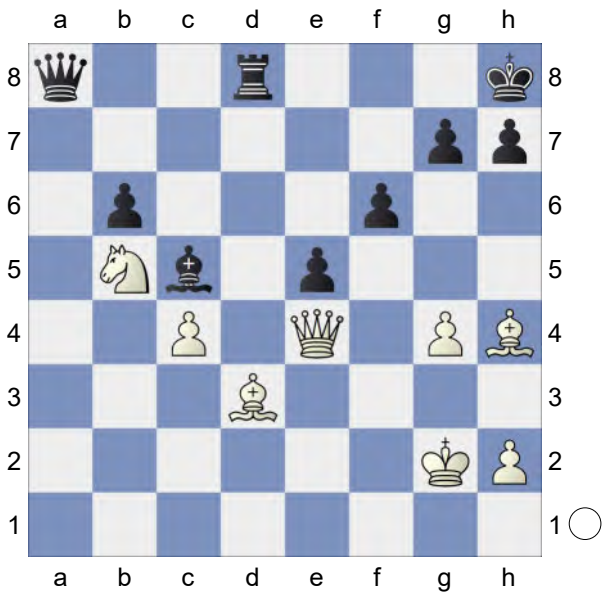
35.Rxd5!± Rxd5
(Diagram)



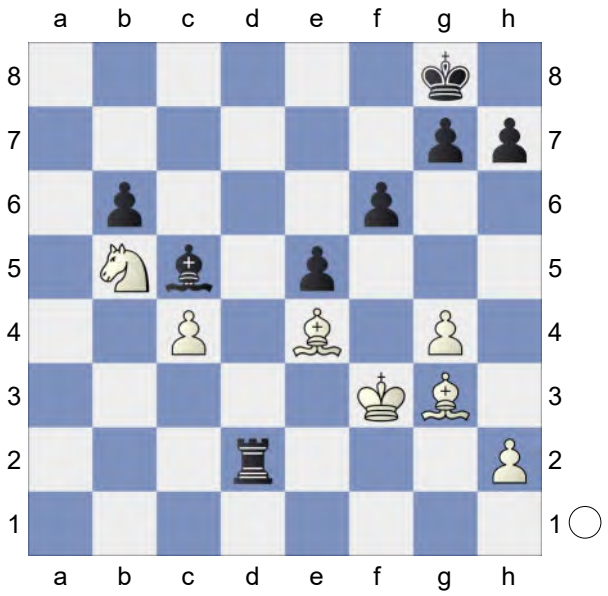
36.Rxd5 -0.01/22
[36.cxd5± 1.33/21 Nc5 37.Nb4]
36...Qxa6 37.Qxe4 And now Bd3 would win. **37...Bc5+ 38.Kg2 Qxa4 39.Bd3 Bxd5 40.Qxd5+ Kh8?** 2.62/22
[40...Kf8± 0.85/25]



41.Qe4? 0.02/24 Really sharp!
[41.Bxf6!+- 2.62/22 Rf8 *(41...Qd1 42.Bxg7+)* 42.Bxe5 *(42.Qe4 Qa8+-)*]
41...Qa8= Threatens to win with ...g5.
42.g4 Rd8
(Diagram)



43.Bg3! Qxe4+ 44.Bxe4 Rd2+ 45.Kf3 Kg8

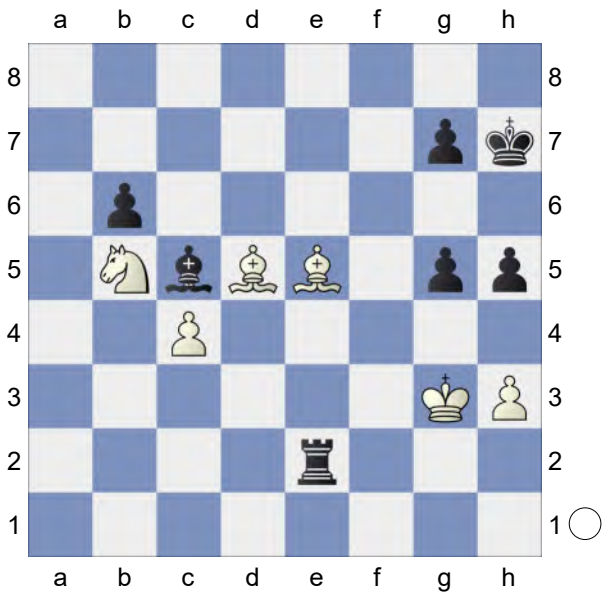


46.g5 fxg5 47.Bxe5 h5 With the idea ... Rf2+. **48.h3** -0.42/26

[48.Bd5+= -0.01/21 should be considered. Kh7 49.Ke4]

48...Rf2+!∓ 49.Kg3 Re2 50.Bd5+ Kh7!

(Diagram)



51.Bd4 -1.58/24

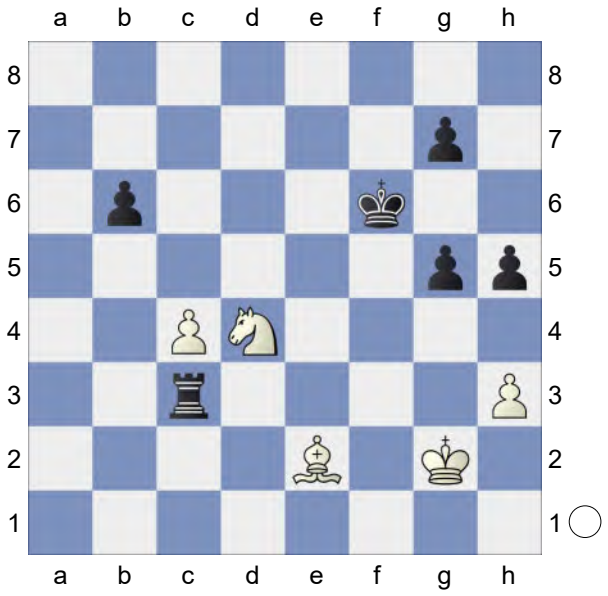
[51.Bc3∓ -0.38/23]

51...Bxd4∓ 52.Nxd4 Re3+ 53.Kg2 -1.64/23

[Better is 53.Bf3∓ -0.70/23]

53...Kg6-+ 54.Bf3 Rc3 55.Be2 Kf6 -1.23/25

[55...h4-+ -1.74/23 56.Nb5 Rg3+ 57.Kh2 Kf5 58.Nd6+ Ke5]

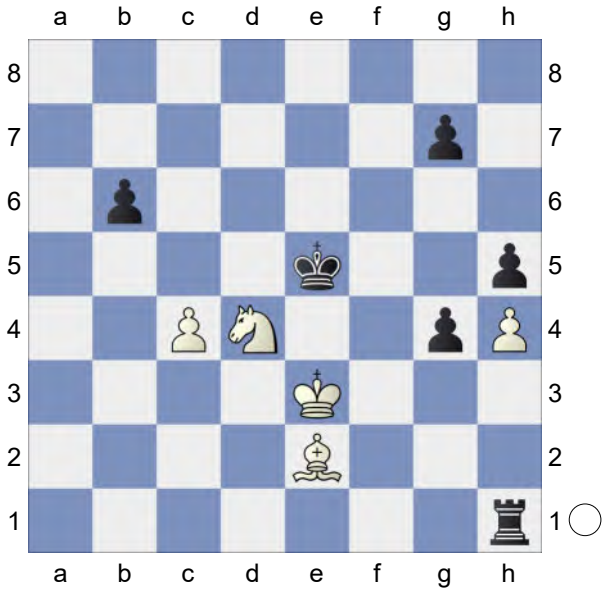


56.Nb5 -1.69/25

[56.Bxh5∓ -1.23/25 Rxc4 57.Nb5]

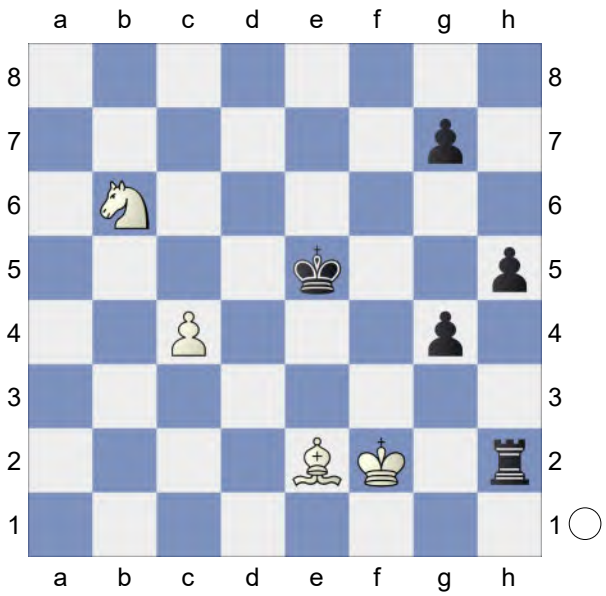
56...Rc2 57.Kf2 Ke5 Strongly

threatening ...g4. **58.Ke3 Rc1** -1.02/24
[Black should play 58...g4 -1.54/23 59.hxg4 hxg4 60.Bxg4 *(60.Kd3? g3-+)* 60...Rxc4]
59.Nd4 -2.39/24
[59.Bxh5∓ -1.02/24 keeps fighting. Rxc4 60.Be2]
59...Rh1 60.h4 -4.82/22
[60.Nf3+ -1.97/24 Kf5 61.Bd3+ Kf6 62.Kf2]
60...g4

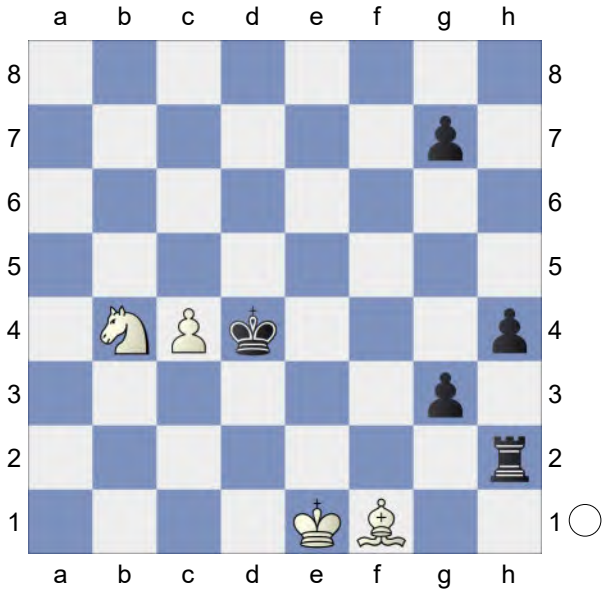


Black is clearly winning. **61.Nc6+ Kf6 62.Nb4 Rxh4 63.Nd5+ Ke5 64.Nxb6** -7.48/23
[⌓64.Nf4 -4.70/19 Rh2 65.Bd1]
64...Rh3+ 65.Kf2 Rh2+

(Diagram)



66.Kf1 g3 67.Nd5 Kd4 68.Nb4 Rf2+ 69.Ke1 h4 aiming for ...h3. **70.Bf1 Rh2**



What a bad dream for White.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/ Black=0.32. An unexpected result.
½-½

119 **B55**
□ **Korobov,Anton** **2673**
■ **Pettersson,Anders** **2271**
EU-Cup 30th Bilbao (1.5) 14.09.2014
[Kitty Kat]

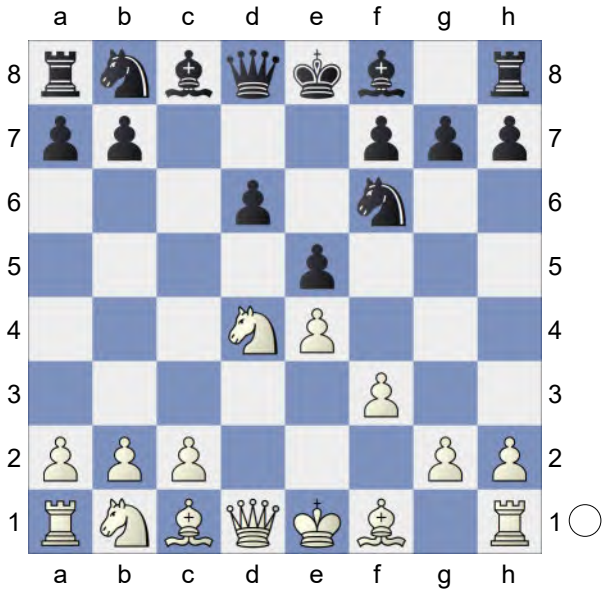
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

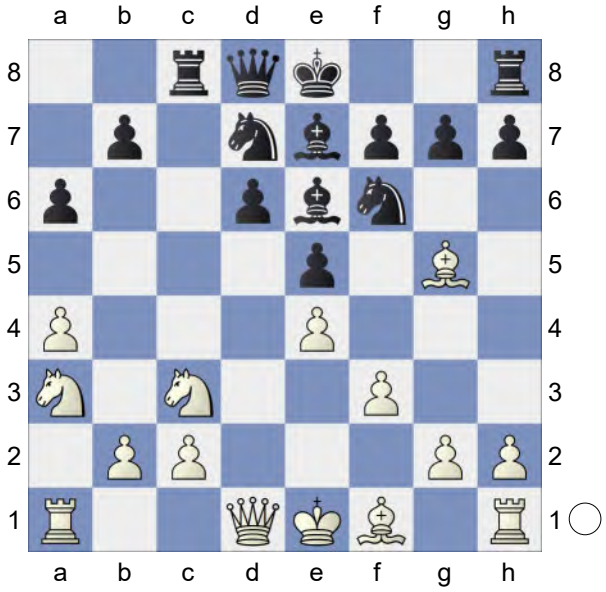
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb5 a6 7.N5c3 Be6 8.Bg5 Nbd7 Black is slightly better. **9.a4 Be7 10.Na3** -0.74/19

[10.Be2∓ -0.36/19]

10...Rc8



11.Be2 Qb6 12.Rb1 0-0

[Much weaker is 12...Ng4?! 13.Bxe7 Qf2+ 14.Kd2 Qe3+ 15.Ke1 Qf2+ 16.Kd2 Qe3+ 17.Ke1 Qf2+ 18.Kd2=]

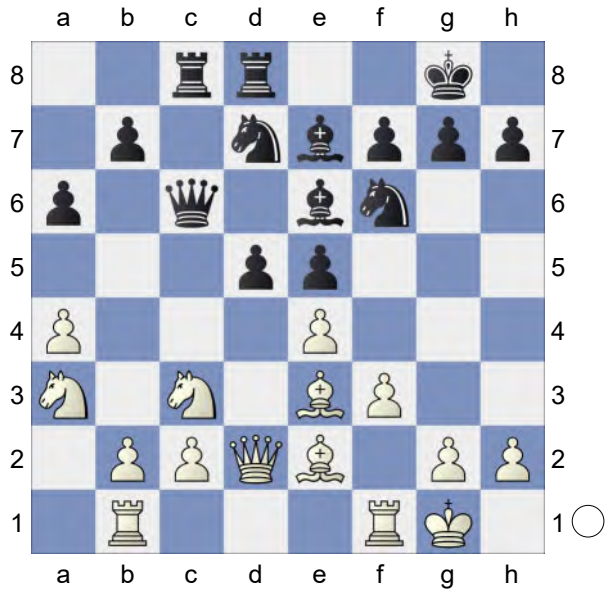
13.Qd2 Rfd8 14.Be3 Qc6 -0.46/21

[14...Qb4∓ -0.82/21 15.0-0 d5 16.Nxd5 *(16.exd5 Nb6∓)* 16...Nxd5 17.exd5 Qxd2 18.Bxd2 Bxd5]

15.0-0 -1.33/21

[15.Rd1∓ -0.46/21]

15...d5∓



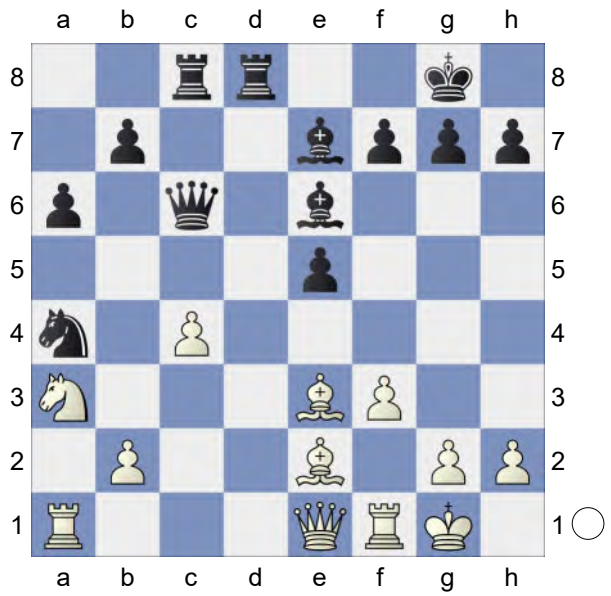
16.exd5 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 18.c4 Be6 19.Ra1 -1.97/20

[19.a5∓ -1.01/18 was necessary.]

19...Nc5 20.Qe1 -2.18/19

[⩲20.Qc3 -1.75/21]

20...Nxa4



21.b4 Bf5 -1.14/20

[21...Nb2-+ -1.91/21 22.c5 Nd3]

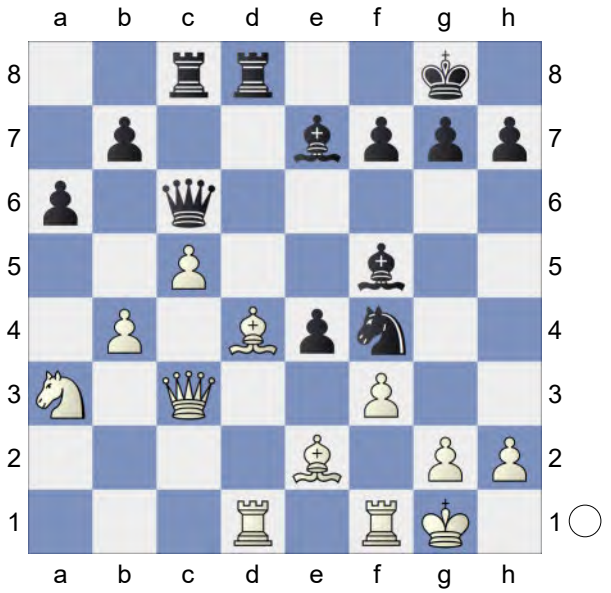
22.c5 Nb2 23.Qc3 Nd3 And now ...b6! would win. **24.Rad1 e4** 0.19/20

[Black should try 24...Nf4∓ -1.35/21 25.Bxf4 exf4]

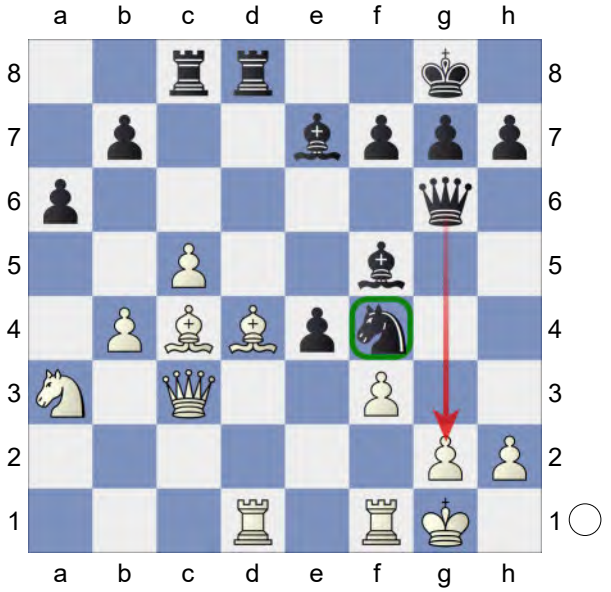
25.Bd4? -3.02/21

[25.fxe4!= 0.19/20 Bf6 26.e5 Bxe5 27.Qb3]

25...Nf4



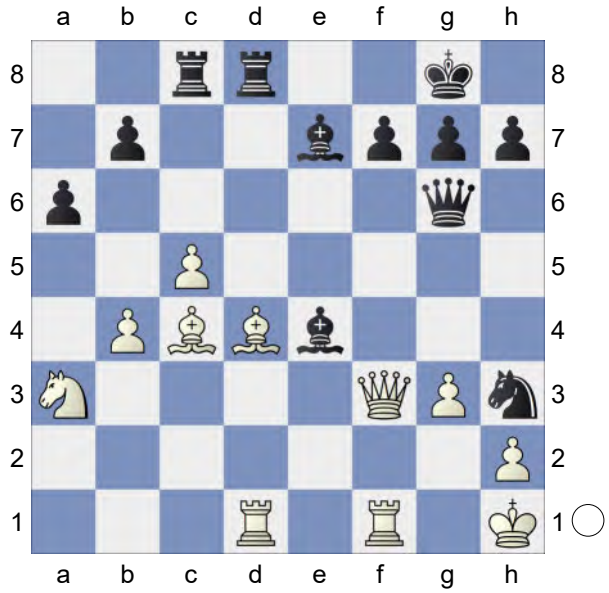
26.Bc4 Qg6



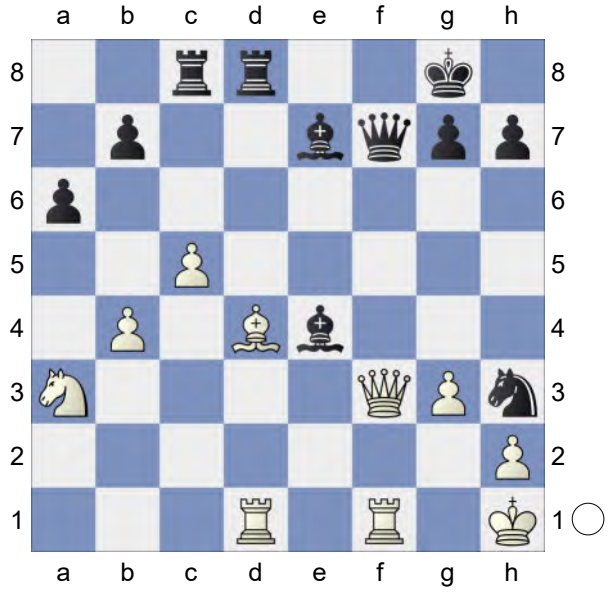
27.g3 -4.65/22

[27.Rd2 -2.24/20 Bg5 28.fxe4 Bxe4 29.Bb3]

27...Nh3+ 28.Kh1 exf3? 0.66/22
[28...Bf6-+ -3.52/20 29.Be2 Rxd4 30.Rxd4 Ng5]
29.Qxf3± Be4

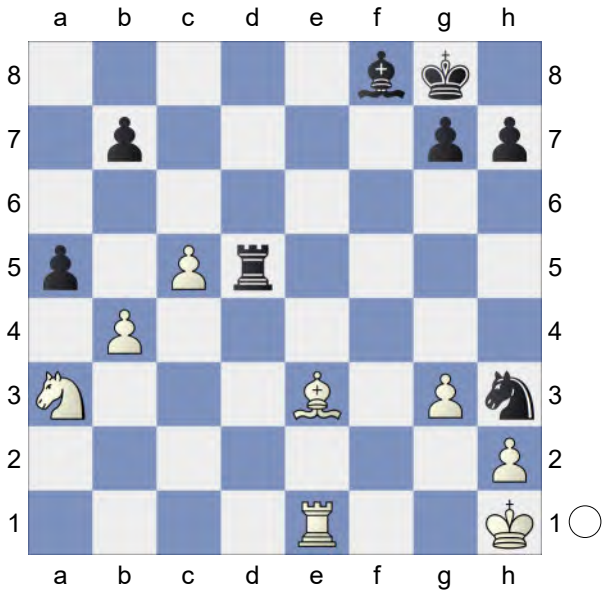


30.Bxf7+! Qxf7

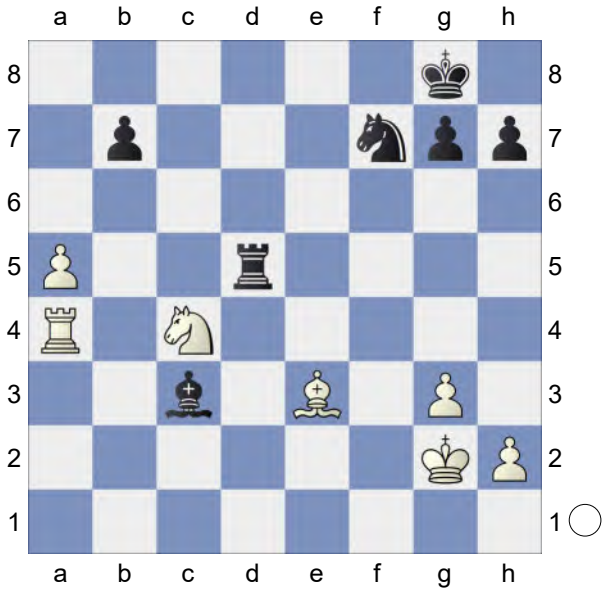


31.Qxe4 Qd5 0.69/22
[⌓31...Bf6 0.32/22]
32.Qxd5+ Rxd5 33.Rde1 0.01/22 **Rf8**
The position is equal. **34.Rxf8+ Bxf8 35.Be3 a5**

(Diagram)

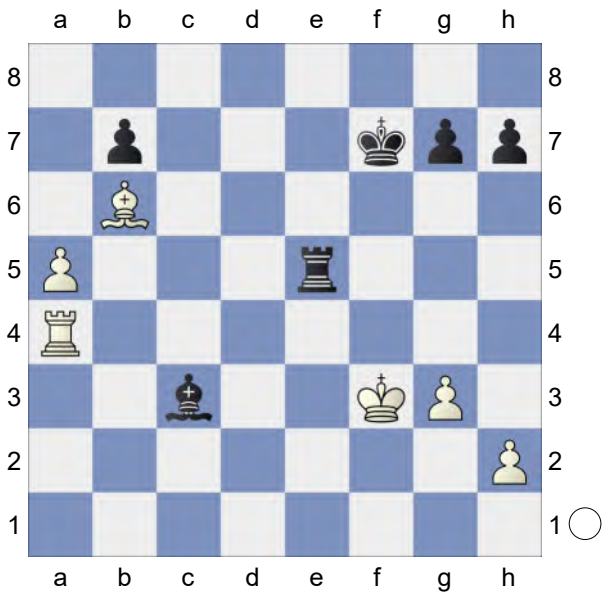


36.bxa5 c6! is the strong threat.
36...Bxc5 37.Nc4 Bb4 38.Ra1 Ng5 39.Kg2 Nf7 40.Ra4 Bc3



41.Bb6 Ne5 42.Nxe5 Rxe5 43.Kf3 Kf7

(Diagram)

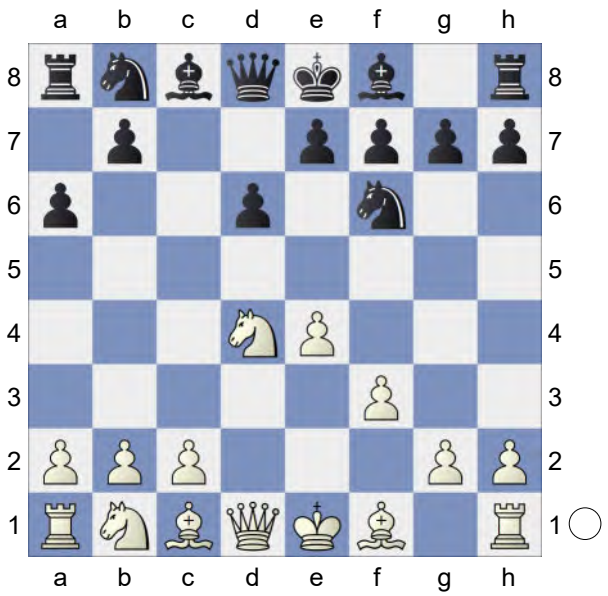


Whites escaped into a draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/ Black=0.45. Sensor Board Error (Ke4/ e5)?
1-0

120 **B41**
□ **Kovalenko,Igor** **2672**
■ **Stocko,Josip** **2334**
Budapest Spring Open 2017 (1.1)
[Jonas Hacker]

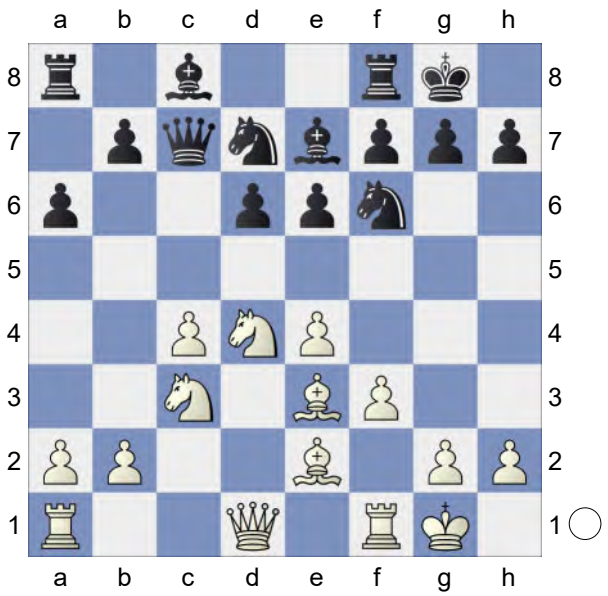
Now we move on to the classical Hedgehog systems where Black brings the b8-knight out to d7 and thus keeps more tension. We will study, in particular, the interesting plan of an early a4-a5 push with the idea of freeing this square for our knight. ---
B41: Sicilian: Kan Variation: 5 c4
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6

(Diagram)



6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7
[It is always important to ask whether Black can break effectively with ...d7-d5 and punish White for the early 5 f3. For instance, Black might consider play It is always important to ask whether Black can break effectively with ...d7-d5 and punish White for the early 5 f3. For instance, Black might consider play 7...d5 here.
QUESTION: What do you think? Does 7...d5 solve Black's problems?
ANSWER: No, it doesn't, because White answers with the typical here. ---
QUESTION: What do you think? Does 7...d5 solve Black's problems? ---
ANSWER: No, it doesn't, because White answers with the typical 8.cxd5 exd5 9.e5! and gains a big positional advantage. and gains a big positional advantage.]
8.Be3 Qc7 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 Nbd7

(Diagram)



11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1

[White often plays White often plays 12.Rac1 , followed by 13 Rad1, centralizing both rooks which looks very natural. However, I prefer the text. 12 Rfc1 scores 64% in practical games, which is an excellent indicator of its strength, and the ideas behind it are simple and strong. , followed by 13 Rad1, centralizing both rooks which looks very natural. However, I prefer the text. 12 Rfc1 scores 64% in practical games, which is an excellent indicator of its strength, and the ideas behind it are simple and strong.]

12...Bb7 13.a4! The key move in the plan with 12 Rfc1. White intends to push again with 14 a5 (thus having left the other rook on a1 makes a lot of sense), trying to soften up Black's queenside structure, as well as to create an excellent outpost for Nb3-a5. Black must make a major decision on how to handle this. The key move in the plan with 12 Rfc1. White intends to push again with 14 a5 (thus having left the other rook on a1 makes a lot of sense), trying to soften up Black's queenside structure, as well as to create an excellent outpost for Nb3-a5. Black must make a major decision on how to handle this.

[In the next game we'll see White temporizing with the non-committal In the next game we'll see White temporizing with the non-committal 13.Bf1 before deciding to push the a-pawn. before deciding to push the a-pawn.]

13...Rfc8N At this point Black had several alternatives, of which 13...Rfb8 was perhaps the strongest. At this point Black had several alternatives, of which 13...Rfb8 was perhaps the strongest.

[Let's have a look at a few ideas:

a) Let's have a look at a few ideas: --

a) 13...a5 , despite preventing a4-a5 forever, would be a bad choice, as after , despite preventing a4-a5 forever, would be a bad choice, as after 14.Ndb5 the game is very one-sided. With ...b6-b5 ruled out completely, White only has to watch out for possible ...d6-d5 breaks, and can easily keep these under control. Meanwhile the pressure on the d-file is going to increase with natural moves. the game is very one-sided. With ...b6-b5 ruled out completely, White only has to watch out for possible ...d6-d5 breaks, and can easily keep these under control. Meanwhile the pressure on the d-file is going to increase with natural moves.]

[b) 13...Rab8 , when White should switch to

A) prepares to meet Black prepares to meet 14.a5?! 0.01/19 14.b4 0.62 with bxa5 and 15.Nb3 Bxe4! , exploiting the temporarily

loose knight. *(15...--* 0.74/17 15...Bxe4 -0.08 *)*;

B) So White should switch to 14.b4 Rfc8 15.Nd1 . Now the b4-pawn is protected, Black has no real chances for either ...d6-d5 or ...b6-b5, so White can shuffle his pieces around before doing something concrete. Another drawback of ... Rab8 is that the queen is then stuck on c7. . Now the b4-pawn is protected, Black has no real chances for either ...d6-d5 or ...b6-b5, so White can shuffle his pieces around before doing something concrete. Another drawback of ... Rab8 is that the queen is then stuck on c7.]

[c) 13...Rfb8 , and in this case White needs to play slightly more cautiously. For example,

A) also enables Black's move also enables 14.a5?! -0.01/22 14.b3 0.38 bxa5 15.Nb3 Bxe4;

B) while 14.b4 can now be met by Qd8 , after which ...a6-a5 makes rather more sense, or if , after which ...a6-a5 makes rather more sense, or if 15.a5 then bxa5! 16.Rxa5 d5! and Black frees his position successfully. and Black frees his position successfully *(16...--* 0.99/17 16...d5 0.19 *)*;

C) In this case White needs to play slightly more cautiously. For example, 14.Nd1 Qd8 15.a5 Nc5 0.95/22 *(*or *15...bxa5 16.Qxa5; 15...bxa5⩲* 0.35/20 *16.Rxa5 Qf8)* 16.Qc3 bxa5 , as in I.Madl-N. Kokeny, Hungarian League 2017, and now simply , as in I.Madl-N. Kokeny, Hungarian League 2017, and now simply 17.Rxa5 should give White an edge in view of the weak dark squares in Black's queenside.

REMEMBER: Do not hurry to play a4-a5 if Black is playing prophylactic moves and would be happy to see the b-file open. should give White an edge in view of the weak dark squares in Black's queenside. --- REMEMBER: Do not hurry to play a4-a5 if Black is playing prophylactic moves and would be happy to see the b-file open.]

[13...Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Ba8 *(15...Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 d5 18.c5 dxe4 19.Nxe4 Nxe4 20.Qxd7 Bg5 21.Bxg5 Nxg5 22.Qd2 Qe5 23.Nc4 Qf6 24.h4 Nh3+ 25.gxh3 Qxh4 26.Kg2 f5 27.Rxa6 Rf6 28.Ne5 Rh6 29.Qd6 Qg5+ 30.Kf2* 3.c3 ♗g7 4.♗g5_35004 (2125)-7. ♗b3 ♘bd7 8. ♗g5 Qa5 (2371) Astrakhan 2022 CBM 72 ext [John Watson] ½-½ (43) *)* 16.Nxa5 6D) O'Kelly Sicilian: 2... a6 -3...d6 #3]

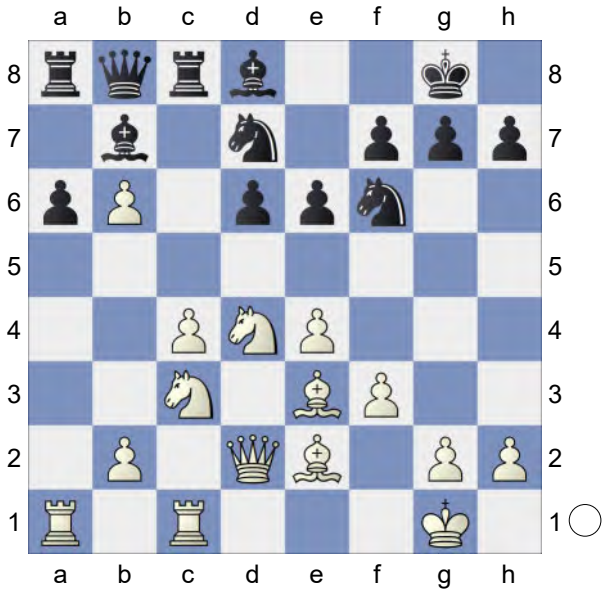
[13...Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 27.Nxd6 Red8 28.Ncb5 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39)]

14.a5 Qb8

[Here 14...bxa5 15.Nb3 Rab8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 is much better for White. The knight on a5 is stable, protecting the c4-pawn, and is attacking important squares in Black's camp. is much better for White. The knight on

a5 is stable, protecting the c4-pawn, and is attacking important squares in Black's camp.]

15.axb6 White is slightly better. **15...Bd8**



16.Na4 0x0.0025d93fa487dp-1022s more active pieces. **16...Bc6** 1.83/20

[16...Nxb6 1.54/20 16...Nc5 0.77 was not desirable because of was not desirable because of 17.Nxe6! Nxa4 18.Nxd8 , when White is positionally winning, but may have been the best fighting chance. , when White is positionally winning, but may have been the best fighting chance.]

[16...Nc5± 0.69/22]

17.Nxc6+- Rxc6 18.e5!

A nice distracting move, after which White will be able to secure the b6-pawn.

[Don't play 18.c5?! dxc5 19.b4 *(19.Nxc5 Rxc5 20.Rxc5 Nxc5=)* 19...c4±]

18...Nxe5

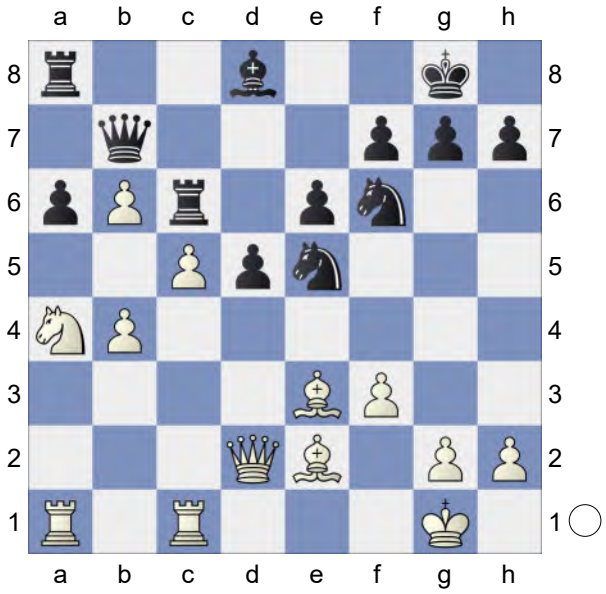
[18...dxe5 makes it even easier for us to play 19.c5 with a decisive plus. with a decisive plus.]

19.b4 d5 2.31/19

[Or similarly 19...Ned7 20.c5 .]

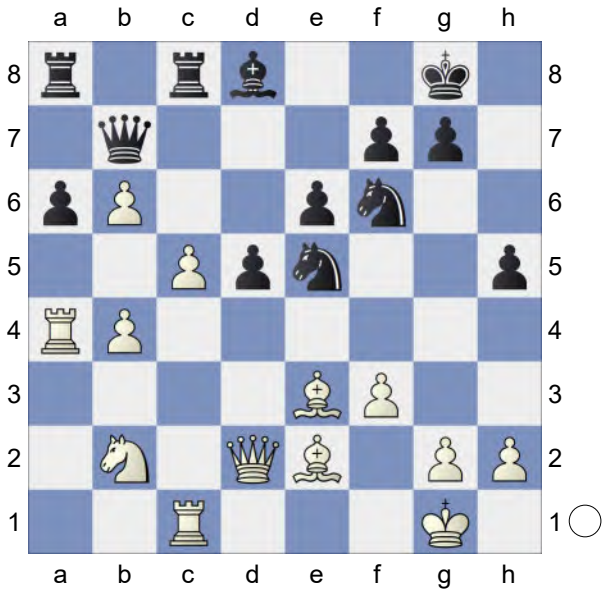
[19...Ng6± 1.60/19 20.Ra2 Be7]

20.c5 Qb7



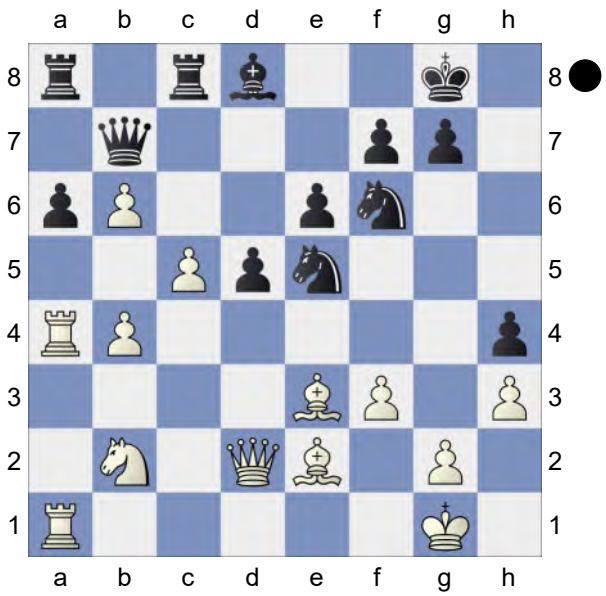
21.Nb2 Rcc8 22.Ra4 h5? 4.73/20

[22...Nfd7 2.85/20 is a better defense. 23.Rca1 Nxb6]



23.Rca1 h4 24.h3

(Diagram)

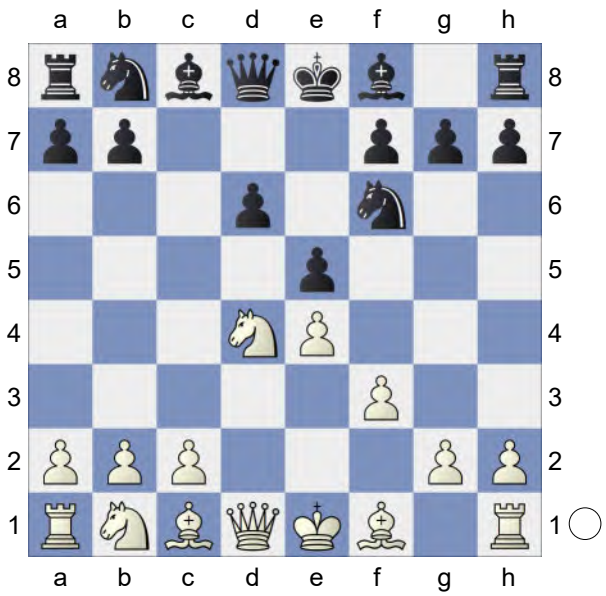


. White tidies up before breaking through on the queenside, so Black resigned. . White tidies up before breaking through on the queenside, so Black resigned. White took control after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.51
1-0

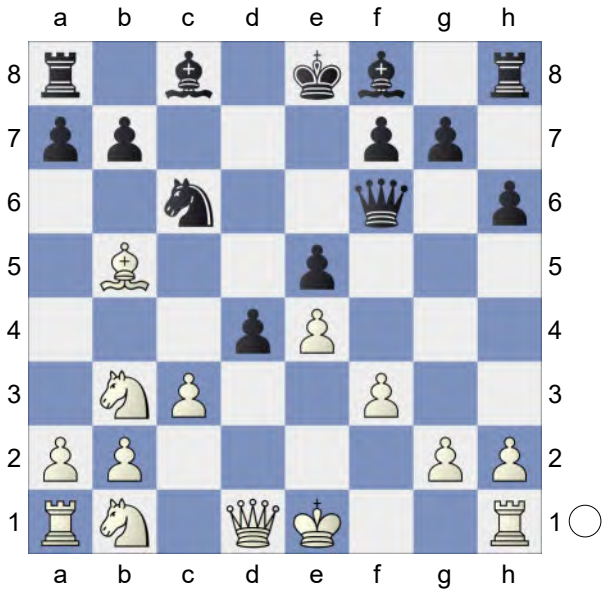
121 **B54**
□ **Shankland,Samuel L** **2666**
■ **Zherebukh,Yaroslav** **2605**
Winter Classic A (1.1) 11.03.2017
[Stohl,Igor]

1.e4 Stohl, Igor **1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5**

(Diagram)



6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.Bb5 h6 10.Bxf6
[10.Bh4 Qb6 see Morozevich-Fedoseev]
10...Qxf6



11.cxd4 Bb4+ 12.Nc3 0-0 13.Bxc6
Principled, but not without risk.
[After 13.d5 Nd4 14.Be2 Qb6!↑ Black dominates the dark squares. *(14...Qg5? 15.Nxd4 Qxg2 16.Rf1 exd4 17.Qxd4 Bxc3+ 18.bxc3 Qxh2 19.Kd2 f6 20.Rh1 Qf4+ 21.Qe3 Qxe3+ 22.Kxe3±* Kasparova,T (2141)-

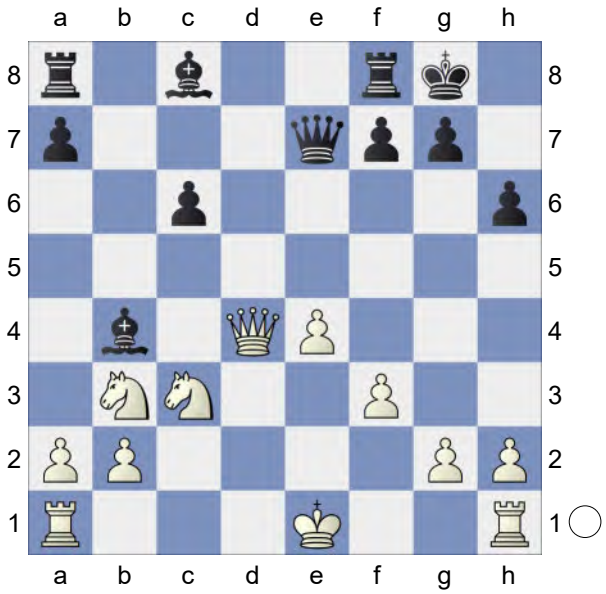
Pantelic,S (2340) Paracin 2016)]
[13.0-0 Nxd4 14.Nd5 Qd6
A) 15.Nxb4 Qxb4 16.Nxd4 Rd8 17.Qe2 Rxd4 (17...Qxd4+ 18.Kh1 Be6 19.Rfd1 Qb4 20.b3 Rac8 21.h3 a6 22.Rxd8+ Rxd8↑ Blazeka,M (2271)-Saric,A (2573) Zagreb 2015) 18.a3 Qc5 19.Kh1 a6 20.Bd3 Be6 21.Rac1 Qd6∓ Vetoshko,V (2485)-Babula,V (2545) Slovakia 2017;
B) 15.Nxd4 Bc5 16.Kh1 Bxd4 17.Qe2 Be6 18.Bc4 Rac8 19.Bb3 Qc5 20.Qd2 Kh8∓ Bruzon Batista, L (2664)-Cheparinov,I (2681) Tromsoe olm 2014]
[13.dxe5 Nxe5!?∓]

13...bxc6 14.dxe5

[14.a3 also has its drawbacks:
A) 14...Bxc3+ 15.bxc3 Ba6 (15...Be6 16.Nc5 Rfd8=) 16.Nc5 Bc4 17.Nd7? (17.Rb1∞) 17...Qh4+ 18.g3 Qh3 19.Nxf8 Qg2 20.Nd7 Bokros,A (2488)-Rohacek,M (2317) Slovakia 2017 f6!→ △21.dxe5 Rd8 22.e6 Re8∓;
B) 14...Be7!? 15.d5 (15.dxe5 Qxe5 16.Qd4? Qb8∓) 15...Ba6⩱ 16.Na5 cxd5 17.Nxd5 Qg5 (17...Qe6⩱) 18.Qd2 Qxd2+ 19.Kxd2 Bg5+ 20.Kc2 Rfc8+⩱ (20...f5!?)]

14...Qxe5 15.Qd4 Qe7

(Diagram)



16.0-0-0

[A more circumspect way is ⏢16.0-0!? Be6 17.Kh1 Black has good compensation with his two bishops, but at least White's king is safer on the kingside. Rfd8 18.Qe3 (18.Qf2 Rab8 19.Qc2 Bd6 20.Ne2 Rb4 21.Rad1 c5 22.Nc3 c4 23.Nd4 Qh4 24.g4 Rdb8 25.Rb1 Bd7 26.Nd5 R4b7 27.Rfd1 Ba4 28.b3 cxb3 29.Nxb3 a5⩱ die illusion,c (2448)-numerobis,v (2414) playchess.com 2012) 18...Bxb3 19.axb3 Bc5 20.Qe2 Rab8 21.Ra6 Qc7 22.Na4 Bd4 23.Qc2 Rd6 24.Rc1 Rc8 25.Nc3 Qb7 26.Raa1 Rb8 27.g3 Qxb3 28.Qxb3 Rxb3 29.Rc2 Rd7 30.Kg2 c5 31.Ra2 g6 32.f4 f6 33.Ra6⇄ cfm,h (2529)-zetafunctie,h (2529) Engine Room 2012]
[16.a3 Bd6 17.0-0-0 Bf4+ 18.Kc2 Rb8 19.Nc5 Be6 20.g3 Be5 21.Qe3 Bd6 22.Rxd6 Qxd6 23.f4 Qe7 24.Rf1 f6∓ Hartman,C (2210)-De Firmian,N (2515) Copenhagen 1984]

16...Be6 17.Kb1 Rab8 18.Na4 f5

[18...Rb5 19.Qe3 c5 20.Rc1 Rc8 21.Rhd1 Qb7 22.Rc2 Qa6 23.Nc3

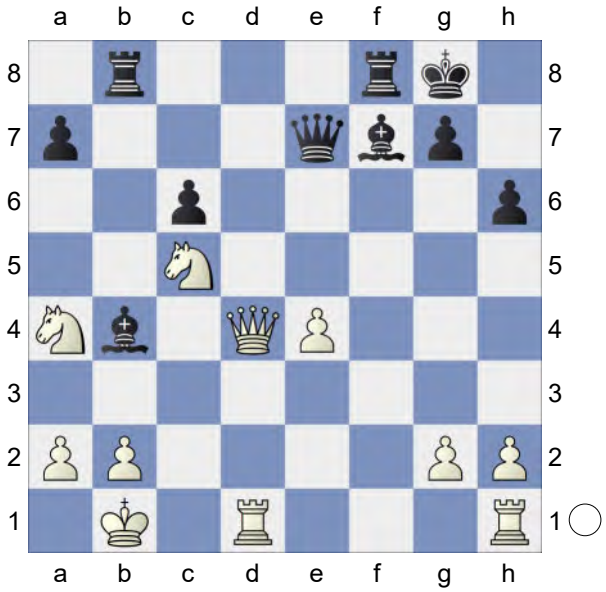
Bxc3 24.Rxc3 Rcb8 25.Rd2 Qb6 26.Qf2 Qa6 Blazeka,M (2284)-Jakic,I (2380) Zadar 2016 27.Nc1±]

19.Nbc5 fxe4 20.fxe4

[20.Nxe6!? at least halves the bishop pair Qxe6 21.Qxe4 *(21.fxe4 Rf4!? 22.Rhf1 Rxe4 23.Qxa7 Rb5↑)* 21...Qxe4+ 22.fxe4 Rf2⩲]

[20.Nxe4 Rf5!∓]

20...Bf7

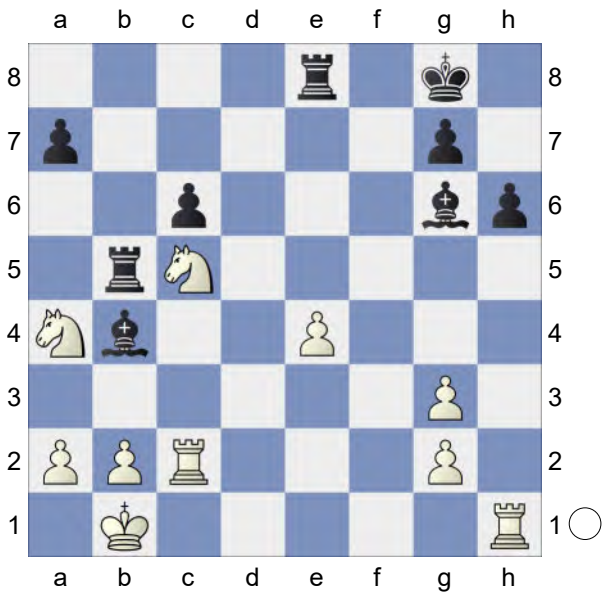


21.Qd6 Qg5⩲ Although White has finished his development, the mighty bishops give Black excellent long-term compensation. **22.Qg3**

[22.h4 Qg4!?∓ *(22...Qe3 23.Qd4 Qe2 24.Qd3 Bc4⩲/∓)*]

22...Qxg3 23.hxg3 Rb5 24.Rc1 Bg6 25.Rc2 Re8

(Diagram)



26.Rd1

[26.Rhc1 Re5 27.Ka1⇄]

26...Re5 27.Rd6 Be8!? Black is ambitious and retains the bishops and the tension.

[27...Rg5 28.Rxc6 Rxg3⩲]

[27...Bxe4 28.Nxe4 Rxe4 29.Rdxc6 Re1+ 30.Rc1 Re3 31.g4 Rg3=]

28.Rd8? White starts cracking under the pressure.

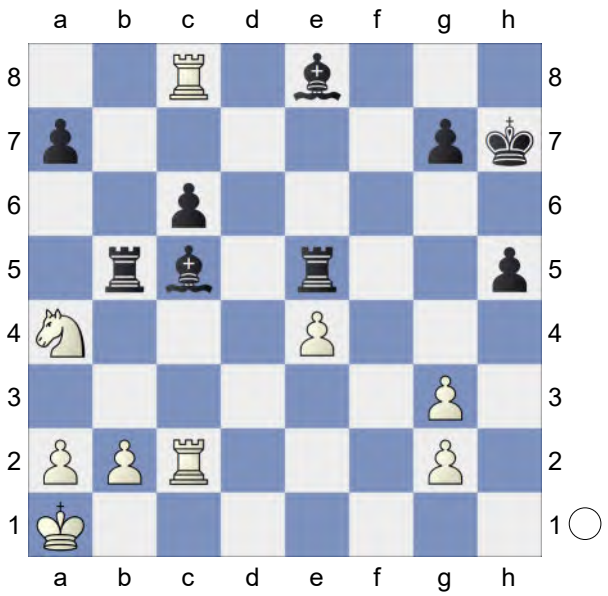
[⌓28.Re6! Rxe6 29.Nxe6 Re5 30.Nac5 Bf7 31.a3=]

28...Kh7 29.Rc8 h5 30.Ka1?

[30.g4 h4! 31.b3 Bxc5 32.Nxc5 Rexc5 33.Rxe8 Rxc2 34.Kxc2 Ra5 35.a4 Rg5∓]

30...Bxc5

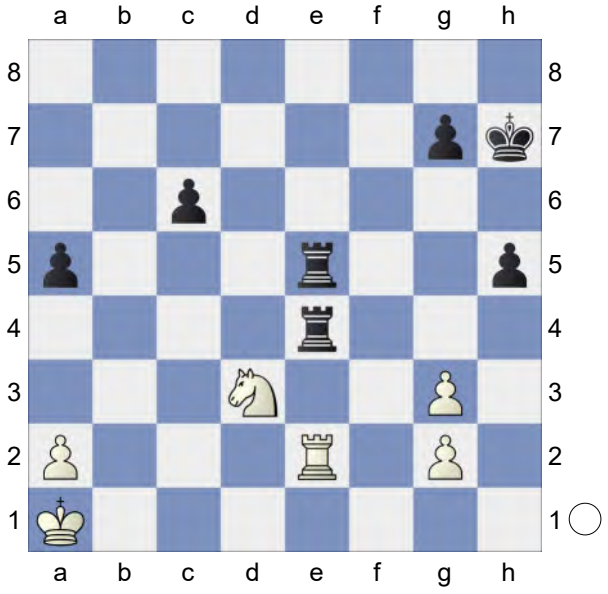
(Diagram)



31.Rxe8

[31.Nxc5 Rbxc5 32.Rxc5 Rxc5 33.Rxe8 Rc1#]

31...Rxe8 32.Nxc5 Re5 33.b4 a5 34.Re2 Rxb4 35.Nd3 Rbxe4



0-1

122 **B54**

□ **McShane,Luke J** **2643**

■ **Ponomariov,Ruslan** **2722**

It Biel SUI (5) 23.07.2004

[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

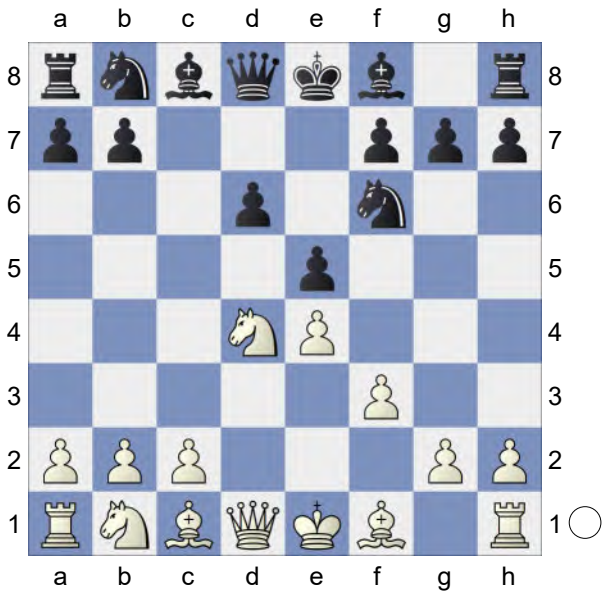
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

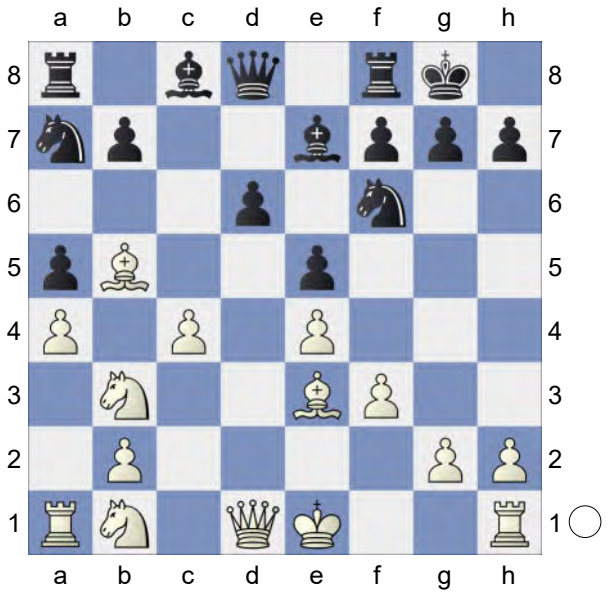
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060

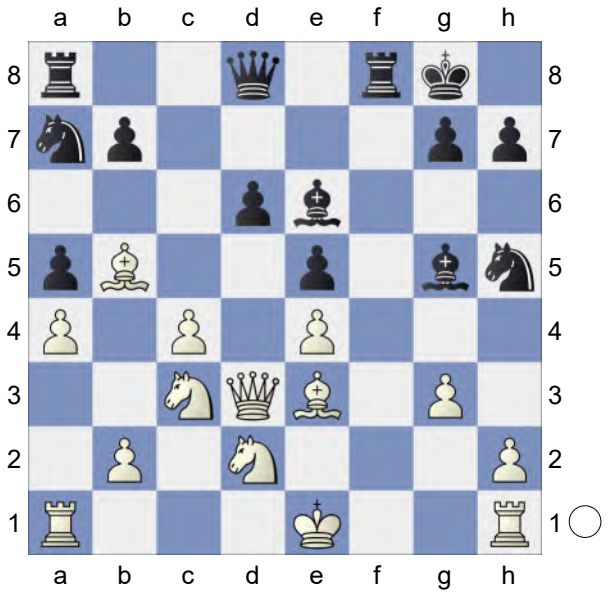
[Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



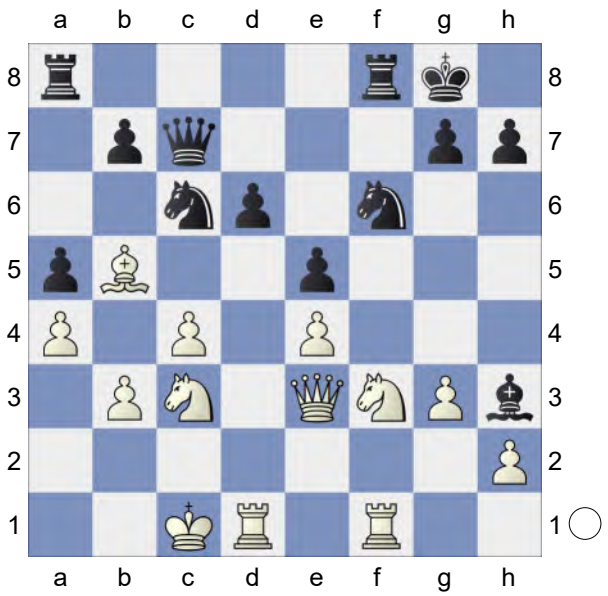
6.Nb3 a5 0.31/18
[6...d5= -0.09/19]
7.a4 Nc6 8.Bb5 Be7 The position is equal.
[8...d5 is interesting. 9.Bg5 Be6 10.exd5 Bxd5 11.Nc3 Bxb3 12.cxb3 Bb4]
9.c4 0-0 10.Be3 Na7



11.Nc3 Be6 12.Qd3 Nh5 13.g3 f5 14.Nd2 -0.09/19
[⌓14.exf5 0.28/18 Rxf5 15.0-0]
14...fxe4= 15.fxe4 Bg5

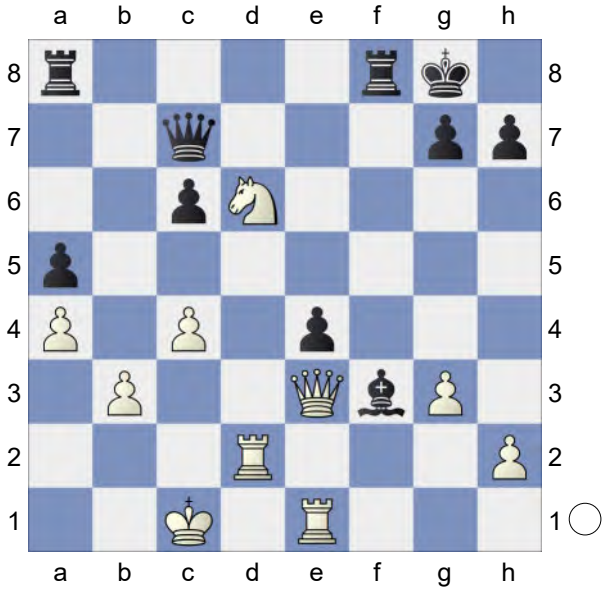


16.0-0-0 -0.36/21
[16.Bxa7= 0.04/20 Rxa7 17.0-0-0]
16...Bxe3∓
[16...Nxb5 17.Bxg5 Qxg5 18.Nxb5=]
17.Qxe3 Nf6 Strongly threatening ... Ng4. **18.Rhf1 Qc7 19.b3** -0.85/20
[19.Kb1∓ -0.51/19]
19...Nc6∓ 20.Nf3
[20.Nd5? Bxd5 21.exd5 Nd4-+]
20...Bh3!



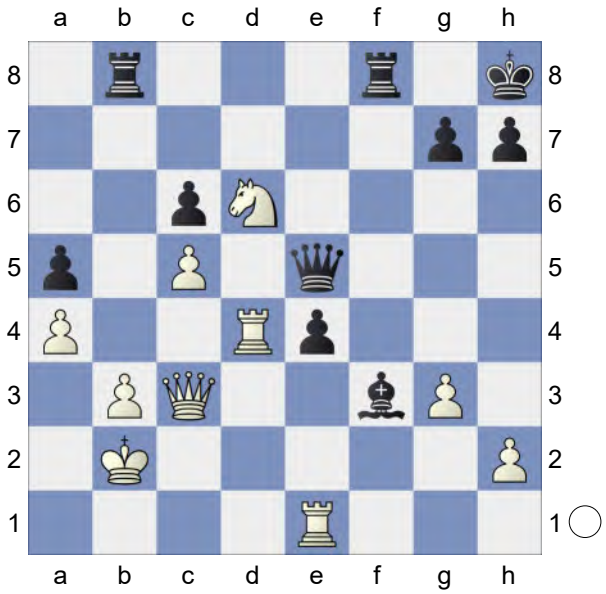
21.Rfe1 Bg4 22.Rd2 Nxe4 -0.05/21

23.Nxe4= And now Neg5 would win.
23...Bxf3 0.67/23
[23...Rxf3= -0.01/22 24.Qg5 Bf5 25.Nxd6 Bg6]
24.Bxc6
[24.Ng5!? Bg4 25.c5=]
24...bxc6 25.Nxd6 e4!

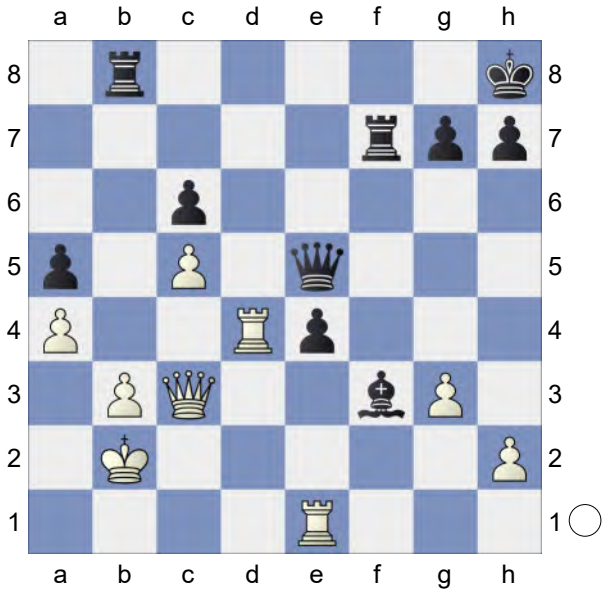


26.c5
[26.Nxe4? Rae8 27.Nf6+ gxf6-+]
26...Rab8 27.Kb2 Kh8 0.79/22
[27...Qe7± 0.39/20]
28.Qc3 0.41/19
[28.Nxe4± 0.79/22 Qe7 29.Nd6 Qf6+ 30.Qc3]
28...Qe7 0.87/19
[28...Rb4!± 0.41/19]
29.Rd4 &Bianco is much more active.
29...Qe5 1.47/22
[29...Rb4± 0.57/21]

(Diagram)

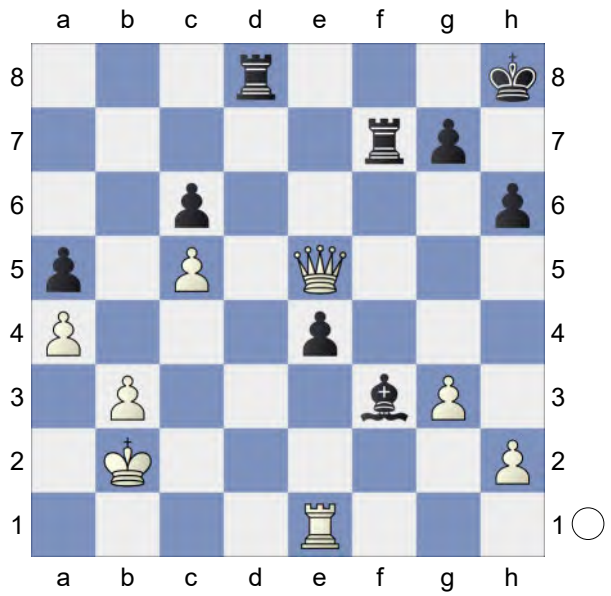


30.Nf7+!± Rxf7

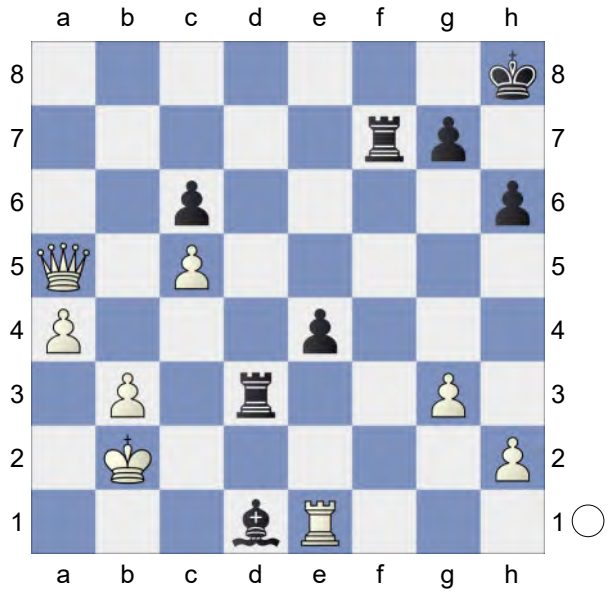


31.Rd8+! Discovered Attack **31...Rxd8**
32.Qxe5 h6

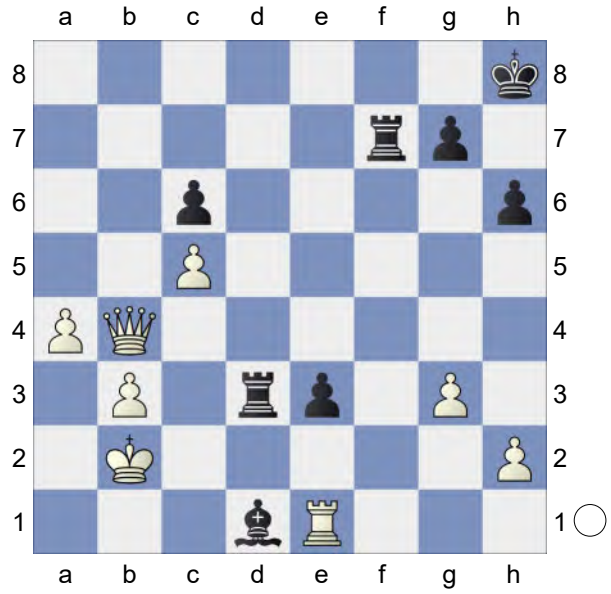
(Diagram)



33.Qc3 0.92/23
[33.Ka3!+- 1.64/22]
33...Rd3 1.60/24
[⌓33...Ra7 0.92/23]
34.Qxa5 Qa8+ is the strong threat.
34...Bd1 2.39/26
[34...e3± 1.28/23]

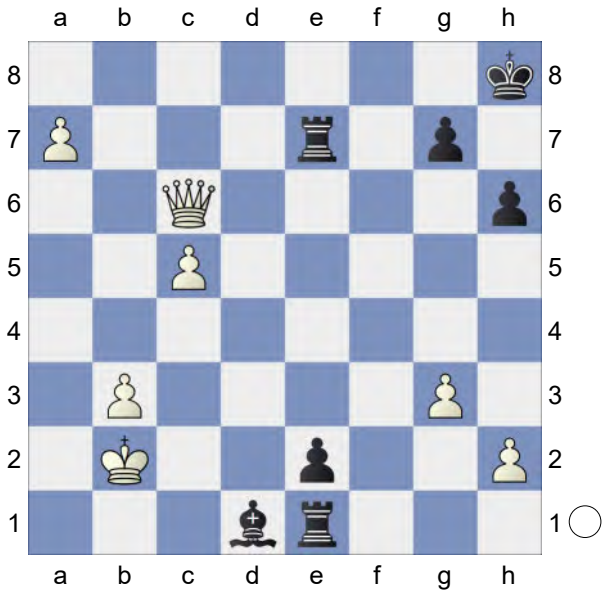


35.Qb4 1.07/24
[Worse is 35.Rxe4 Rf2+ 36.Kc1 Rc2+ 37.Kb1 Rxb3+ 38.Ka1 Ra3+ 39.Kb1 Rb3+ 40.Ka1 Ra3+ 41.Kb1 Rb3+=]
[35.Rxd1!+- 2.39/26 Rxd1 36.Qa8+ Kh7 37.Qe8 *(37.Qxc6 Re7∓)* 37...Rf2+ 38.Ka3]
35...e3

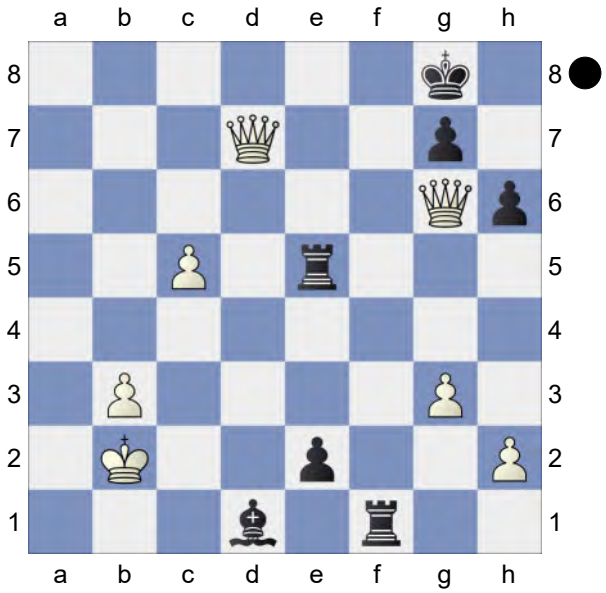


36.a5 e2 1.12/23
[⌓36...Rf8 0.71/21]
37.a6 Threatens to win with Qb8+.
37...Rdd7? 3.44/23 This costs Black the game.
[37...Rxb3+± 1.16/23 38.Qxb3 Bxb3 39.Kxb3 Ra7]
38.Qe4+- Rde7 5.23/22
[⌓38...Rd2+ 3.45/21 39.Kc3 Rc2+ 40.Kb4 Rf1 41.Qxc6 Rxe1]
39.Qxc6 Rf1 40.a7 Rxe1 #11/20
[40...Rxa7+- 4.08/21 41.Qe8+ Kh7 42.Rxe2 Bxe2]

(Diagram)



41.a8Q+ Kh7 42.Qf8 7.71/20
[⌓42.Qd5 #10/20 Bxb3 43.Qag8+ Kg6 44.Qd3+ Kg5 45.Qgd8 Rb1+ 46.Qxb1 e1Q 47.Qxe1]
42...Re5 43.Qfd6 White mates. **43...Rf1 44.Qg6+ Kg8 45.Qd7**



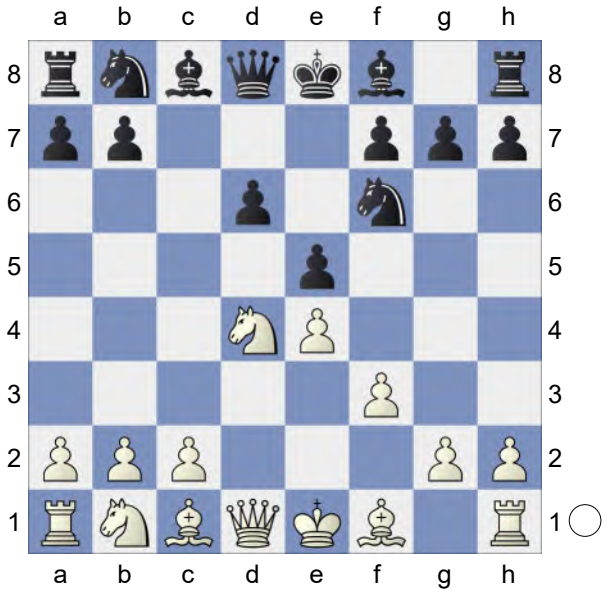
Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.59
1-0

123 **B54**
□ **Kovalev,Vladislav** **2640**
■ **Li,Ruifeng** **2548**
Fall A 2017 Saint Louis USA (5.4)
[Jonas Hacker]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060

[Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 a5 With this move Black shows that his ambitions are not to win the c4-pawn but to aim for a positional game as in the Kalashnikov Variation. This approach is not bad, since all the black pieces find good squares. However, I believe that White has the easier task and is objectively slightly better here.

[Much less strong is 7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]

8.Be3

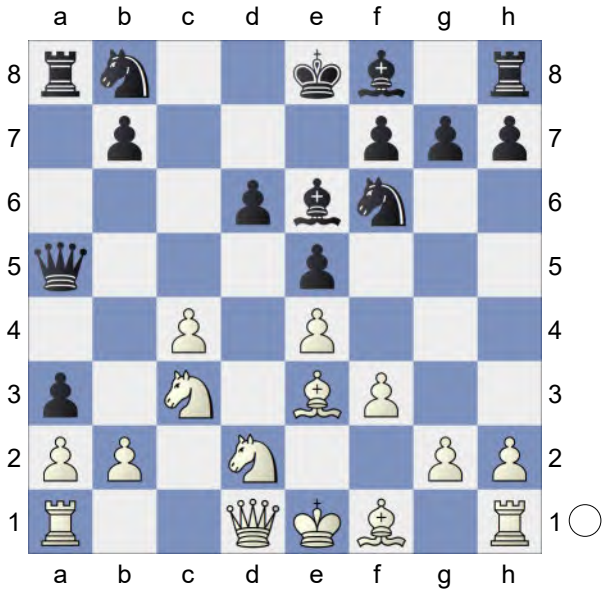
[Not 8.Nc3?! because a4! 9.Nd2 would then shut in the c1-bishop.]

8...a4 9.N3d2 In contrast to the variation with 6...Be7 from the previous games, it is better to retreat the knight to d2 here.

[That's because 9.Nc1 can be met by b5! , intending 10.cxb5 *(and 10.Nc3? -1.03/19 10.cxb5 -0.26 bxc4* is clearly not an option for White because the e6-bishop defends the c-pawn *)* 10...d5 with strong counterplay.]

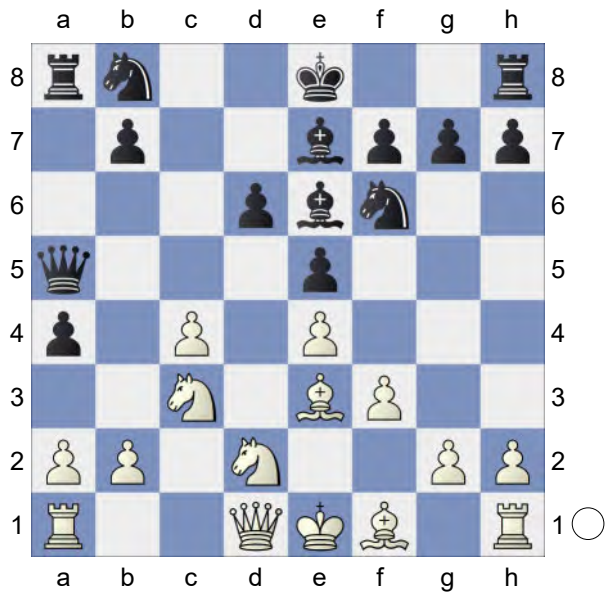
9...Qa5 The position is equal. **10.Nc3 Be7**

[REMEMBER: 10...a3? 0.82/19 10...Be7 0.29



is a mistake. At first sight undermining the defender of the c3-knight seems quite logical, and you could get the impression that White overlooked something, but in fact Black is committing a non-obvious blunder. White can get a close to winning position with 11.b4! Qxb4 1.30/21 *(⌓11...Qd8* 0.90/20 *)* 12.Nd5!± Bxd5 13.cxd5 and the queenside is dominated by White who will regain the b7-pawn easily after 14 Rb1.]

(Diagram)



11.Bd3

[We looked at 11.Be2 in the theoretical notes. It is hard to say whether the bishop is better on e2 or on d3. Even at grandmaster level both moves are played, so you can choose your own way.]

11...Nbd7 This is not the most typical move here but at this point Black already has several plans available.

[A common idea is exchanging dark-squared bishops, which Black can try after mutual castling or immediately:

a) 11...Bd8 (after this White should count on faster development in order to get a better position) 12.Nd5! is not the only move to fight for an advantage, but I like the resulting queenside initiative by White; e.g. Bxd5 0.57/22 *(12...Nc6=* 0.22/19 is more appropriate.*)* 13.cxd5± Bb6 14.Bxb6 Qxb6 15.Nc4 Qc7 16.Qd2 Nbd7 17.Be2 0-0 18.Qb4 Nc5 19.Qb6 .]

[b) 11...0-0 12.0-0 Bd8 is more frequently seen, and here you can consider 13.Kh1 as in the 11 Be2 line given in the introduction. *(13.Nd5!?)*]

12.0-0 Nc5 This is an original move by Black, intending to show that our bishop is misplaced on d3. However, it is not clear what else the knight is doing on c5 and White can force it back later.

13.Be2 0-0

[Even at this moment, when Black is almost fully developed, 13...a3? does not work. White's queenside control is simply too strong, and he can again reply with 14.b4 Qxb4 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.cxd5 Bd7 17.Rb1 and is clearly better.]

14.Qc2 0.18/17

[Since I was not entirely happy with the plan in the game, I looked for some alternative and found that after 14.Ndb1! Black is really suffering. White transfers the knight to b5, meanwhile preventing all ...a4-a3 and ...b7-b5 ideas. Black struggles to find a plan; e.g. Nh5 (hoping to achieve ... f7-f5) *(after 14...Rfc8 15.Na3* Black has no active play*)* 15.g3 Prevents Nf4. g6 16.Na3 Ng7 17.Nab5 and now if f5? 1.49/19 then *(*Better is *17...Rfc8±* 0.67/18 *)* 18.Nd5 gives White an overwhelming advantage.]

[14.Ndb1± 0.51/20]

14...Nfd7 0.49/17

[14...Rfc8= 0.18/17]

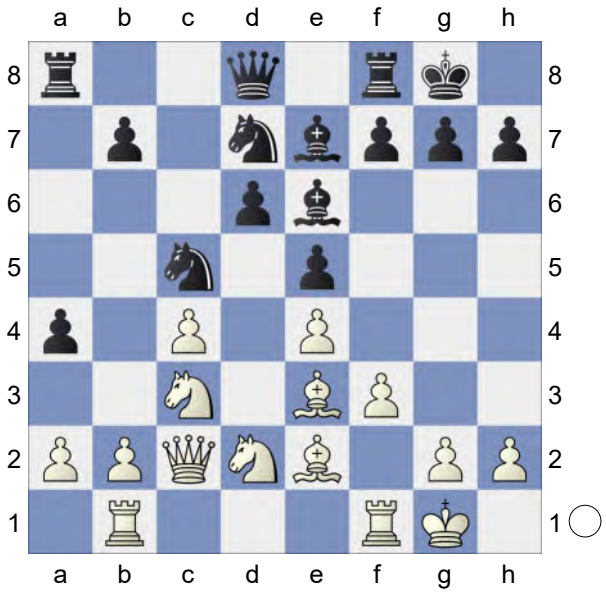
15.Rab1 Qd8

[Here too 15...f5? is not a good idea for Black.

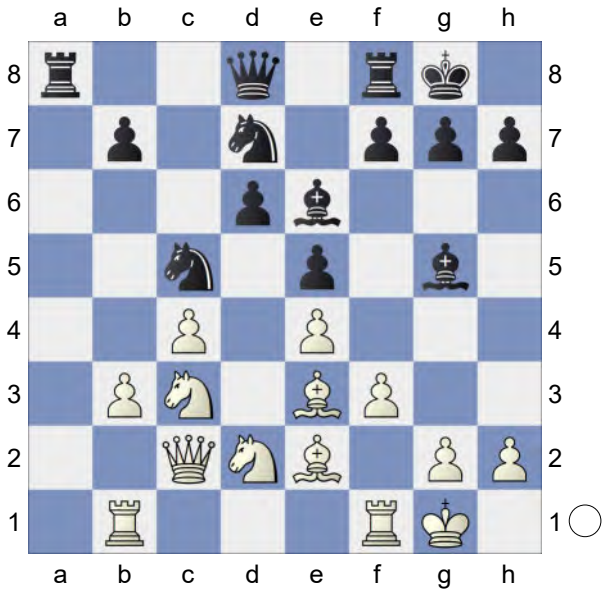
REMEMBER: The move ...f7-f5 often makes our task easier, especially when Black must recapture on f5 with a piece. Black is just weakening himself and we have a clear plan of exploiting the holes on e4 and d5.

After 16.b3 axb3! 17.Nxb3 Nxb3

18.axb3 Qb4 1.12/19 *(18...fxe4± 0.49/20 19.fxe4 h6)* 19.exf5± Bxf5 20.Bd3 Bxd3 21.Qxd3 White has a very comfortable position with excellent outposts and can play against the weak central pawns.]



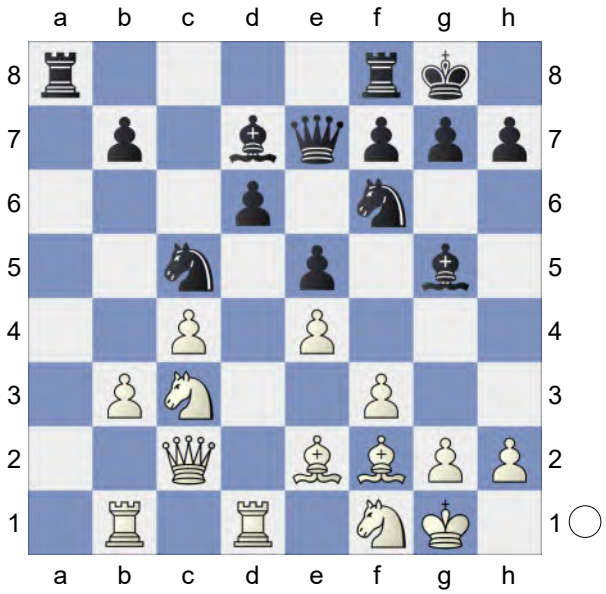
16.b4 axb3 17.axb3 Bg5



18.Bf2 Of course we want to keep this bishop if possible.

18...Nf6 19.Rfd1 Bd7 QUESTION: Which piece can we improve?

ANSWER: **20.Nf1!** Improving our knight by rerouting it to the d5-square. **20...Qe7**

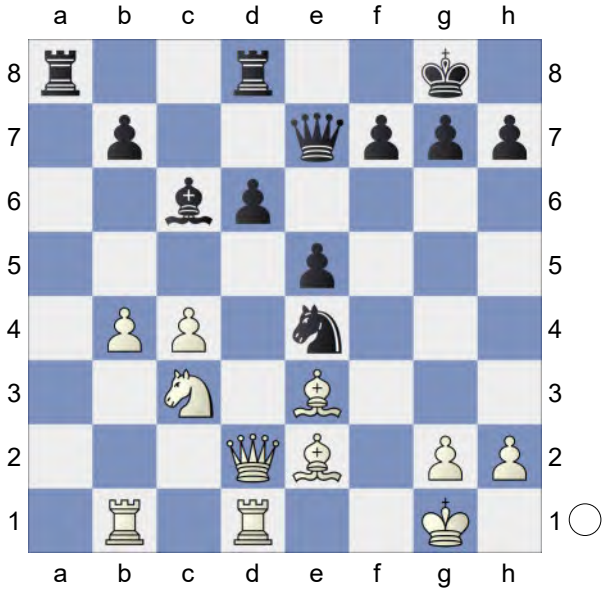


21.Ne3 Bxe3 22.Bxe3 Rfd8 23.Qd2 Bc6 24.b4 Ncxe4 2.60/23 This sacrifice is no good at all.

[24...Na4 was more resilient, but after 25.Nd5 Bxd5 26.exd5 White is close to winning anyway because the black knight is stranded on the rim.]

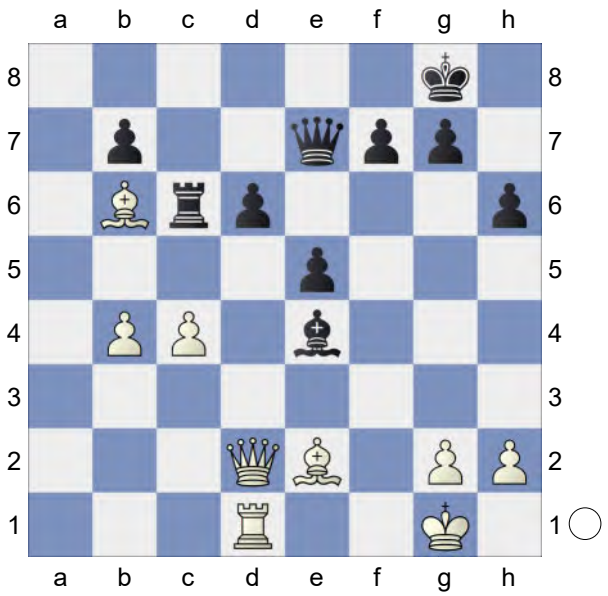
[24...Na4± 1.45/23 25.Nd5 Bxd5]

25.fxe4+- Nxe4

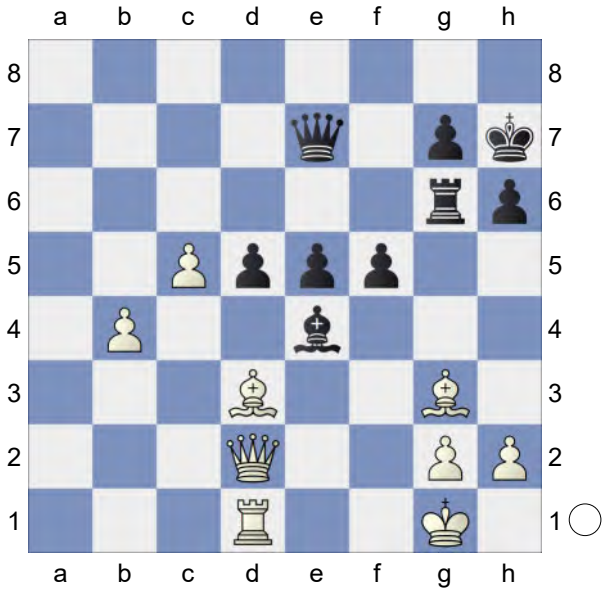


26.Nxe4 Bxe4 27.Ra1 Rxa1 28.Rxa1 h6 29.Bb6 Rc8 30.Rd1 Rc6

(Diagram)

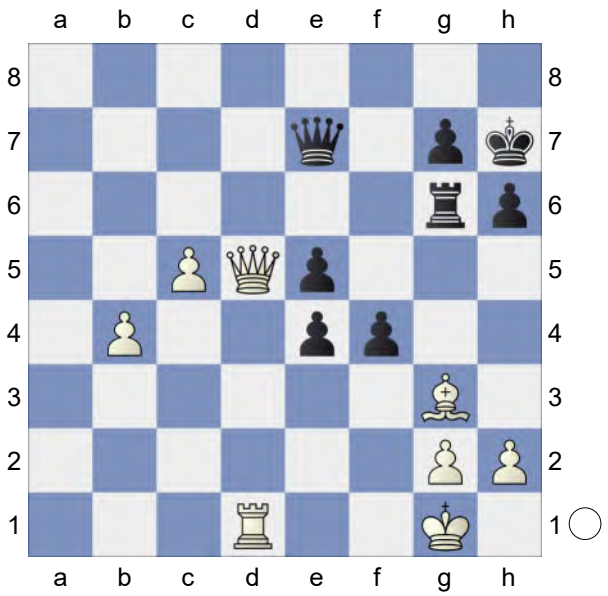


31.Bf2 b5 5.05/23
[31...Kh7 3.40/21 keeps fighting. 32.b5 Rc8 33.Qxd6 Qg5]
32.c5 d5 33.Bxb5 Rg6 34.Bg3 f5 6.17/20
[⌓34...h5 4.00/19 35.Bd3 Bxd3 36.Qxd3 h4]
35.Bd3 Threatens to win with Bxe4. White is clearly winning. **35...Kh7**

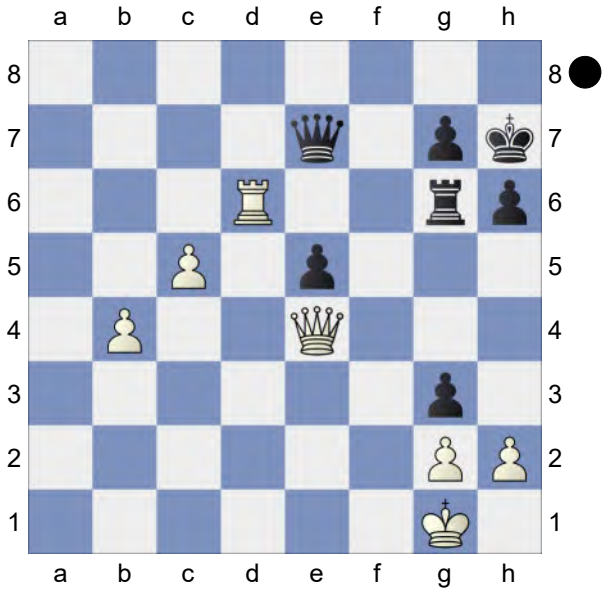


36.Bxe4 dxe4 Black resigned, probably because **37.Qd5** Prevents Qb7. **37...f4**

(Diagram)



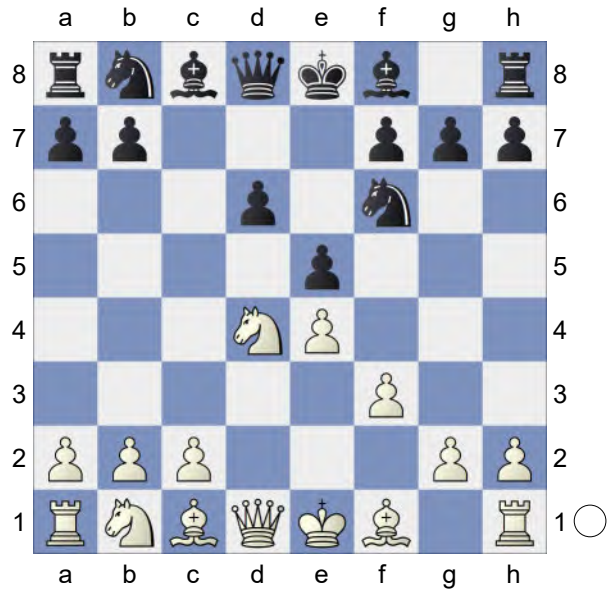
38.Qxe4! fxg3
[38...Qe8 39.Rd6]
39.Rd6



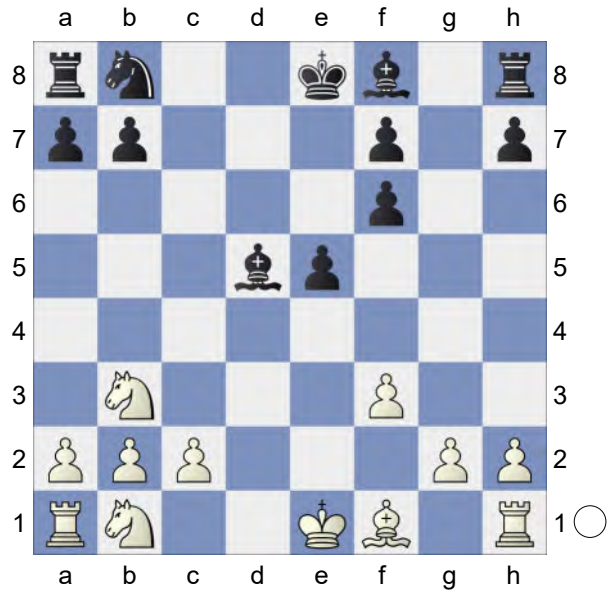
leads to a lost pawn ending.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.34
1-0

124 **B54**
□ **Nabaty,Tamir** **2636**
■ **Zubov,Alexander** **2600**
3. Ordu Open 2017 (9.1) 09.04.2017
[Stohl,Igor]

1.e4 Stohl, Igor **1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5**



6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Bxd5



11.Nc3 Be6 12.Nb5!?
[For 12.0-0-0 see Kravtsyv-Areshchenko and Harikrishna-Giri.]
12...Kd7
[Possibly 12...Kd8 is simpler: 13.0-0-0+ Nd7!? , transposing to Kravtsyv-Areshchenko *(13...Kc8 -12...♔d7)*]
[12...Na6 13.0-0-0 Bh6+ 14.Kb1 Ke7∞ is also unclear]
13.0-0-0+ Kc8 Stohl, Igor: '-12...♔d7'
[13...Kc6!? is a playable alternative:
A) 14.Nc3
A1) 14...a6 15.Bd3 *(15.Bc4! Bxc4 16.Na5+ Kc5 17.Na4+ Kb4 18.Nxc4 Kxc4 19.Nb6+ Kb5 20.Nxa8 Kc6 21.Kb1 Bc5 22.Rd3±)* 15...f5 16.g4 fxg4 17.Be4+ Kb6 18.fxg4 Nc6 19.Nd5+ Varga,Z (2455)-Vojtek, V (2283) Slovakia 2012 Ka7 20.Nc7 Bxg4 21.Nxa8 Bh6+⇄;
A2) 14...Bb4!? 15.Ne4 Nd7 16.a3 Be7 17.Nc3 Nb6 18.Bd3 Rad8 19.Be4+ Kc7 20.g4 h5 21.h3 ½, Brodsky,M (2515)-Shipov,S (2540) Minsk 1997 Nc4⇄;
B) 14.Kb1 Nd7 15.Nc3
B1) 15...a6 16.Bd3 f5 *(16...Kc7 17.f4!? f5 18.fxe5 Nxe5⇄)* 17.f4 e4? 18.Bc4! Re8 19.Nd5 b6?! 20.Nd4+ Kc5 21.Nc7+- 1-0 (30) Varga,Z (2474)-Steiner,A (2262) Austria 2012;
B2) 15...Nb6 16.Bd3 Kc7 17.Nb5+ Kc8 18.Nc3 Kc7 19.Nb5+ Kc8 20.g3 a6 21.Nc3 Kc7 22.Ne4 Nd7 23.f4 f5 24.Ng5 e4 25.Be2 Re8 26.Nd4 h6 27.Ngxe6+ fxe6= eisenbach, s (2326)-paktech,r (2540) 3m + 0s, rated 2010;
C) 14.Bd3 Kb6 *(14...Nd7 15.Nc3*

a6 16.Be4+ Kb6 17.Kb1 f5 18.Bd5 Rd8 19.g4 Nf6 20.Bxe6 Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 fxe6 22.g5 Nh5 23.Rd8 Nf4 24.Rc8 Ng6 25.Na4+ Kb5 ½, Sacerdotali,S (2337)-Wong, V (1992) email 2004 *26.Nc3+ Kb6=)* 15.Nc3 a6 16.Be4 f5 17.Bd5 Nc6 18.Rhe1 Rd8 19.Na4+ Kc7 20.Bxe6 Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 fxe6 22.Nac5 Nd8 23.Re1 Bd6 24.Nd3 Nc6= ½-½ (29) nurgeträumt,d (2428)-bigrein,d (2546) Engine Room 2010]

14.Bd3

[14.Nd6+ Bxd6 15.Rxd6 Kc7 16.Rd2 b6 *(16...Nc6 17.Bb5 Rad8 18.Rhd1 Rxd2 19.Rxd2 a6 20.Bxc6* ½, Palac,M (2578)-Tyomkin,D (2461) Lisbon 2001 *Kxc6=)* 17.Bd3 Nc6 18.Be4 Rad8 19.Re1 h5 20.Rxd8 Rxd8 21.Nd2 h4 22.Nf1 Ne7 23.a3 Rg8 24.g4 hxg3 25.hxg3 f5 26.Bd3 f6= /∓, Salgado Lopez,I (2662)-Andersen,M (2535) Baku 2016]

[14.Na5 a6 *(14...Nc6 15.Nc4 Bc5 16.Ncd6+ Kb8 17.Bc4 a6 18.Nc3 Kc7 19.Nce4 Bxd6 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.Nxd6 Rhg8 22.g3 f5 23.Rhe1 Rad8 24.Nc4 Rxd1+ 25.Kxd1 Rd8+ 26.Kc1 Rd5=* Malakhov,V (2510)-Tyomkin,D (2385) Holon 1995*)* 15.Nc3 Nc6 16.Nc4?! *(16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.Bd3 h5=)* 16...Kc7 17.Kb1 Bh6 18.Bd3 *(18.Nd5+ Bxd5 19.Rxd5 b5 20.Na3 Nb4 21.Rd1 Rhd8↑)* 18...Rad8 19.Rhe1 Rhg8 20.g4 Nd4 21.Rf1 Bf4 22.h3 h5∓ Cicak,S (2534)-Vesselovsky,S (2438) Czechia 2003]

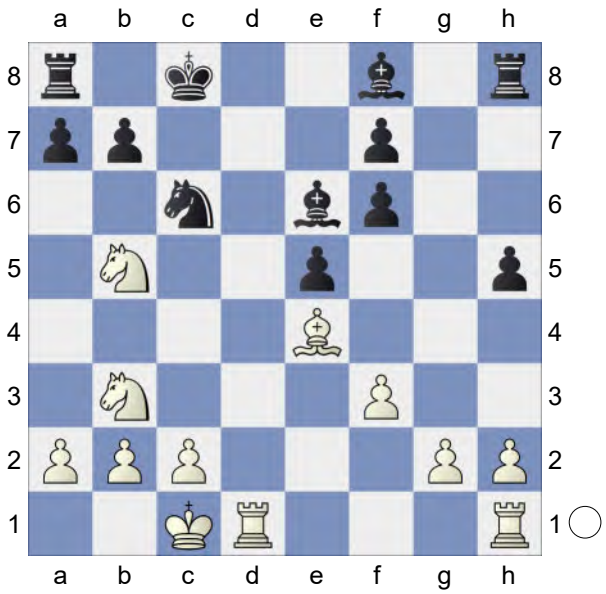
[14.Nc3 Rg8 15.Nd5 Rg6 16.g3 Nc6 17.Bc4 Nb4 18.c3 Bh6+ 19.Kb1 Bf5+ ½, Overmark,O (2331)-Price,D (2110) email 2007 20.Ka1 Nc2+ 21.Kb1 Na3+ 22.Ka1 Nc2+=]

14...h5

[⌓14...f5!? 15.Rhe1 *(⌓15.Nc3 Nc6 16.Bb5∞)* 15...Nc6 16.a3?! *(16.Nc3 ◬a6 17.Na4=)* 16...a6 17.Nc3 Kc7 18.Bf1 Bh6+ 19.Kb1 Rad8 20.Rxd8 Rxd8 21.Rd1 Rxd1+ ½, Horvath,T (2380)-Migliorini,M (2141) Lignano Sabbiadoro 2016 22.Nxd1 Kd6↑]

[14...a6 15.Nc3 Nc6 16.Be4 f5 17.Bd5 Kc7 18.Rhe1 Bh6+ *(18...Rd8!? 19.Bxc6 Rxd1+ 20.Nxd1 Kxc6 21.Rxe5 Bh6+ 22.Kb1 Rd8⩱)* 19.Kb1 Bg7? 20.Nc5 Rhe8 21.Bxe6+- Smolka,M (1864)-Fronczak, S (1627) Sekocin Stary 2010]

15.Be4 Nc6



16.Bd5 Rh7 17.f4! a6

[17...exf4 18.Rhe1 Ne5 19.Bxe6+ fxe6 20.N5d4±]

18.Nd6+

[18.Nc3!? exf4 19.Rhe1 Ne5 20.Nd4 Bg4±]

18...Bxd6

[18...Kc7! 19.Bxe6 fxe6 20.fxe5 Bh6+ 21.Kb1 Nxe5 22.Ne4 Ng4 23.Nbc5 Re7 24.Rd6 Rae8 25.h3

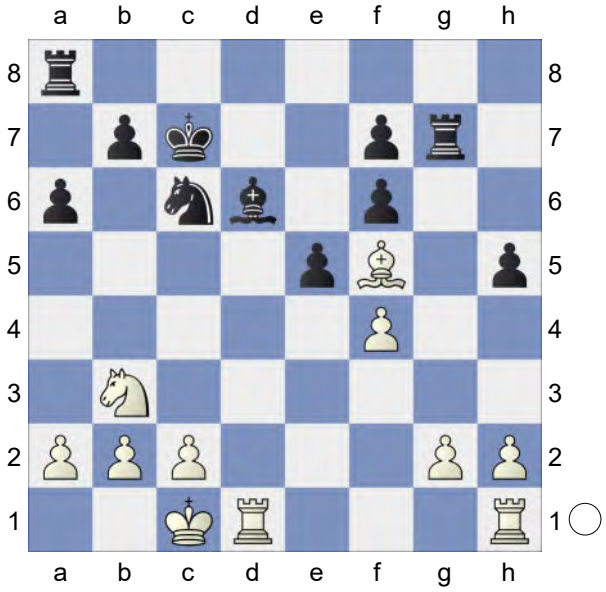
Ne3 26.Rd3 f5 27.Nf6 Rf8 28.Ncd7 Rff7 29.Rc3+ Kd6 30.Rd3+ Kc7=]

19.Bxe6+ Kc7 20.Bf5

[20.fxe5 fxe5 21.Bh3 Rf8=]

[20.Bd5 exf4=]

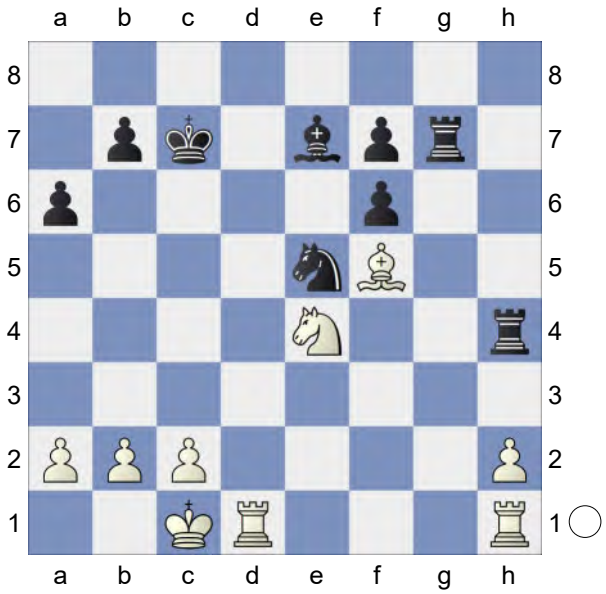
20...Rg7



21.fxe5 Nxe5

[The more natural move is 21...fxe5 22.g3 h4⇄]

22.g3 h4 23.gxh4 Rh8 24.Nd2 Rxh4 25.Ne4 Be7



26.h3= /± Due to his better pawn structure White has a very slight plus. However, the ♙♙ are a strong neutralising factor. **26...Kb8**

[26...Rf4 27.Rhf1 Rxf1 28.Rxf1 Nc4 is also tenable.]

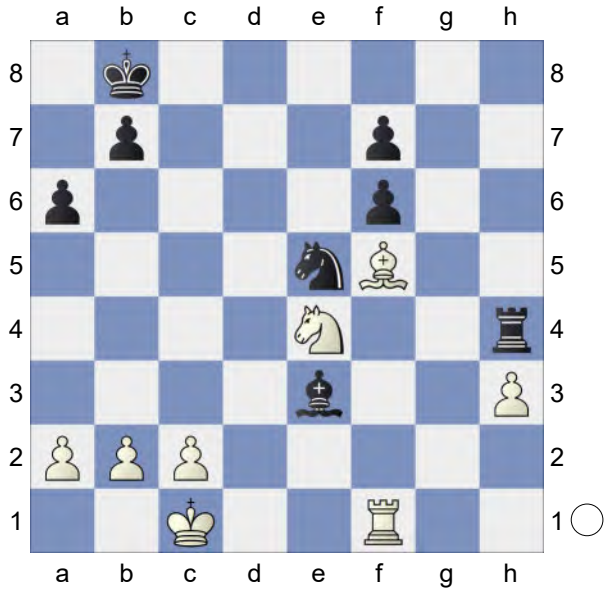
27.Rhf1 Rg2

[27...Nc4!?]

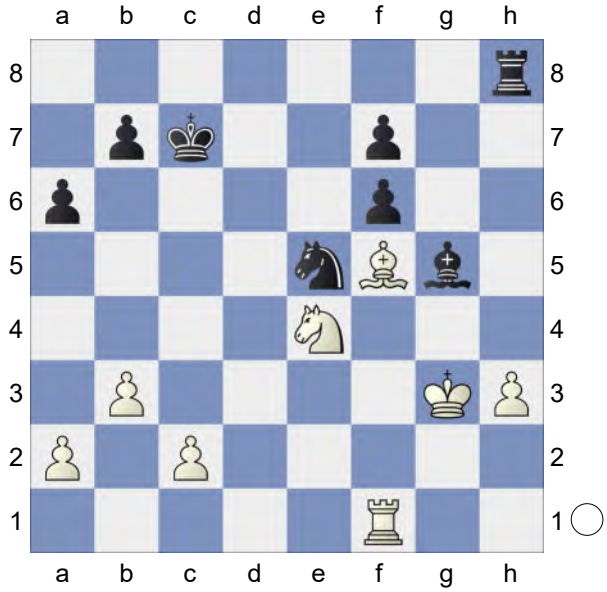
28.Rd2

[Perhaps White should have tried to keep both rooks with 28.b3±]

28...Rxd2 29.Nxd2 Bc5 30.Ne4 Be3+

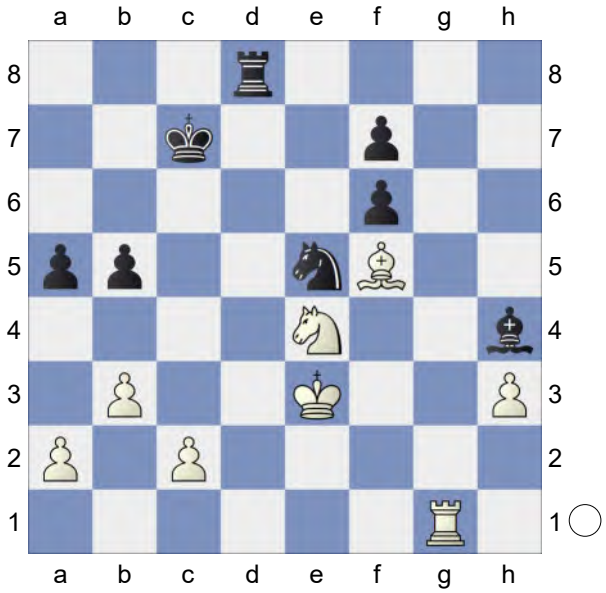


31.Kd1 Bg5 32.b3 Kc7 33.Ke2 Kc6 34.Kf2 Kc7 35.Kg3 Rh8

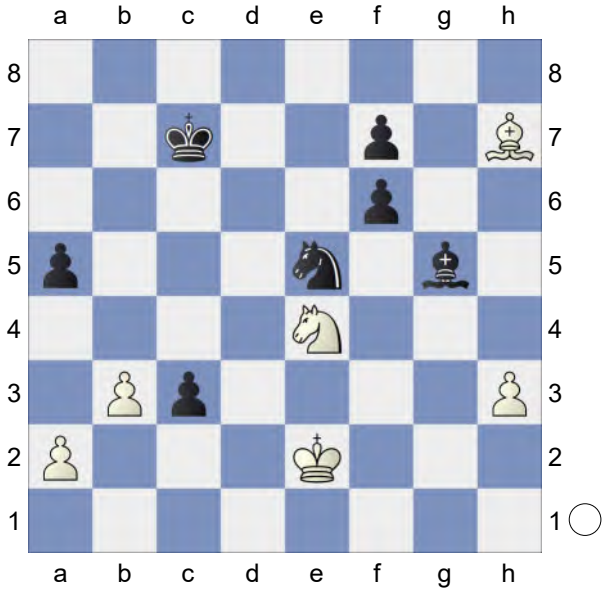


36.Bg4 Bh4+ 37.Kf4 Re8 38.Bf5 Rd8

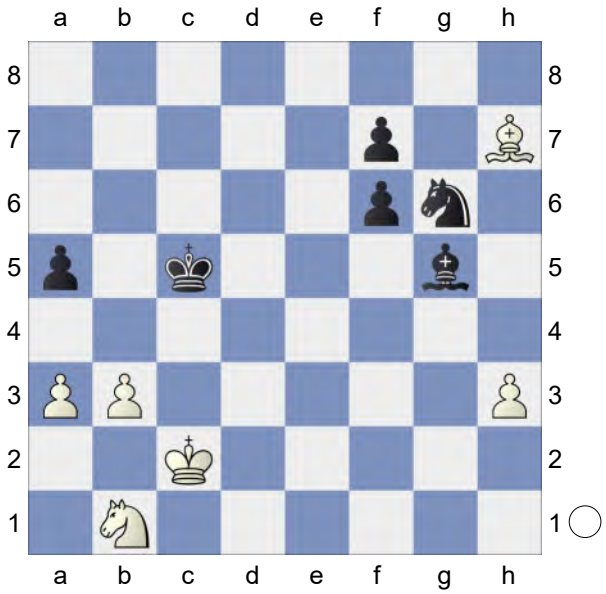
39.Rg1 b5 Nominally White is still pushing, but breaking the blockade proves impossible. **40.Ke3 a5**



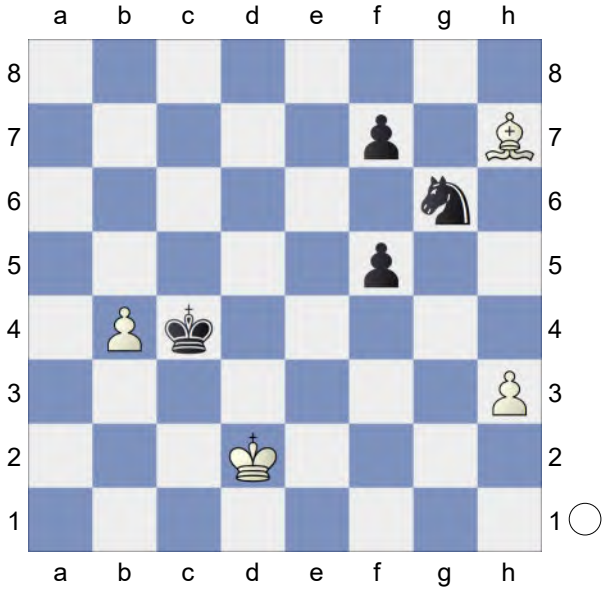
41.Ke2 b4 42.Rg7 Rh8
[42...Kc6!? 43.Rh7 Bg5 44.h4 Bf4⇄]
43.Rh7 Rxh7 44.Bxh7 Bg5
[44...Ng6!=]
45.c4
[45.Ng3!±]
45...bxc3



46.Nxc3 Kc6 47.Kd1 Kc5 48.Kc2 Kb4 49.Nb1 Kc5 50.a3 Ng6=

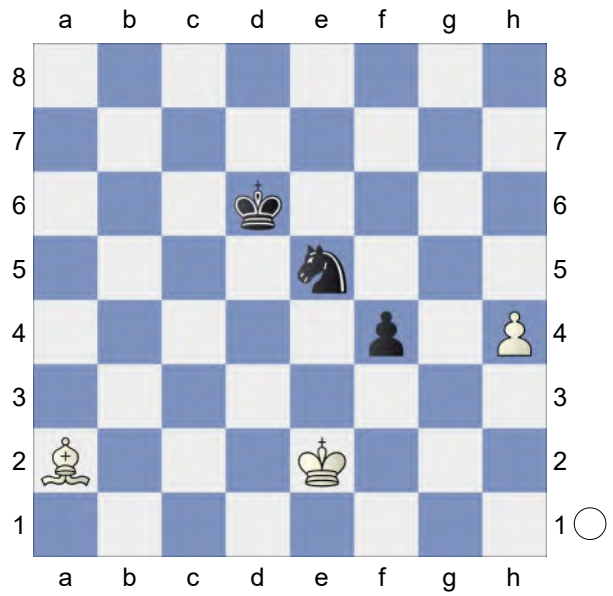


51.Kc3 f5 52.b4+ axb4+ 53.axb4+ Kd5 54.Nd2
[54.Bg8? Ke6]
54...Bxd2+ 55.Kxd2 Kc4



56.Bg8 Kxb4 57.Bxf7 Ne5 58.Ba2 f4 59.Ke2 Kc5 60.h4 Kd6=

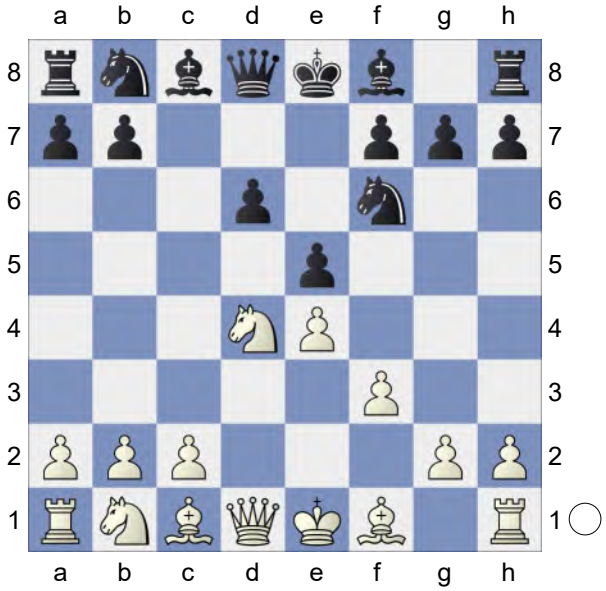
(Diagram)



½-½

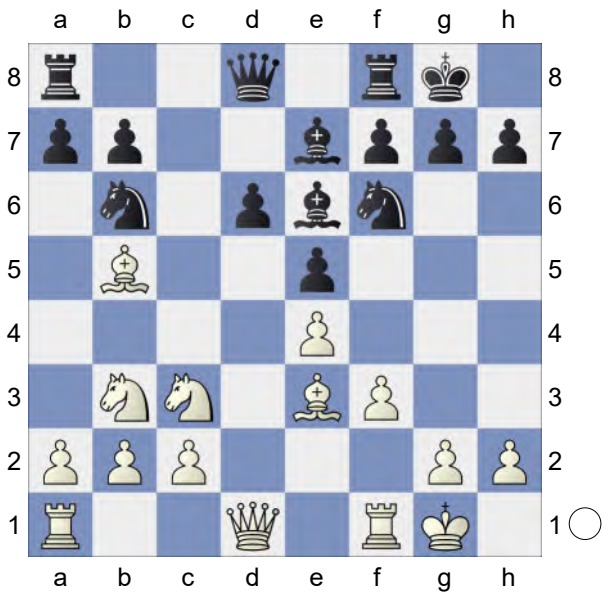
125 **B55**
□ **Jazzyjef** **2636**
■ **Openingsonly** **2707**
Blitz 31.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

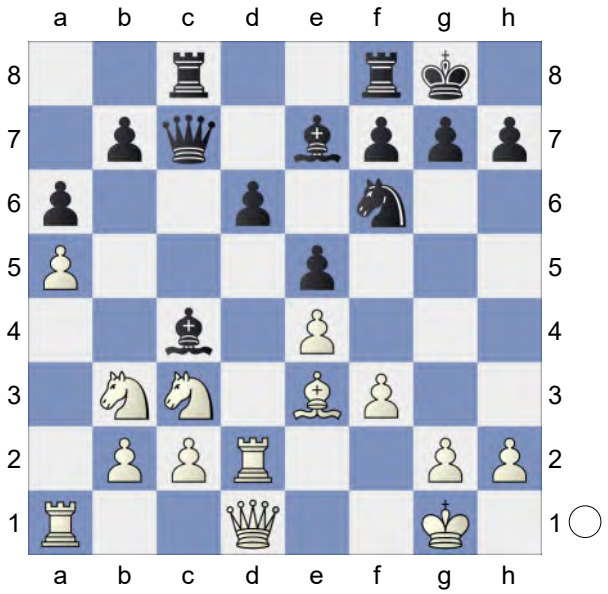


6.Bb5+ Nbd7 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Nc3 The position is equal. **8...0-0 9.0-0 Nb6 10.Be3** -0.47/18
[10.a4= 0.03/16]
10...Be6

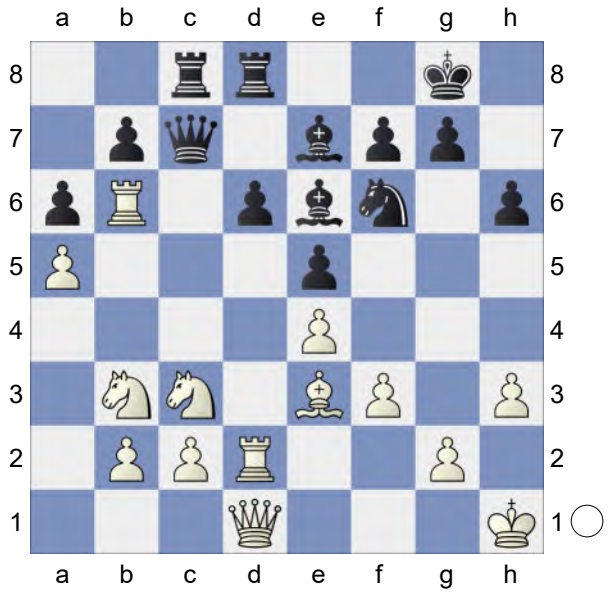
(Diagram)



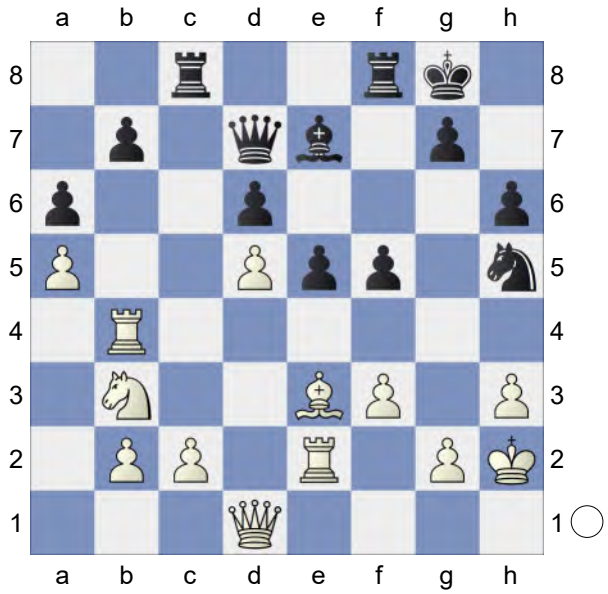
11.a4 -0.75/20
[11.Bf2∓ -0.32/16]
11...Nc4 -0.32/19
[11...d5!∓ -0.75/20 White must now prevent ...d4. 12.exd5 Nbxd5 13.Nxd5 Nxd5]
12.Bxc4∓ Bxc4 13.Rf2 a6 0.13/19
[⌓13...d5 -0.27/20 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.exd5 Qxd5]
14.Rd2 Qc7 15.a5 Rac8



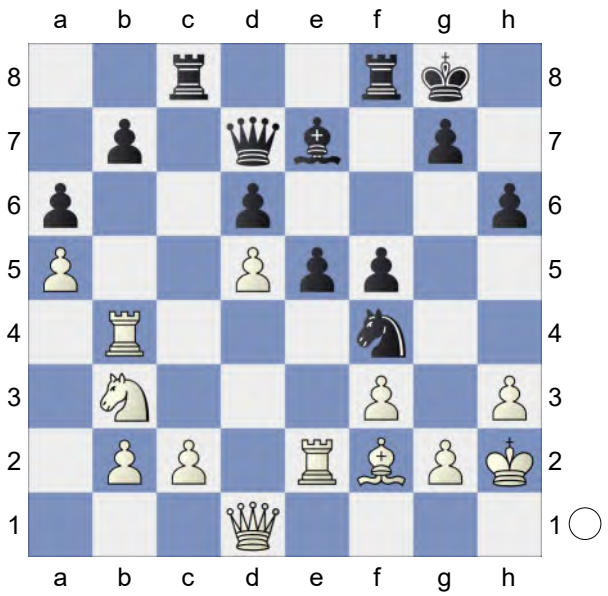
16.Kh1 h6 17.Ra4 Qc6 18.Rb4 Rfd8 0.38/19
[18...Qc7= 0.01/19]
19.Rb6 -0.01/21
[19.Bb6± 0.38/19 should be considered.]
19...Qc7!= 20.h3 -0.42/18
[20.Rb4!= -0.01/19 was preferrable.]
20...Be6 -0.04/19
[20...Nd7∓ -0.42/18]



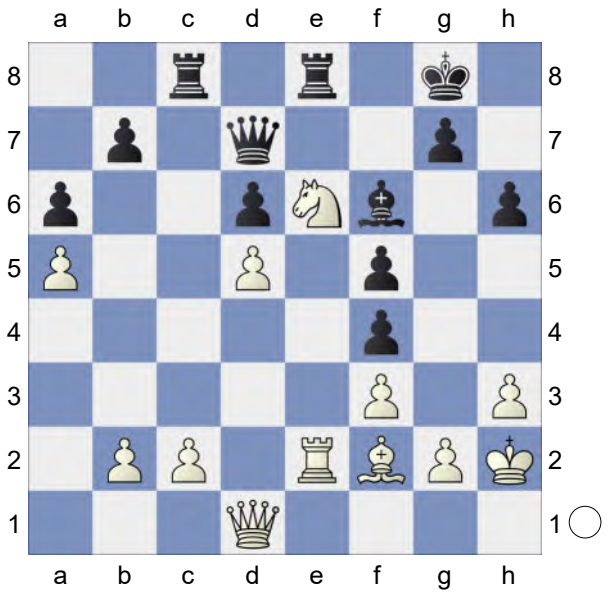
21.Nd5 Bxd5 22.exd5 Qd7 23.Rb4 Inhibits Rc4. **23...Nh5 24.Kh2 f5 25.Re2 Rf8**



26.Bf2 Nf4
(Diagram)

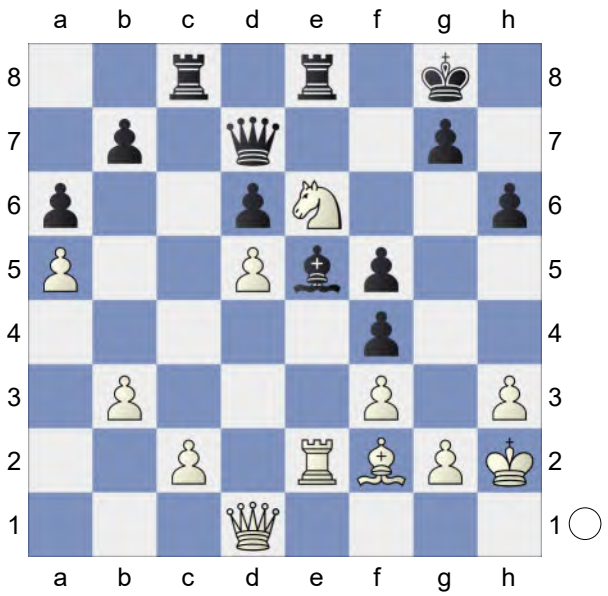


27.Rxf4! exf4 28.Nd4! Bf6 29.Ne6 Rfe8 0.92/22
[29...Rf7!= -0.01/21 30.b3 Bc3]

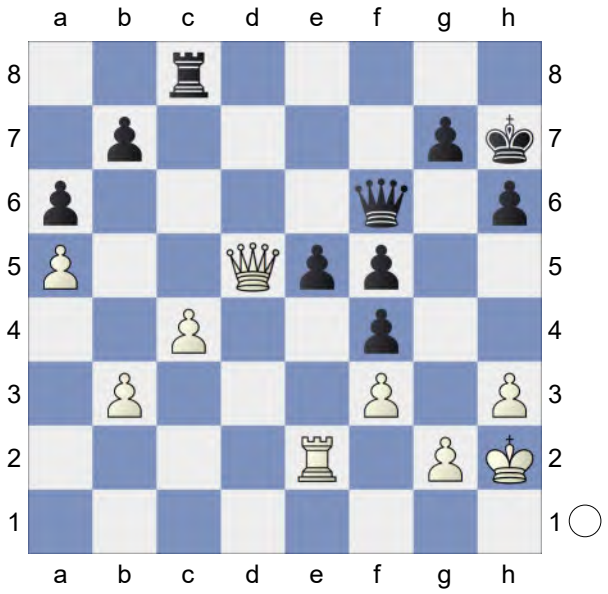


30.b3 0.01/21 &Bianco is more active.
[30.Bd4!± 0.92/22]
30...Be5

(Diagram)

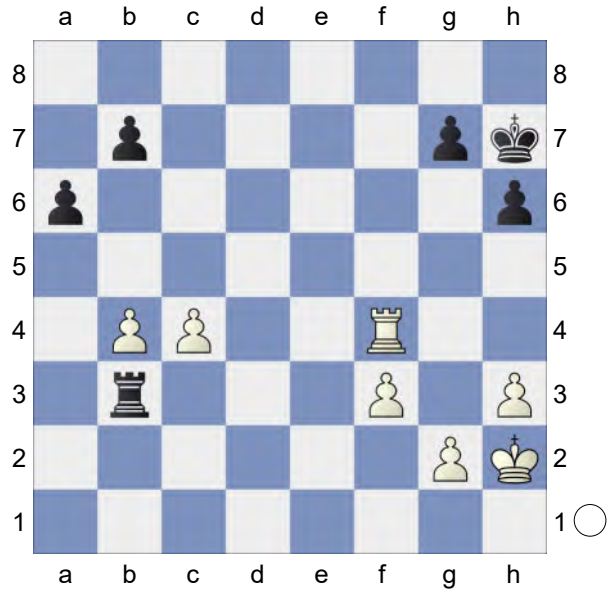


31.c4 Rxe6 32.dxe6 Qxe6 33.Bd4 -0.30/19
[⌓33.Rd2 0.01/18]
33...Qf6? 1.34/21
[33...Kh7= -0.30/19]
34.Bxe5± dxe5 Endgame KQR-KQR
35.Qd5+ Kh7



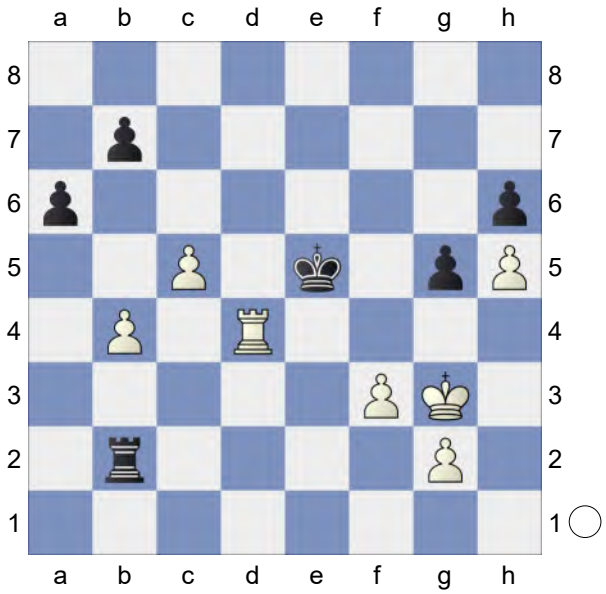
36.Rxe5 0.60/24
[36.Qxe5± 1.10/25 Qxe5 37.Rxe5]
36...Rd8!± 37.Rxf5 -5.23/31 **Rxd5?** 1.22/26
[37...Qh4-+ -5.23/31 38.Qxd8 Qxd8]
38.Rxf6± Rxa5 39.Rxf4 0.01/26 KR-KR

[39.Rb6± 1.09/25]
39...Ra3= 40.b4 Rb3 0.74/25
[40...Ra4= 0.05/24]

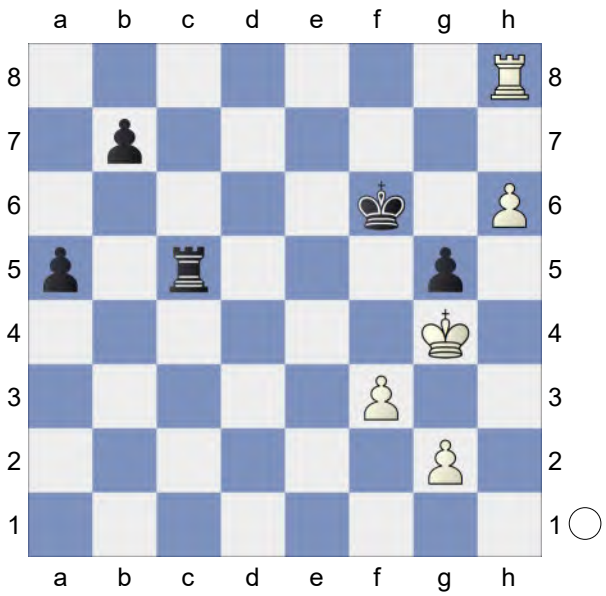


41.c5± Kg6 1.29/22
[⌓41...Rc3 0.78/22]
42.Rd4 Rd6+ is the strong threat.
42...Kf5 1.54/22
[Better is 42...a5 1.13/22]
43.Kg3 And now Rd5+ would win.
43...g5 2.54/24
[43...Ke5± 1.60/22 might work better.
44.Rg4 g5]
44.h4 Rb2 45.h5 Ke5

(Diagram)



Against Rd5+ **46.Rd6** aiming for Rb6.
46...Rxb4 47.Rxh6 a5 2.62/23
[47...Rh4 1.92/24 is a better defense.
48.Rh7 a5]
48.Rh8 1.36/22
[White should play 48.Rg6+- 2.62/23
Kf5 49.Rg7]
48...Rb5? 12.74/22
[48...Rh4± 1.36/22]
49.h6+- Kf6 50.Kg4? 0.57/24
[50.Rg8+- 11.49/23 Rb4 51.h7]
50...Rxc5

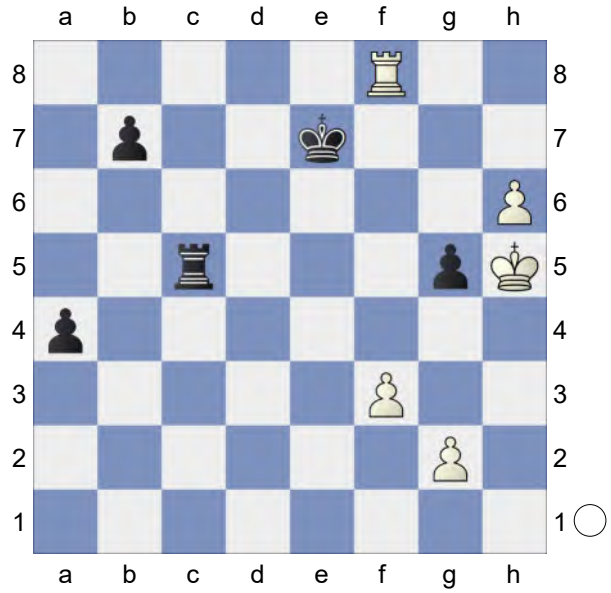


51.Kh5 a4? 8.78/21

[51...g4+± 0.47/21 52.Kxg4 Kg6]

52.Ra8? 0.70/24

[52.Rf8++- 8.78/21 Ke7



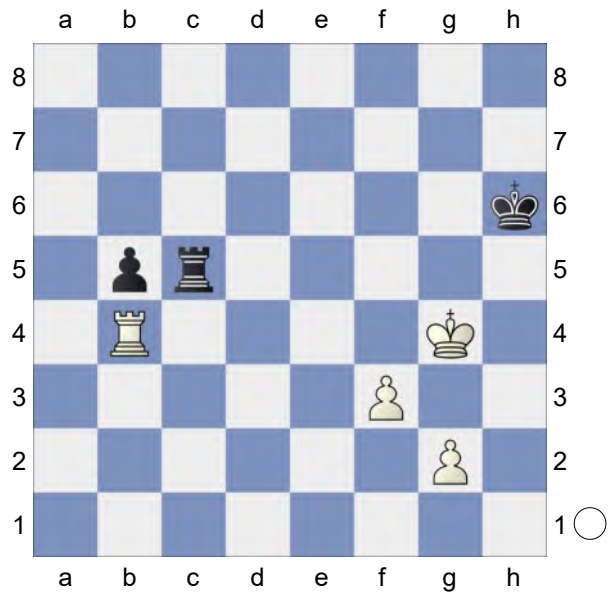
53.h7! Kxf8 54.h8Q+ Ke7 55.Qg7+ Kd6 56.Qxb7]

52...g4+± 53.Kxg4 Kg6 2.97/24

[Black should try 53...Rc4+!± 0.48/25 54.f4 *(54.Kh5 Rc5+ 55.Kh4 Rc4+ 56.Kh5 Rc5+ 57.Kg4 Rc4+ 58.f4 Kg6±)* 54...Kg6]

54.Rxa4+- Strongly threatening f4.

54...Kxh6 55.Rb4 b5



56.f4 Kg6 57.Kf3? 0.33/26

[57.g3+- 2.30/26]

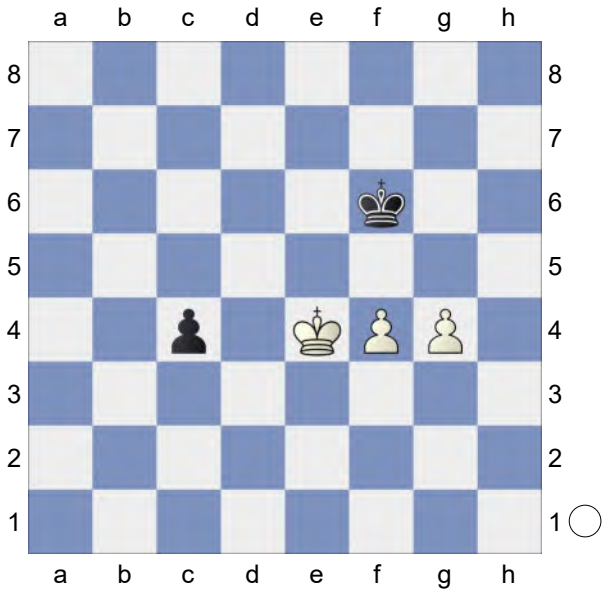
57...Kf5? 5.27/25

[57...Rc3+± 0.33/26 58.Kg4 Rc2]

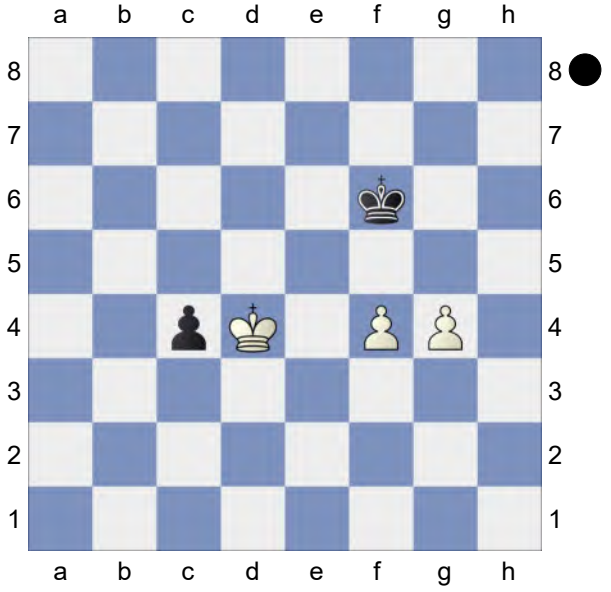
58.g4+ Kf6 59.Ke4 Rc4+ #18/24

[59...Kg7+- 5.07/25 60.Kd4 Rc6 61.Rxb5 Kf6 62.Rf5+ Ke6 63.Re5+ Kf7]

60.Rxc4 bxc4



61.Kd4

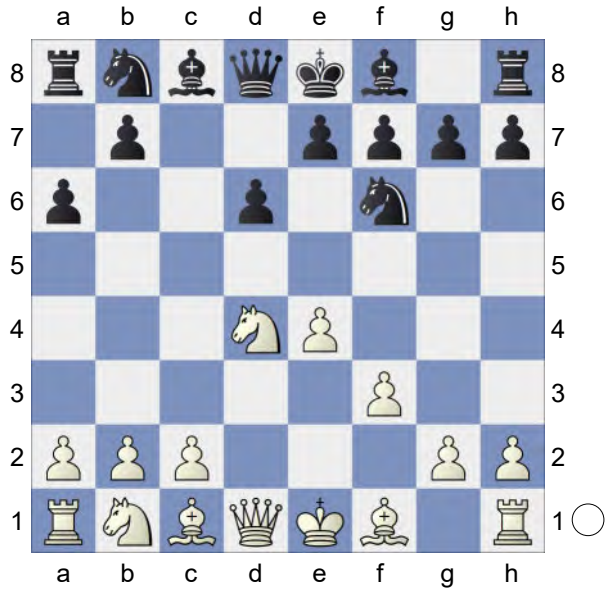


Weighted Error Value: White=0.74/ Black=0.72

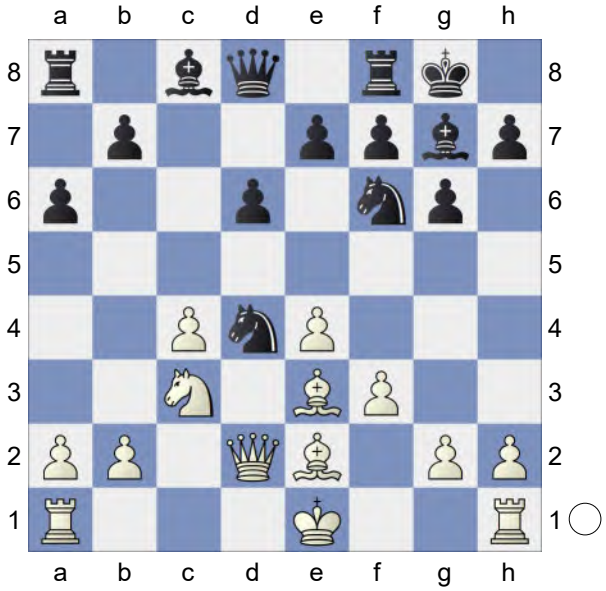
1-0

126 **B54**
□ **Jazzyjef** **2636**
■ **Vb103** **2888**
Blitz 04.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B38: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind with 5...Bg7 and 7...0-0
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6

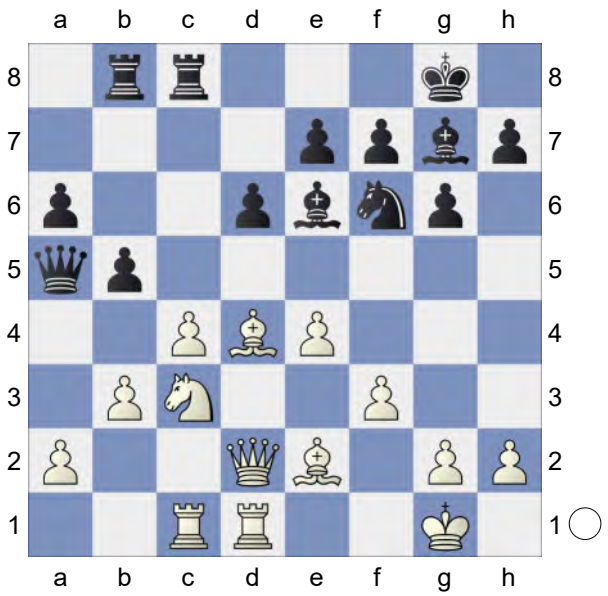


6.c4 g6N
[6...e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7
A) 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 *(14...Nfd7 15.b3 Nxb6 16.Rfc1 Re8 17.Nc2 Ned7 18.Bf1 Bf6 19.Bd4 Bg5 20.Be3 Bf6 21.Bd4 Bg5 22.Be3 Be7 23.Bd4 h5 24.Qf2 Bh4 25.g3 Bf6 26.Rd1 d5 27.exd5 exd5 28.Nxd5 Nxd5 29.cxd5* Flores Quillas,D (2200)-Lu, M (2442) Pereira 2022 1-0 (67)*)* 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13. ♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson];
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 *(16...Bc7 17.Nde2 Kh8 18.Bd4 Bc6 19.Be3 Ne5 20.b3 h6 21.Nd4 Bb7 22.Be2 Ng6 23.Qg1 Rfe8 24.Nc2 d5 25.exd5 exd5 26.Bxb6 Bf4 27.Rb1 Nh5 28.Bf1 Re5 29.Ne2 Rxe2 30.Bxe2 Qe5 31.Bd3* Bezgodov,A (2546)-Alavkin,A (2471) Saint Petersburg 92/278 2004 CI1-130 [Bezgodov, Alexei] ½-½ (40) *)* 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Ba8 21.Rb1 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein, Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]
7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 Nc6 10.Be2 Nxd4

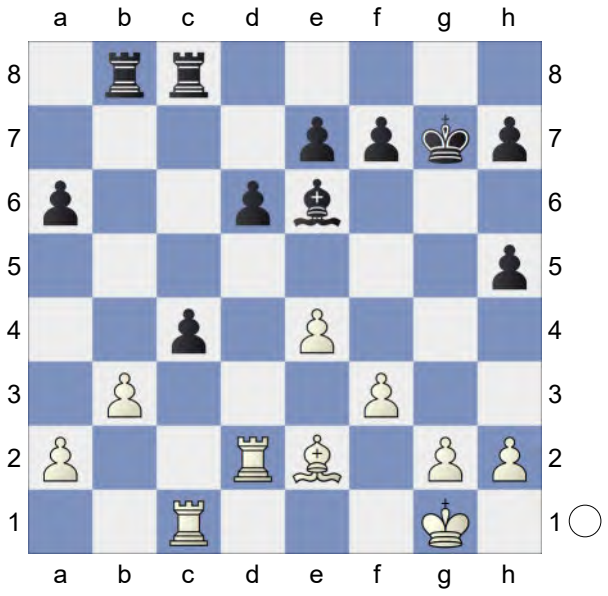


11.Bxd4 Be6 12.0-0 Qa5 13.Rfd1
[13.Rab1 keeps more tension. Nd7 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.b3]
13...Rfc8 14.b3 Rab8 The position is equal. **15.Rac1 b5!**

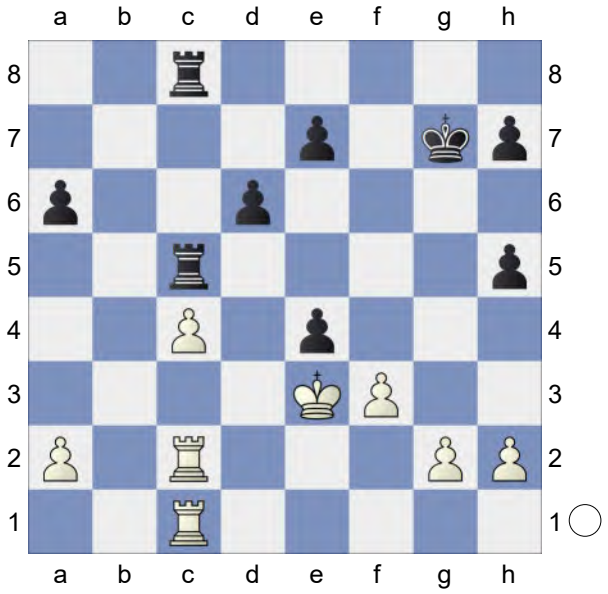
(Diagram)



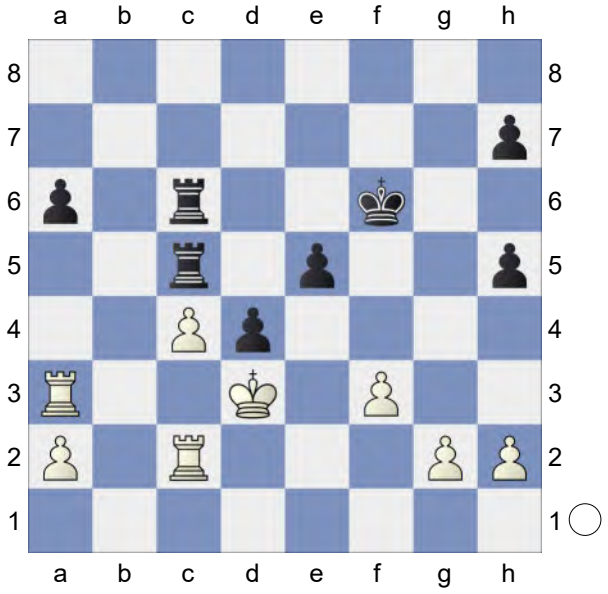
16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Nd5 Qxd2
[17...Qa3 looks sharper. 18.Nxf6+ exf6 19.cxb5 axb5 20.Rxc8+ Rxc8 21.Kh1]
18.Nxf6+ Kg7 19.Nh5+ gxh5 20.Rxd2 bxc4



21.Bxc4 Bxc4 22.bxc4= Endgame KRR-KRR **22...Rc5 23.Kf2** -0.71/22
[23.h4= -0.28/18 is superior.]
23...Rbc8 -0.21/20
[23...Rb4∓ -0.71/22]
24.Rdc2 f5 0.06/20
[24...f6∓ -0.36/17]
25.Ke3 -0.30/20
[⌓25.exf5 0.06/20 Rxf5 26.Re2]
25...fxe4

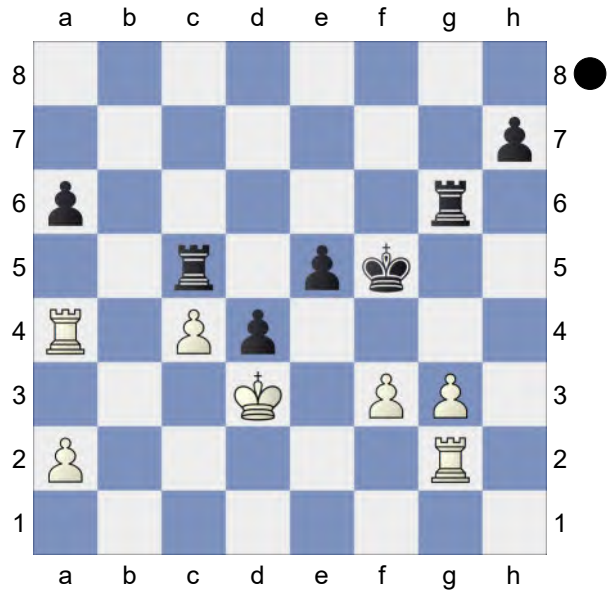


26.Kxe4 Kf6 27.Rc3 e5 -0.28/20
[27...h4∓ -0.59/18 should be considered.]
28.R1c2 d5+ -0.01/23
[Black should play 28...h4∓ -0.55/20]
29.Kd3 d4 0.32/23
[29...h4= -0.04/20 might be stronger.]
30.Ra3± R8c6

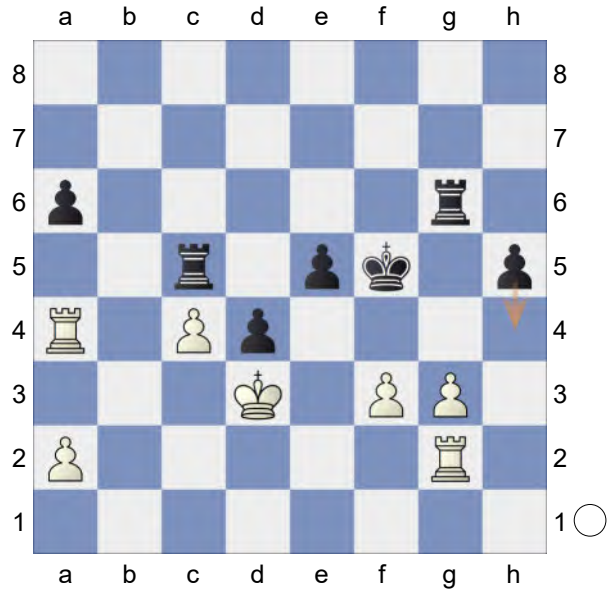


31.Ra4 Kf5 32.g3 h4 33.Re2 -0.82/20
[33.f4!± 0.35/22 stays ahead.]

33...hxg3∓ 34.hxg3 Rg6! 35.Rg2



h5!

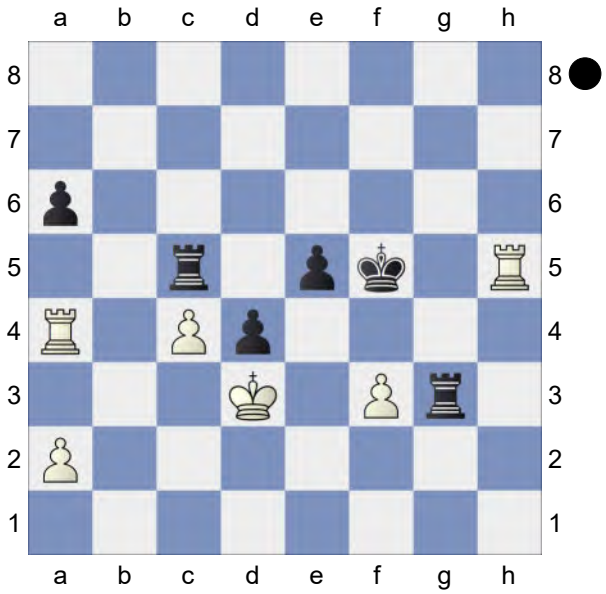


...h4! is the strong threat. **36.Rh2** -2.18/21

[36.Rf2∓ -1.00/22]

36...Rxg3-+ 37.Rxh5+

(Diagram)



Kg6! 38.Rh2? -4.24/23

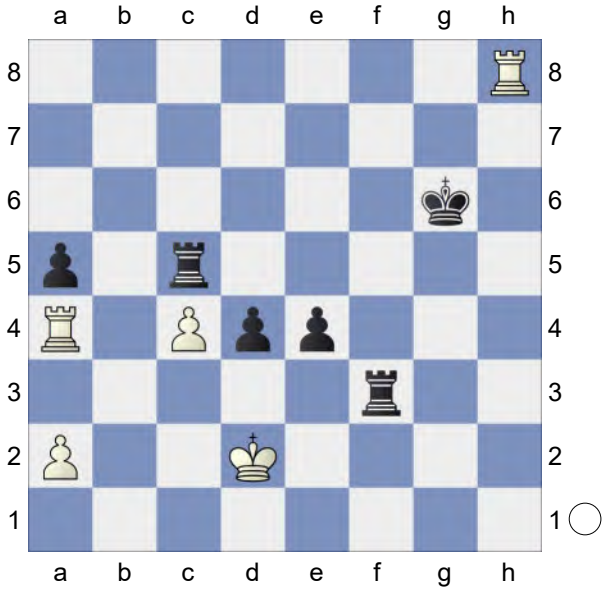
[38.Rh8 -2.45/24 Rxf3+ 39.Kd2]

38...Rxf3+ Black is clearly winning.

39.Kd2 a5 40.Rh8 -6.28/22

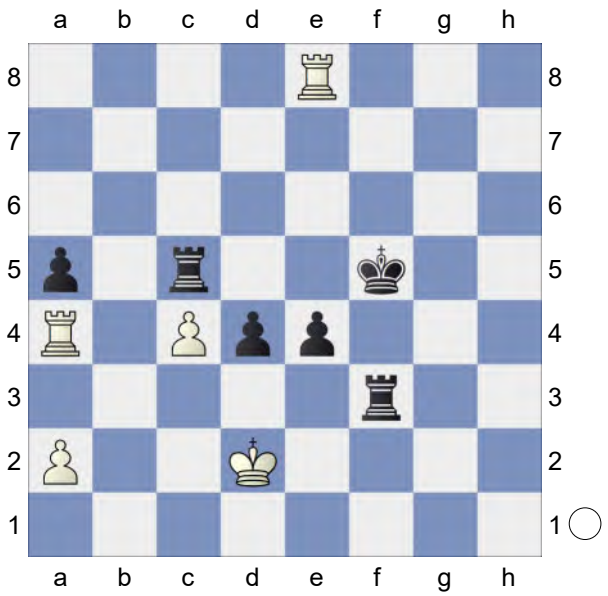
[⌓40.Kd1 -4.27/20]

40...e4



41.Re8 Kf5

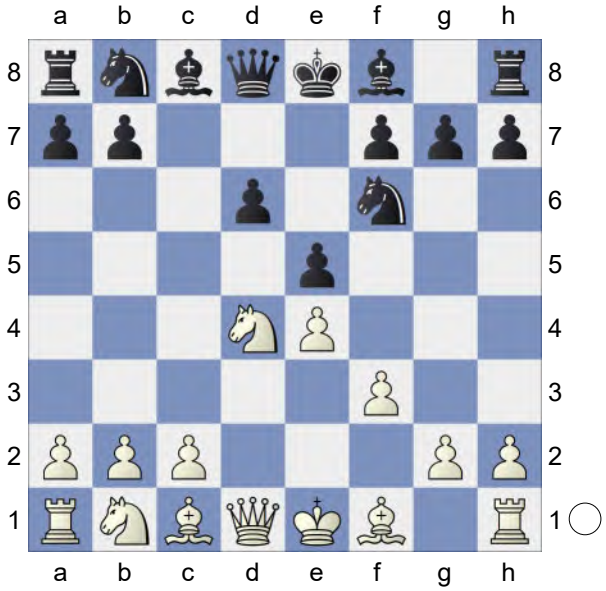
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.51/ Black=0.12 (very precise)
0-1

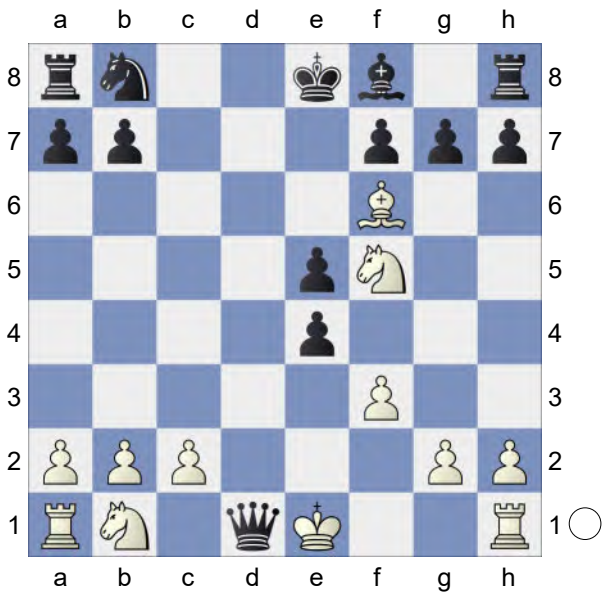
127 **B55**
□ **Gorin,Leonid** **2634**
■ **Jfdrr** **2673**
Blitz 12.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min+2sec
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

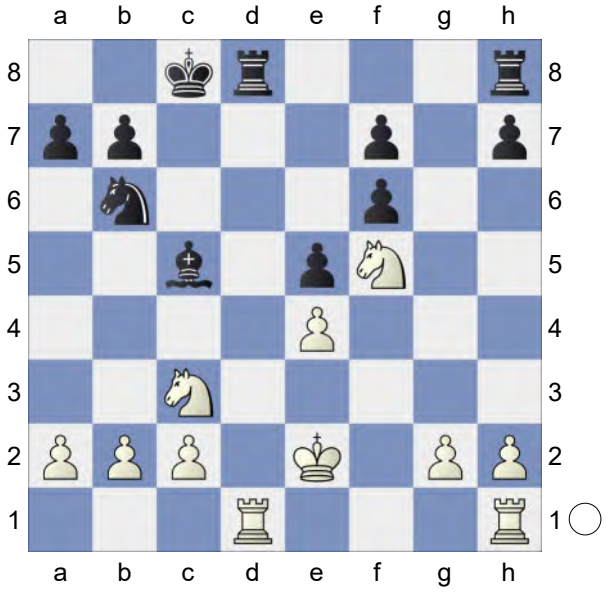


6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.Nf5 d5 9.Bg5 dxe4 10.Bxf6 Qxd1+

(Diagram)

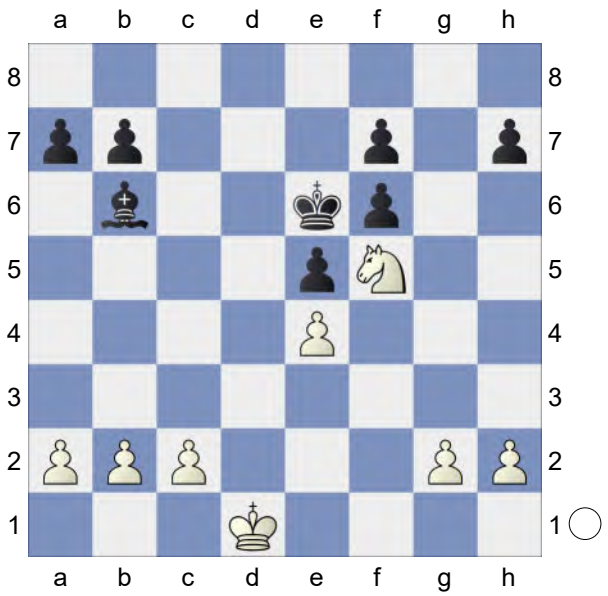


11.Kxd1 gxf6 12.fxe4 Nd7 13.Nc3 Pair of Knights! **13...0-0-0** 1.02/21
[13...Rg8± 0.64/18]
14.Ke2± &Bianco is more active.
14...Nb6 White is better. **15.Rad1 Bc5**

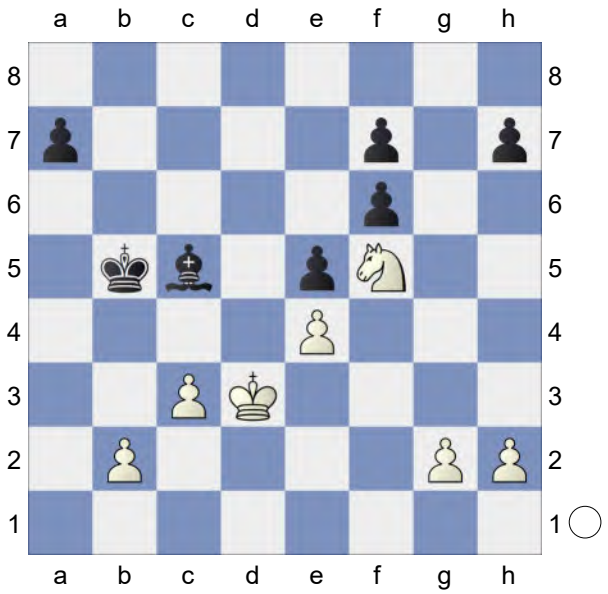


16.Rxd8+ Rxd8 17.Rd1 Rxd1 18.Kxd1 Endgame KBN-KNN **18...Kd7** 1.19/20
[⌓18...Bg1 0.81/20]
19.Nd5 Ke6 20.Nxb6 Bxb6

(Diagram)

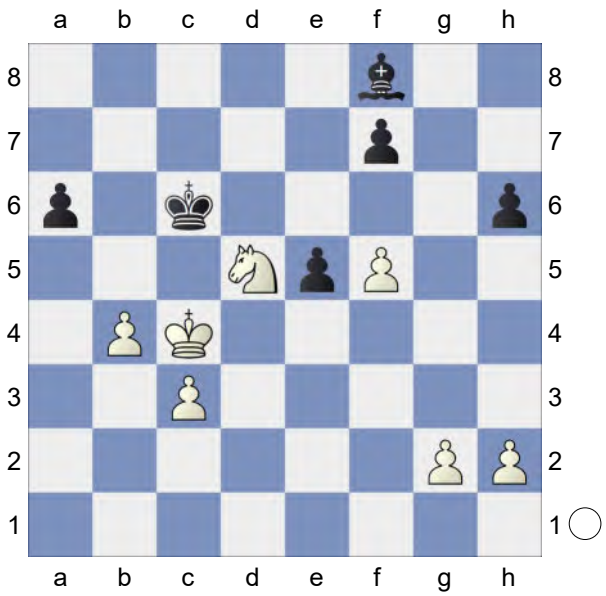


KB-KN **21.Ke2 Bc5 22.Kd3 Kd7 23.a4 Kc6 24.c3 b5** 1.83/27
[24...Bg1± 1.51/19]
25.axb5++- Kxb5

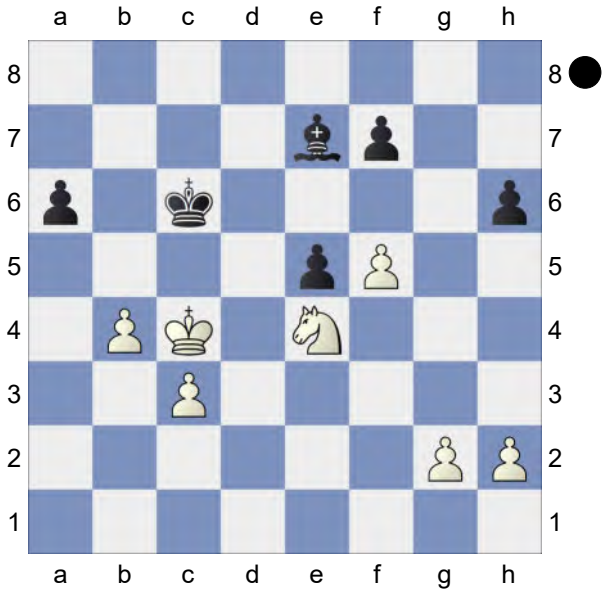


26.b4 Bf8 27.Ne3 Kc6 28.Kc4 a6 2.37/24
[28...Bh6 1.83/23 was called for.]
29.Nd5 f5 30.exf5 h6

(Diagram)

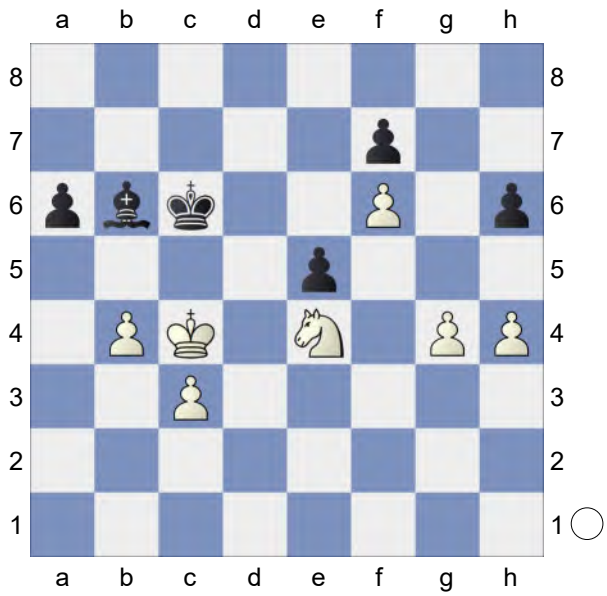


31.Nf6 Be7 32.Ne4

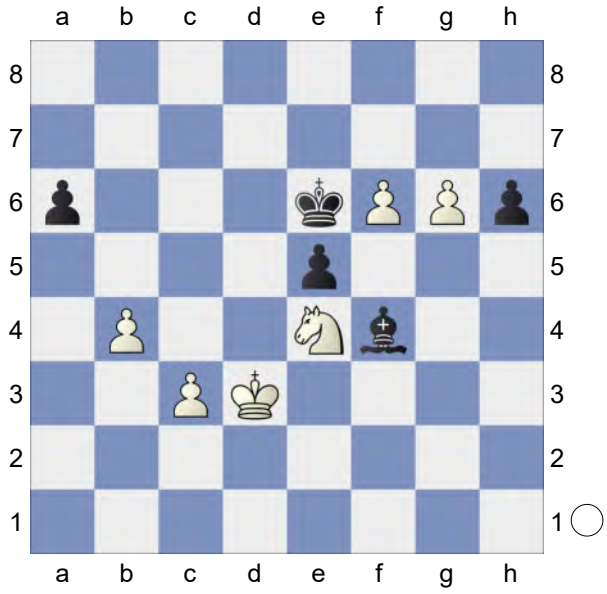


Strongly threatening f6. **32...Bd8 33.g4** Hoping for f6. **33...Be7** 8.19/22
[33...Bh4 3.41/22 34.Nc5 Bf6]
34.f6 Bd8 35.h4 h5 is the strong threat. **35...Bb6**

(Diagram)

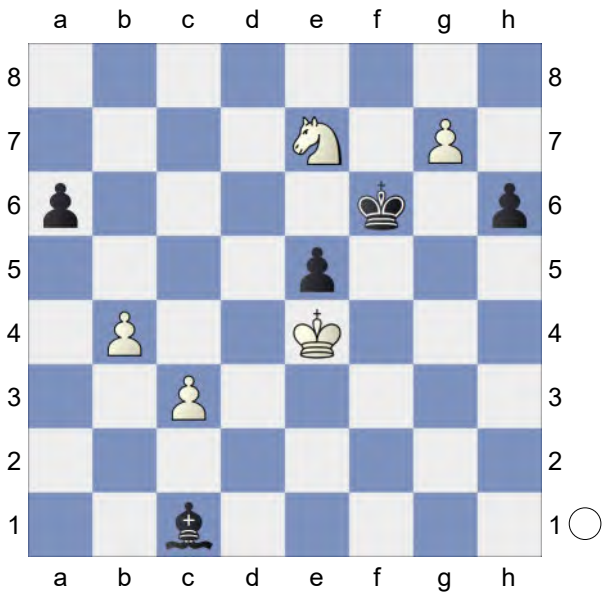


36.h5 Be3 37.g5 Kd7 38.Kd3 Bf4 39.g6 fxg6 40.hxg6 g7 would kill now. **40...Ke6**



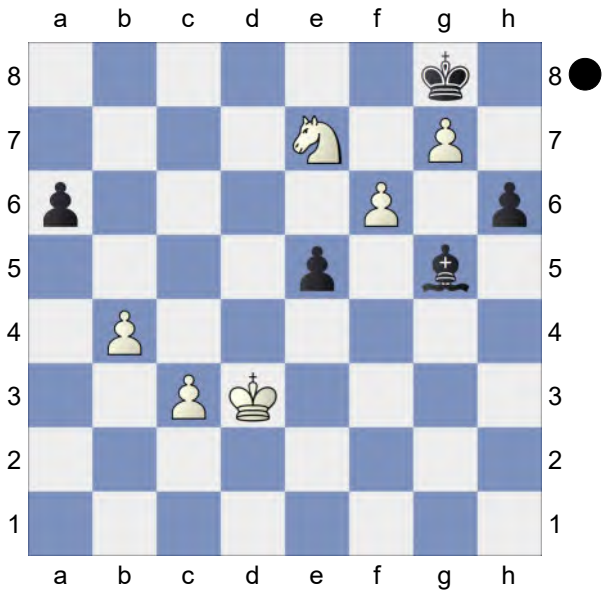
41.g7 Kf7 42.Nd6+ Kg8 43.Nf5 13.42/21
[⌓43.Ke4 #7/25 Bc1 44.Nc8 Kf7 45.Ne7 Kxf6

(Diagram)



46.g8Q! Kxe7 47.Qg7+ Ke6 48.Qg6+ Ke7 49.Qc6]

43...Bg5 44.Ne7+



Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.96

1-0

128 **B80**

□ **Sethuraman,Sandeep** **2624**

■ **Rodshtein,Maxim** **2684**

E Chess.com Grand Swiss (6.40)

[Sethuraman,SP]

B80: Sicilian Scheveningen: 6 g3 and 6 Be3, including English Attack

Firstly, I was very happy to take part in one of the strongest Swiss events ever held in recent times. Also, the conditions of the tournament and the organisation were top notch. So there were two halls in the event, the top 34 boards in Hall 1 went with a great scenic view, and Hall 2 where rest of the games happened was nice as well, but it was kind of a normal one .So most of the people playing in Hall 2 badly wanted to promote to the other one :) And I was one among them after starting the event badly with 0/2. I then recovered in round 3 and 4 with two back to back wins. In the fifth round I made a draw against Gata Kamsky .So this was the sixth round and it was crucial for me to move ahead and it was my time to promote to Hall 1 :) where World Champion Carlsen and Co were playing . **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6**

I didnt really expect my opponent to opt for a Sicilian that day, though from time to time he played a few games with the Najdorf. **5.f3** This was one of the interesting sidelines to face Najdorf apart from a few others, so I wanted to try this out for this game. **5...Nc6N**

[5...e5 6.Nb3 d5 is the principled and critical option for black]

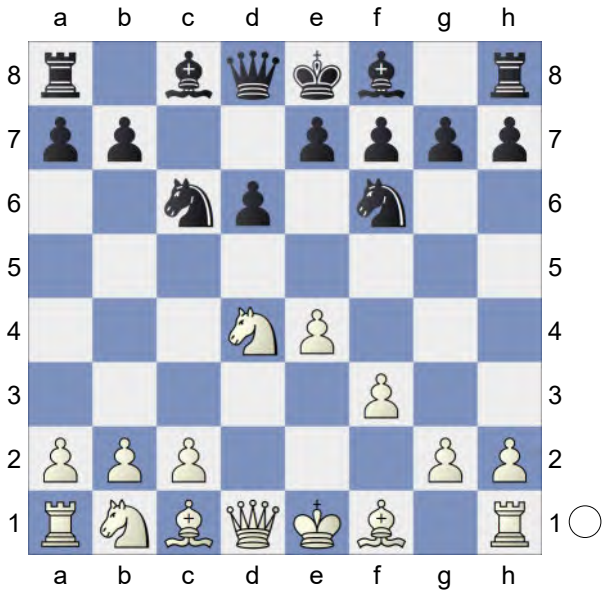
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8*

13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2 Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

(Diagram)



6.Nc3 Steering the game into a Classical Sicilian. **6...e6** Funnily enough, I had the same opening in Round 3 but with the black pieces against WGM Bulmaga Irina. So I had briefly checked the critical options and the recent theory after the game.

[6...e5 is the mainline 7.Nb3]

7.Be3 Be7 8.Qd2 a6

[8...0-0 is the main alternative 9.0-0-0 *(9.g4 d5)* 9...d5 and there a lot of games here.]

9.g4 h6?! 0.78/21 I was kind of shocked by this move as it clearly weakens the king.

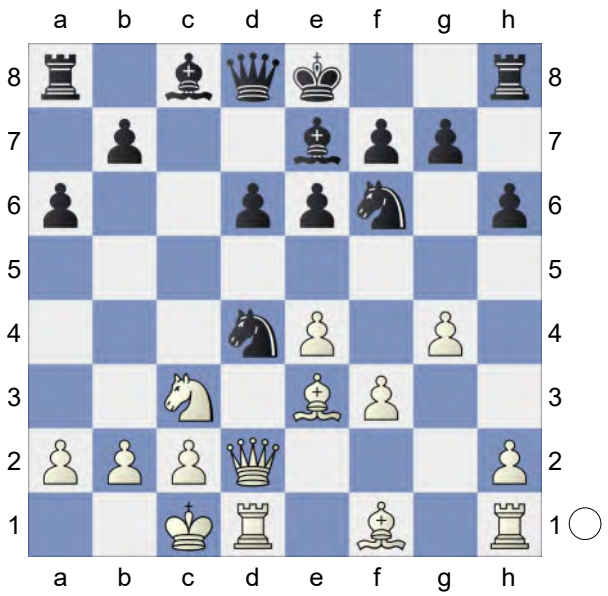
[9...0-0 10.0-0-0 Nd7 is one of the typical positions where the race begins. White attacks on the kingside and black on the other wing.]

[9...0-0± 0.38/21]

10.0-0-0± Nxd4

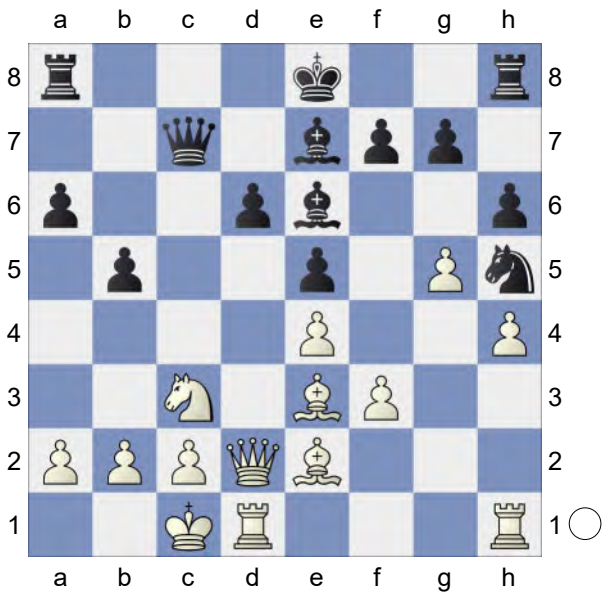
[10...d5?! 11.exd5 0.46/19 *(Better is 11.h4±* 0.83/17 *)* 11...Nxd5± 12.Nf5±]

(Diagram)



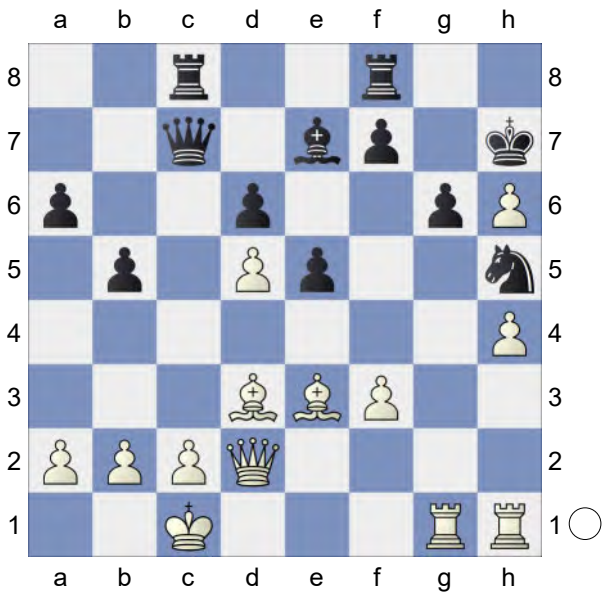
11.Qxd4 I thought capturing with the queen is better as after Black's b5 it stops b4 for the time being and Black has to spend one more move to support the idea.
[11.Bxd4 is better as well b5 12.h4±]
11...Qc7 White is slightly better.
[11...b5 12.h4]
12.h4 &Bianco is more active. **12...b5**
[12...e5 13.Qa4+ Bd7 14.Bb5± was my idea]
13.Be2 e5 14.Qd2 Be6
[14...b4 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.exd5 a5 17.f4±]
15.g5 Nh5

(Diagram)

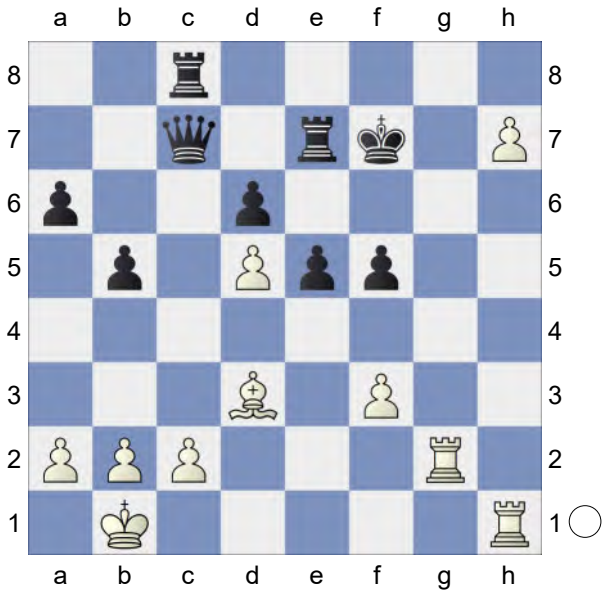


16.Rdg1 Rc8 1.23/23
[⌓16...Qa5 0.84/21]
17.Nd5
[17.gxh6 gxh6 18.a3 *(18.Bxh6 Qa5±)* 18...Nf4]
17...Bxd5 18.exd5 g6
[18...Nf4 19.Bxf4 exf4 20.Bd3 hxg5 2.03/20 *(20...Qc5±* 1.51/18 *)* 21.hxg5+- Rxh1 22.Rxh1±]
19.gxh6 0-0
[19...Nf4 1.81/21 19...0-0 1.32 20.Bxf4 exf4 21.Bd3 Rxh6 22.Qxf4 Rh5 23.c3+-]
20.Bd3
[20.f4! was killing:
A) 20...exf4 1.86/22 20...Nxf4 1.24 21.Bd4+- 1.35/20 *(21.Bf2+-* 1.86/22 *Ng3 22.Bxg3 fxg3 23.Rxg3)*;
B) 20...Nxf4 21.Bxf4 exf4 22.Bd3 and Black's position is just collapsing.]
20...Kh7

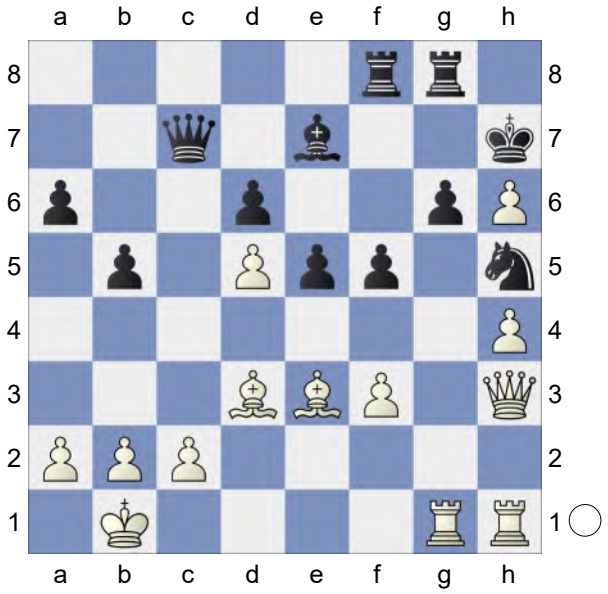
(Diagram)



21.Kb1 f5 2.01/21
[21...Rg8± 1.18/19 might work better.]
22.Qg2+- Rg8
[22...Rf6 23.Bg5 During the game I stopped here with the evaluation that White is winning, but computer provides some breathtaking and asthetically pleasing variations: Rf7 24.Bxe7 Nf4 25.h5! is super cool!:) Nxg2 26.hxg6+ Kxg6 27.h7! Rxe7 28.Rxg2+ Kf7

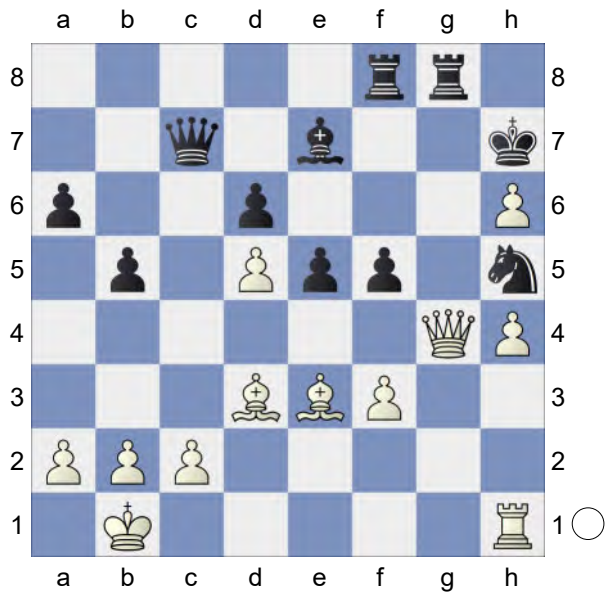


Threatens to win with ...Rh8. 29.Rh5! Cornering the king Ree8 30.Rxf5+ Ke7 31.Rg7+ Kd8 32.Rxc7 Kxc7 33.Rf7+ Kb6 34.Bf5+-]
23.Qh3 Rcf8

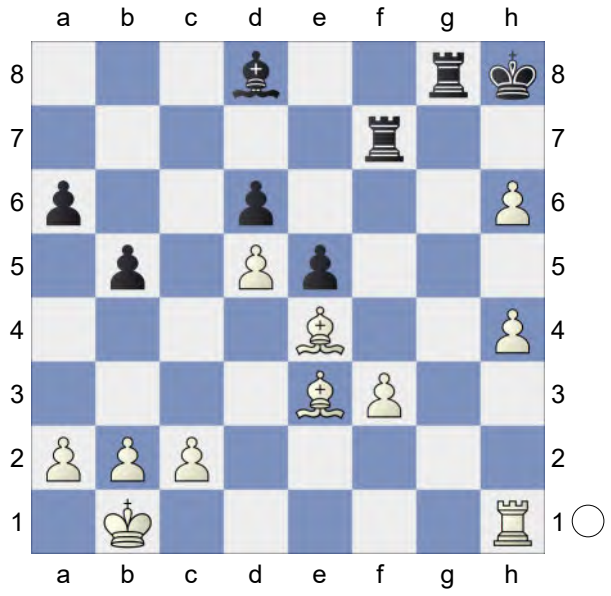


24.Rxg6!! Kxg6
[24...Rxg6? 3.91/20 24...Kxg6 2.18 25.Bxf5 Rxf5 26.Qxf5+-]
[24...Rxg6? 25.Bxf5 Qd8 26.Bxg6+ Kxg6 27.Qg4+ Kh7 28.Qxh5+-]
25.Qg4+
[25.Bxf5+ 1.16/22 25.Qg4+ 1.99 I was trying to make it work for a long time, but then settled for 25.Qg4 which was simpler: Rxf5 26.Qg4+ Bg5 27.hxg5 Qf7 28.Rxh5 Strongly threatening h7. Rxf3 *(28...Rh8 2.02/21 28...Rxf3 1.10 29.Rh1±)* 29.h7 Rh8 30.Rh6+ Kg7 I was not sure about this position during the game, but the computer as always provides some classy stuff proving that White is clearly winining: 31.Rxd6 Rxe3 32.b3!+- and Black is simply stuck with the vulnerable king.]
25...Kh7

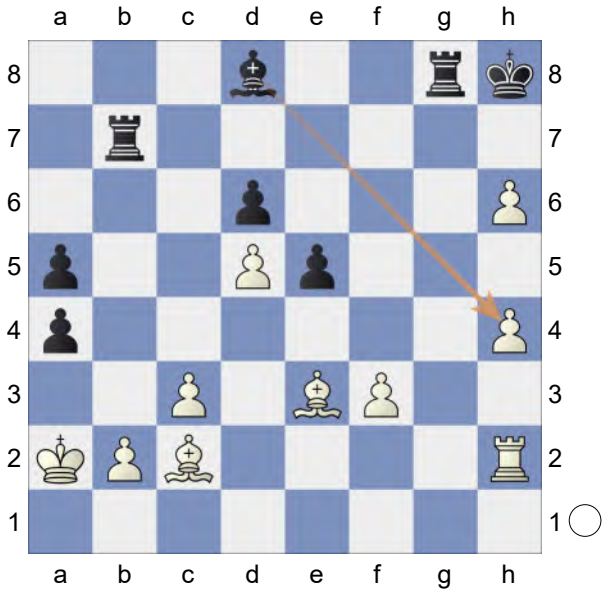
(Diagram)



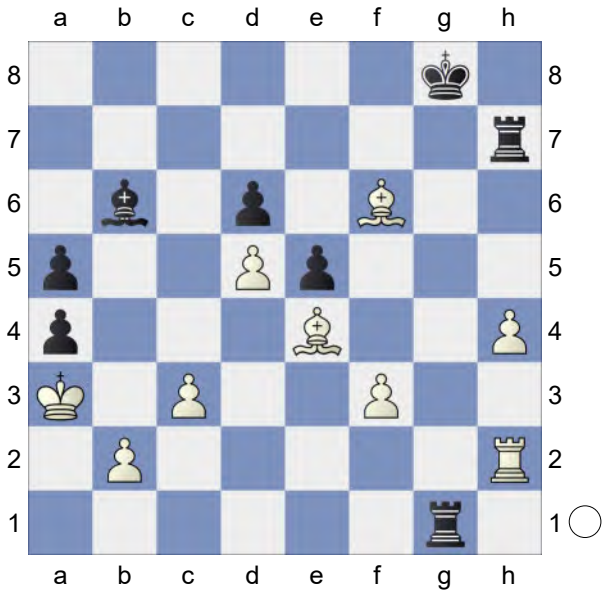
26.Bxf5+
[Worse is 26.Qxh5 Qd7=]
26...Kh8 27.Qxh5 Bd8 28.Bg6
Threatening h7. **28...Rf6 29.Be4**
And now h7 would win. **29...Qf7**
30.Qxf7 Rxf7



31.a4 1.46/20
[31.b4+- was much better and easier.]
[White should try 31.Rh2+- 1.90/20]
31...bxa4± 32.Ka2 Rb7 1.99/19
[⌓32...Rg3 1.62/20 33.Rh2 Rb7]
33.Rh2 a5 2.48/22
[⌓33...Rg3 1.64/20 34.c3 Rb3]
34.c3+- Rb3 35.Bc2 Rb7

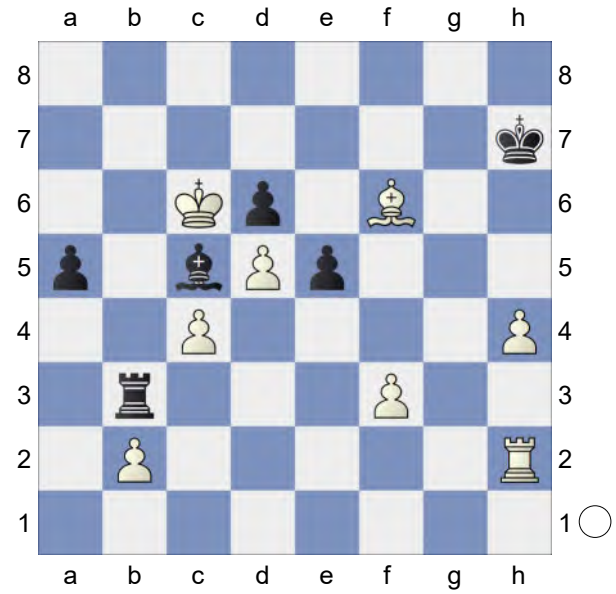


36.Ka3!
[36.Bxa4?! Rg3]
[Weaker is 36.Bxa4 Rg3±]
36...Rg3 37.Be4 Bb6 38.Bg5
[And not 38.Bxb6 Rxb6 39.Kxa4 Rg8=]
38...Rg1 39.Bf6+ This bishop pair is nice. **39...Kg8 40.h7+ Rxh7**



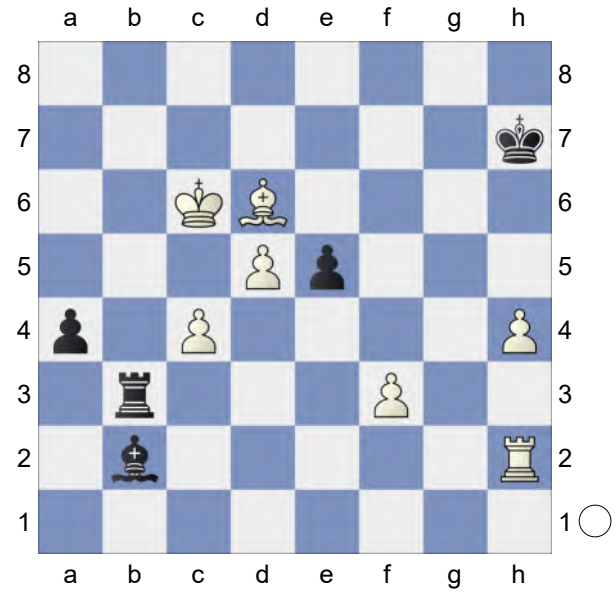
41.Bxh7+ Kxh7 42.Kxa4 Endgame KRB-KRB **42...Rd1 43.c4 Rd3 44.Kb5**
White is clearly winning. **44...Rb3+**

45.Kc6 Bc5



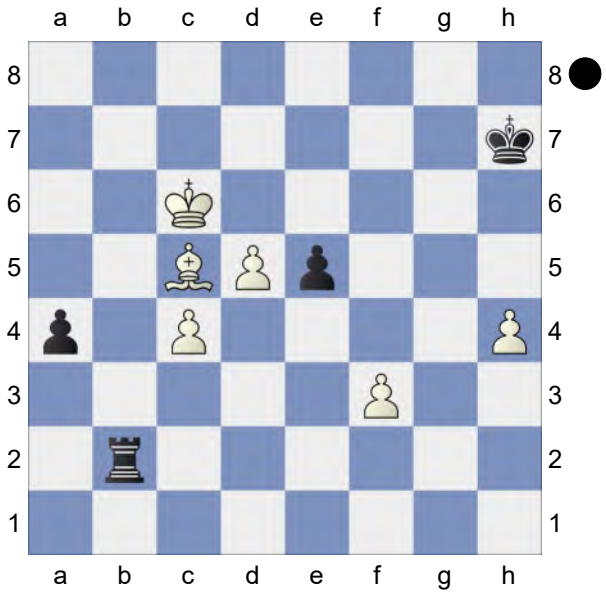
46.Bd8! a4 47.Bc7 Bd4 48.Bxd6 Bxb2 9.72/20

[⌓48...Rb6+ 4.33/17 49.Kd7 Rb7+ 50.Kd8 Rb3]



49.Rxb2! Rxb2 50.Bc5

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.27 (precise) I was happy to be back with a bang with this victory after scoring 0/2 at the start of event.

1-0

129 **B55**

□ **Mastrovasilis,Dimitrios** **2621**

■ **Naiditsch,Arkadij** **2712**

European Rapid Ch., Warsaw (13)

[Richard Palliser]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 The Prins Variation has long been a favourite with the Greek Grandmaster and Naiditsch has been known to employ it on occasion himself, so we are likely in for quite a critical fight. **5...e5N**

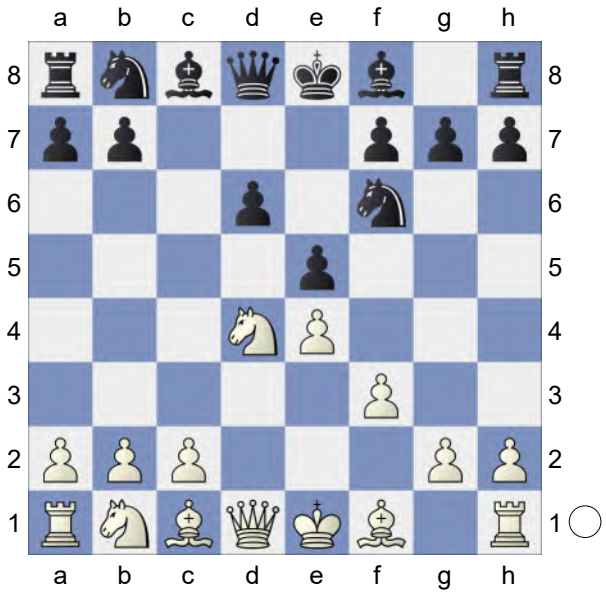
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4*

Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2 Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

(Diagram)



6.Nb3 Be7

[The a-pawn might advance even here and after 6...a5!? White must be a little careful: 7.c4? *(7.Bb5+ Nc6 8.Nc3* is a much better try*)* 7...Nxe4! 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2 a4 sees Black regaining his piece with some advantage.]

7.c4 a5! The most aggressive choice and a move which was advocated by Colin McNab in the recent 'Experts on the Anti-Sicilian'. **8.Be3**

[Of course Black hopes to cause some disruption with his a-pawn, but he is also hoping for 8.a4?! when Nc6 9.Be3 0-0 10.Be2 Nh5!? just looks like a decent version of a Kalashnikov for Black with White having weakened his queenside.]

8...0-0

[It may seem inconsistent not to race on with the a-pawn, but castling can hardly be a bad choice! That said, 8...a4!? was preferred in no lesser game than Ivanchuk-Sutovsky, Khanty-Mansiysk 2011, where

A) somewhat more common has been 9.N3d2 , but then Qa5!

is quite disruptive and in an earlier Ivanchuk game (Ivanchuk-Gelfand, Moscow (blitz) 2007)

A1) alternatively, 10.Na3 0-0 11.Bd3 Be6 12.0-0 Bd8 13.Nb5 Bb6 14.Qe2 Bxe3+ 15.Qxe3 Na6 16.Rfc1 Rfd8 , as in Deviatkin-Alsina Leal, Moscow 2011, 'with balanced chances' as McNab says;

A2) instead 10.Be2!? Bd8 11.Nc3 , as I proposed in 'Dangerous Weapons: The Sicilian' still looks quite critical to me, thanks to Zviaginsev's idea of a3 0.55/18 *(11...0-0=* 0.07/18) 12.b4!;

A3) 10.Nc3 0.12/20 feels stronger.;

A4) 10.Qc2 -0.20/20 10...Nc6= 11.Qc3 Bd8! (activating the bishop via this route is one of the main ideas behind the early push of the a-pawn) 12.Be2 0-0 13.Kf2 -0.33/19 *(13.Na3=* 0.05/20) 13...Nd4∓ 14.Rc1 Qa7 had given Black good counterplay;

B) 9.Nc1!? Qa5+ 10.Qd2 Bd8!? (and again we see this idea!) 11.Ne2 *(11.Nc3* -0.01/21 11.Ne2 0.32 *Bb6 12.Be2 Nc6 13.0-0 0-0* looks at least equal for Black, since it will take White some time to untangle and meanwhile the second player can play to pressure c4) 11...Be6 12.Na3! Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Ba5+ 14.Nc3 Nc6 0.77/22 *(14...Ke7±* 0.44/20) 15.Nab5± saw White's knights not getting into a tangle for once, but Black was still fine after Ke7 16.Be2 0.31/20 *(White should play 16.Kc2±* 0.77/20) 16...Rhc8 and went on to cause a small upset.]

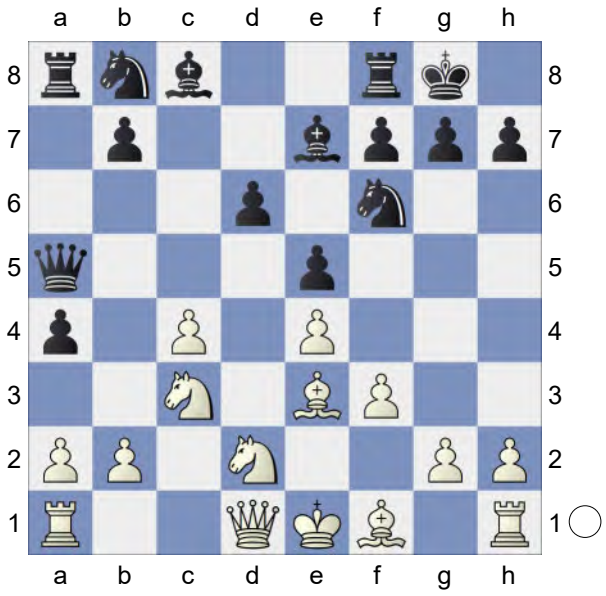
9.Nc3 a4

[Again Black can hold the a-pawn back for a bit and 9...Be6 10.Be2 a4 11.Nd2 Qa5 12.0-0 Rc8 0.51/19 *(12...Nc6=* 0.00/21) 13.Rb1 0.12/19 *(13.Nd5±* 0.51/19 *Bxd5 14.cxd5)* 13...Nbd7 has been covered by John Shaw with Varga-Kraemer, Austrian League 2011.]

10.Nd2

[Now that the queen's knight is committed to c3, I'm not so convinced by 10.Nc1 a la Ivanchuk, since where will this knight now emerge? After Qa5 11.Qd2 Na6 0.50/21 White cleared the c3-square with *(11...Nc6=* -0.01/19) 12.Nd5 -0.12/22 in Storey-Palliser, British Championship, Scarborough 2004, but didn't have any advantage after *(12.Be2±* 0.50/21) 12...Qxd2+= 13.Kxd2 Nxd5 14.cxd5 Bd7 .]

10...Qa5



11.Bd3 This natural enough move appears to be new. Previously White

hasn't been so keen to give Black a potential tempo with ...Nc6-b4 or ...Nd7-c5, but the text doesn't seem any worse than:

[a) 11.Rc1!? avoids any problems with ...a4-a3 and

A) John's improvement, 11...Nc6!? , was tested in K.Lee-Sreeves, London 2011, where 12.Be2 Nd4 13.Bxd4?! -0.96/22 *(13.Bd3=* 0.01/19 *)* 13...exd4∓ 14.Nb5 was all extremely ambitious from White, but perhaps Black should now have proceeded calmly with

A1) since 14...Nh5 Hoping for ... Nf4. 15.g3 Against Nf4 Nf4 -0.38/22 *(15...Bg5∓* -0.73/21 *16.Nxd4 Qc5)* 16.0-0!∓ *(16.gxf4?* -6.41/19 16.0-0 -0.32 *Bh4+ 17.Kf1 Bh3+ 18.Kg1 d3!* wins *)* 16...Nh3+ 0.02/19 *(16...Nxe2+∓* -0.34/20 *17.Qxe2 Bd7)* 17.Kh1 saw Black's initiative beginning to dwindle in the game;

A2) ⌓14...Bd7 -0.69/20 15.0-0 d5;

A3) 14...Nd7 -0.38/20 15.0-0 Qb6 -0.03/22 *(15...Nc5∓* -0.45/20 *16.Qc2 Qb6)* 16.Kh1!= Nc5 when he is at least equal with ...Bf6 on its way;

B) 11...Bd8?! 12.c5! dxc5 13.Nc4 Qc7 14.Nb5 Qe7 15.Nbd6 -0.06/19 *(⌓15.Qd6* 0.29/20 *)* 15...Be6 16.Bxc5 favoured White in McShane-Harikrishna, Philadelphia 2010, as John has shown before.]

[b) 11.Be2 was my preference in 'Dangerous Weapons' and in one recent test

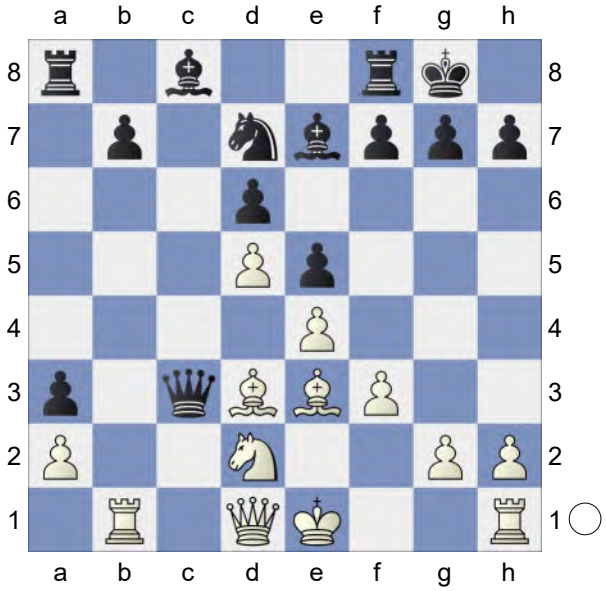
A) 11...a3!? 12.Nb3 Qb4 13.Qd2 isn't so bad for White and Nc6 14.bxa3! Rxa3 15.Nd5 Qxd2+ 16.Kxd2 gives him definite chances for a pull *(16.Bxd2!? Be6 17.Bc1=)*;

B) 11...Nc6 12.0-0 Nd4! 13.Nd5 *(*maybe *13.Bd3* , but then White has lost a move compared to our main game *)* 13...Nxd5 14.cxd5 Bd7 15.Bd3 Rfc8 was pretty comfortable for Black in Faulks-Jo. Hodgson, British League 2010.]

11...a3! Naiditsch cannot resist the temptation and this undermining choice must be a critical one. **12.b4**

[12.b4!? Qxb4 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.cxd5=]

12...Qxb4 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.cxd5 Nd7 15.Rb1 The contours of White's compensation should already be becoming clear. His rooks will press on the open queenside files and there are targets on all of d6, a3 and b7. **15...Qc3**



16.Qc2 -0.13/21

[Calmly done, and why not remove Black's most active piece and prevent ...Nc5 from coming with tempo? However, the text wasn't forced with the closely-related 16.Qb3!? Qxb3

17.Rxb3 followed by going after a3 another try.]
[16.Qb3± 0.32/24 Qxb3 17.Rxb3]

16...Qxc2= 17.Bxc2 b6

[Sensible and best. Instead 17...Nc5 18.Bxc5! -0.24/22 *(⌓18.Kf2* 0.07/23 *)* 18...dxc5= 19.Nc4 -1.17/21 would have begun to give White definite chances. *(19.Bd3=* -0.19/21 remains equal. *)*]

18.Nc4 -0.34/25

[18.Ke2= 0.06/22]

18...b5!? -0.01/24

[The German Grandmaster wants to return the pawn to seize the initiative on the queenside, but won't quite manage to do that after the text. A similar plan would have been 18...Ba6 , but after

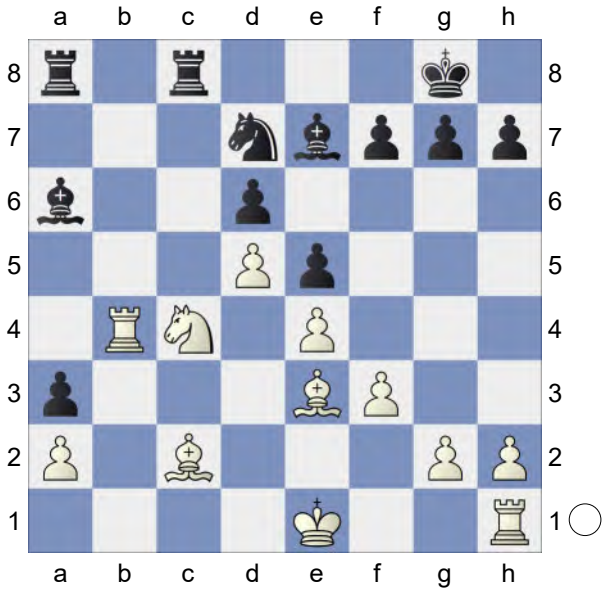
A) 19.Nxa3? Bd3! is Black's other point when 20.Bxd3 Rxa3 21.Kd2 -0.95/22 *(21.Rd1∓* -0.61/23 should be considered.*)* 21...Rxa2+∓ 22.Bc2 Rc8 leaves him a pawn to the good;

B) 19.Nxb6 Nxb6 20.Rxb6 Rfb8 Black isn't any better, as if anyone he must be careful after. Threatens to win with ...Rxb6. 21.Kd2 Rxb6 22.Bxb6 Bc4 23.Ra1 -0.66/26 *(*Better is *23.Bd3!=* -0.01/24 *Bg5+ 24.Kc3 Bxa2 25.Ra1 Rc8+ 26.Kb4)* 23...Rb8∓ 24.Be3 Bd8! ...Ba5+ is the strong threat. 25.Rb1! Ba5+ 26.Kd1 with White's king potentially the more active.]

[18...f5∓ -0.34/25]

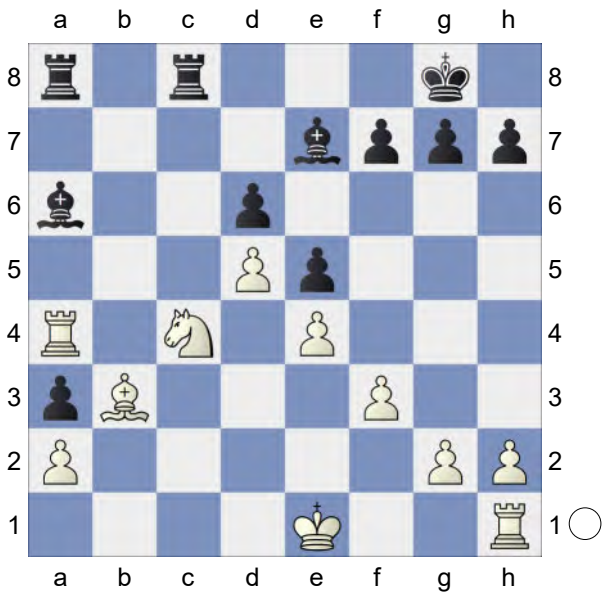
19.Rxb5 Ba6 20.Rb4 Rfc8?

[Very natural, but actually the a-pawn now gets into trouble. Instead, 20...Rab8! 21.Rxb8 *(21.Ra4* -0.01/20 21.Rxb8 0.37 *Bb5 22.Rb4* with a potential repetition after *Ba6* may also have put Naiditsch off*)* 21...Rxb8 22.Na5! *(22.Nxa3* White wants to play Kd2. *Rb2 23.Kd2* Black must now prevent Kc3. *Rxa2* must be fine for Black with the a-pawns having gone*)* 22...Rb2 0.44/23 *(22...f5=* 0.06/21 *)* 23.Kd2± Bd8 *(23...Rxa2?* 2.69/24 23...Bd8 0.22 *24.Nc6 Bf8 25.Nb4* wins heavy material *)* 24.Nc6 Bc7 would have been about equal.]

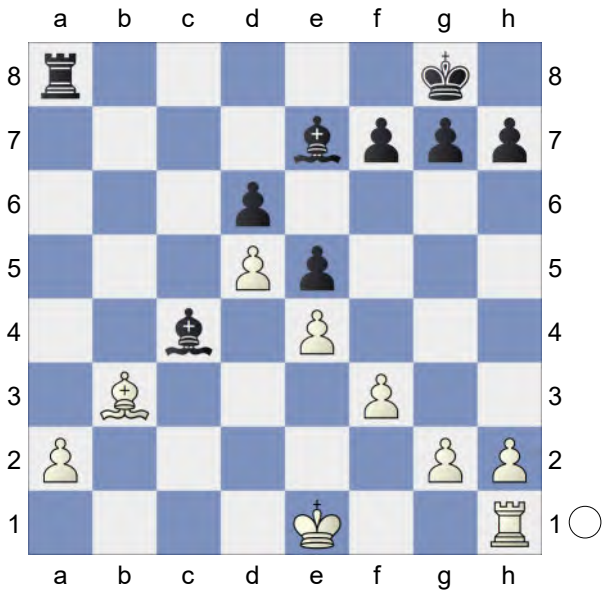


21.Bb3 Nc5 22.Bxc5 Rxc5 23.Ra4 Rcc8!

(Diagram)



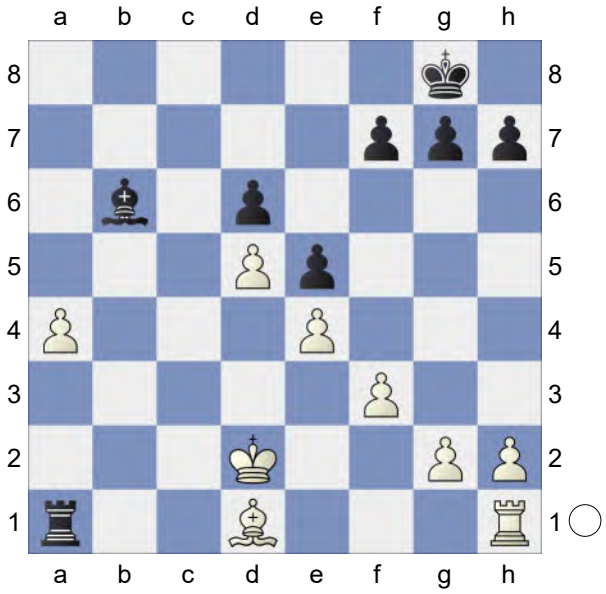
Naiditsch regroups well and heads for the safety of an opposite-coloured bishop endgame. **24.Rxa3! Bxc4 25.Rxa8 Rxa8**



26.Bxc4 Endgame KRB-KRB **26...Rc8** This is the problem for Mastrovasilis: he must retreat his bishop to d1. **27.Bb3 Rc1+ 28.Bd1 Ra1** Black has compensation. **29.a4 Bd8 30.Kd2!**

[The only try is to bring the king to the queenside. After 30.0-0 Bb6+ 31.Kh1 Kf8 the players might just have shaken hands with White unable to make any real progress.]

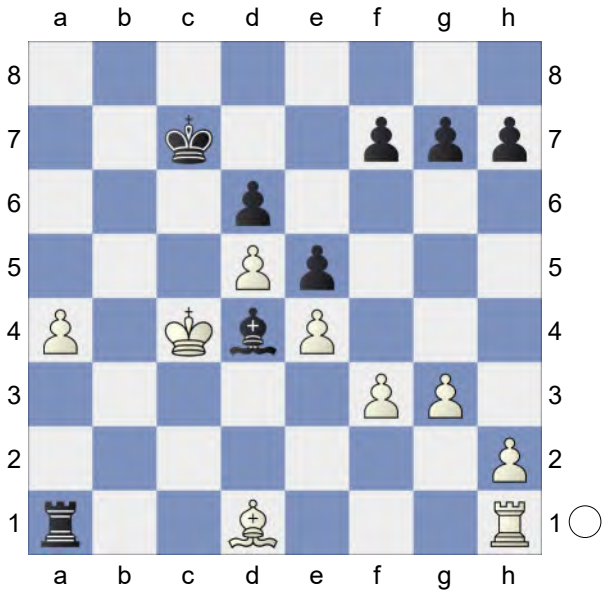
30...Bb6



31.Kc3 Bd4+ Cementing the bishop on a great square as White remains badly hampered by the pin along his back rank. **32.Kc4 Kf8 33.Kb5 Ke7 34.Kc4**

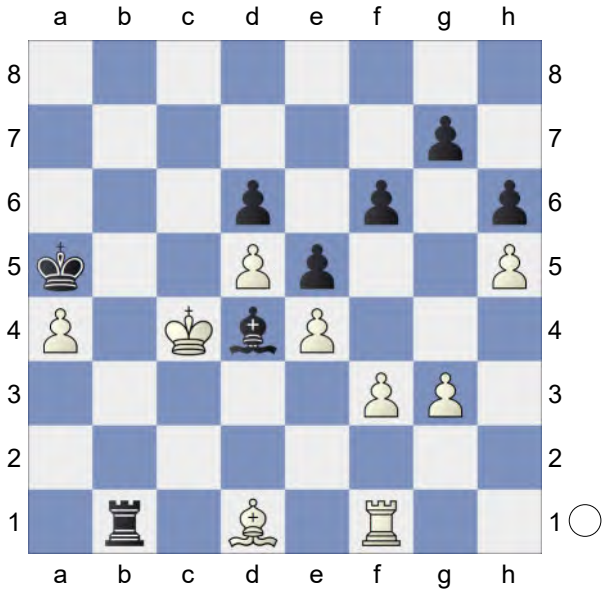
[After 34.a5 Rb1+ Black just keeps checking from behind, or picks up the a-pawn with 35.Ka6? Bc3! .]

34...Kd8 35.g3 Kc7

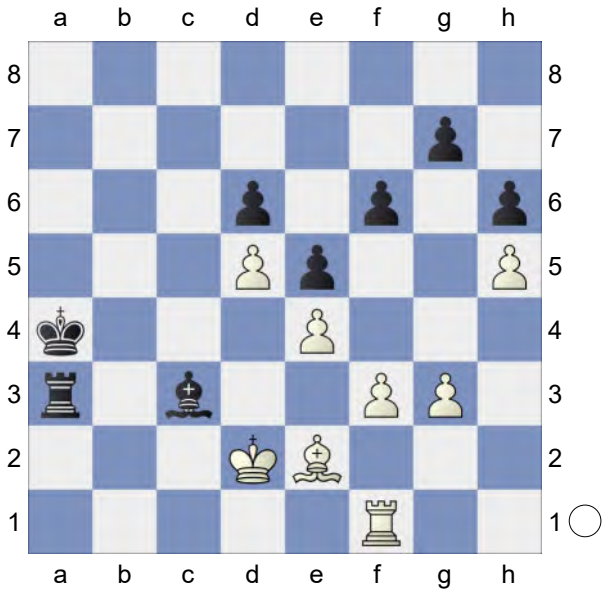


36.h4 White is doing his best to continue the fight, but it's really just a draw. **36...Kb6 37.Rf1 f6 38.h5 h6** 0.01/26

[38...Ka5∓ -0.35/21 was preferrable.]
39.Kb4 Rb1+ 40.Kc4 Ka5

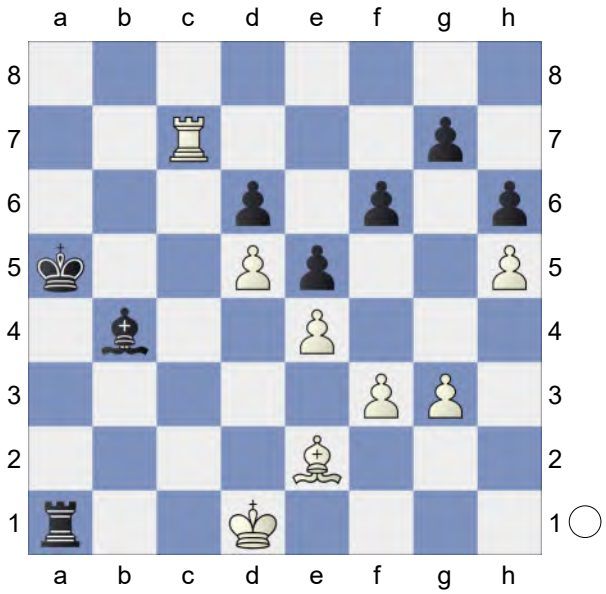


41.Kd3 Ra1 42.Kc2!? A slightly unexpected decision, but it's going to be a draw whatever happens. **42...Kxa4 43.Be2 Ra2+ 44.Kd3 Ra3+ 45.Kd2 Bc3+**

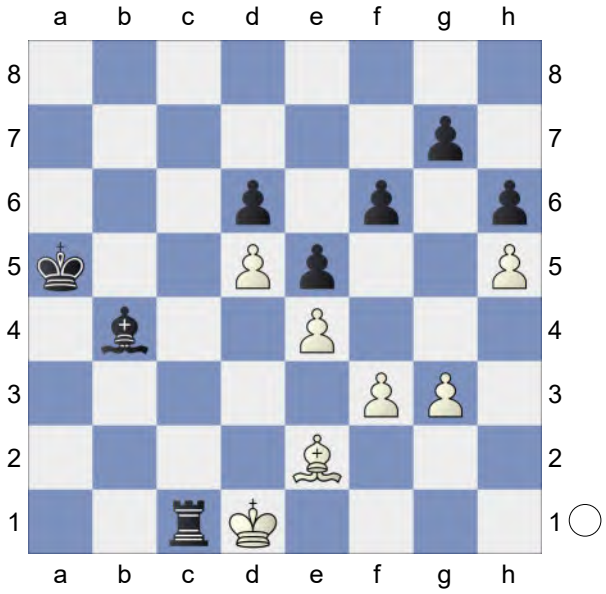


46.Kc2 Bb4 The position is equal. **47.Rb1 Rc3+ 48.Kd1 Ka5 49.Rc1 Ra3 50.Rc7 Ra1+**

(Diagram)



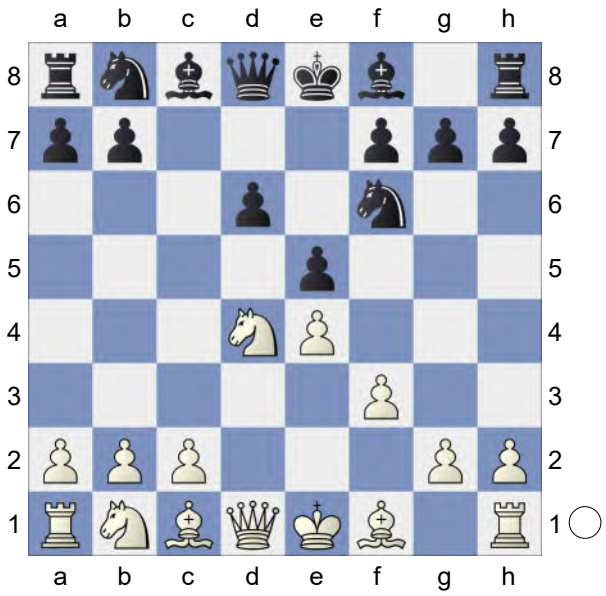
51.Rc1 Ra2 52.Rc2 Ra1+ 53.Rc1 Rxc1+



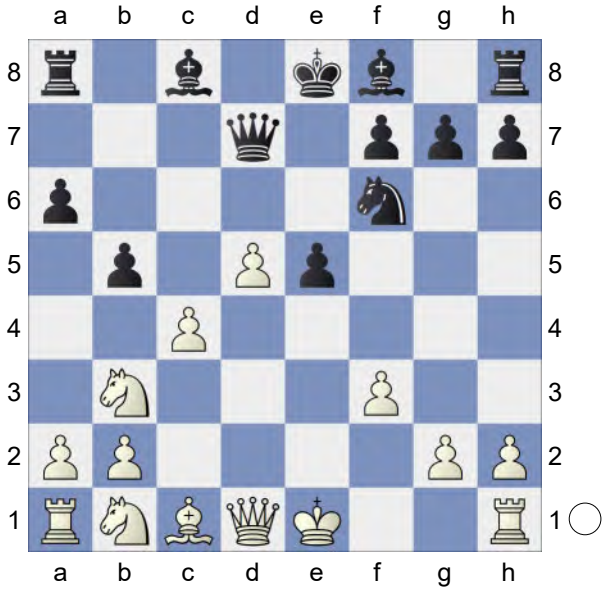
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)
½-½

130 **B55**
□ **Jazzyjef** **2621**
■ **Tyrellwelick999** **2605**
Blitz 07.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Bb5+ Nbd7 7.Nb3 d5 8.exd5 White has an edge. **8...a6 9.Bxd7+ Qxd7 10.c4** -0.14/20
[10.Nc3 0.25/20 feels stronger.]
10...b5=



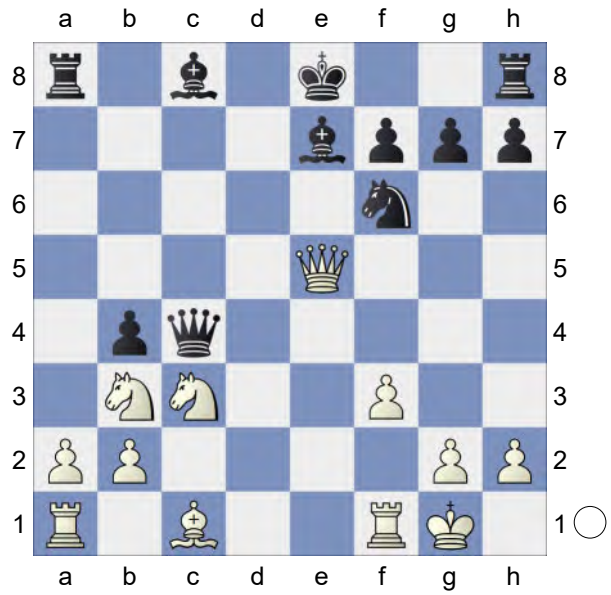
11.cxb5 axb5 12.0-0 Qxd5 0.42/21
[12...Nxd5∓ -0.49/21 13.Qd3 Qc6]
13.Qe2 -0.44/21
[13.Nc3± 0.42/21 Bc5+ 14.Kh1 Qxd1 15.Rxd1]
13...Be7 0.37/21

[13...b4∓ -0.44/21 14.Rd1 Qe6]

14.Nc3± Qc4 1.16/22

[14...Qb7= 0.30/22 keeps the balance.]

15.Qxe5± b4



16.Re1! 0-0 17.Ne4 Be6 18.Bg5 Nd5 1.24/19

[18...Nd7± 0.34/24 19.Qg3 Bxg5 20.Nxg5 Rfe8]

19.Bxe7 0.81/22

[⌓19.Nd4 1.24/19 Bc5 20.Nxc5 Qxc5 21.Be3]

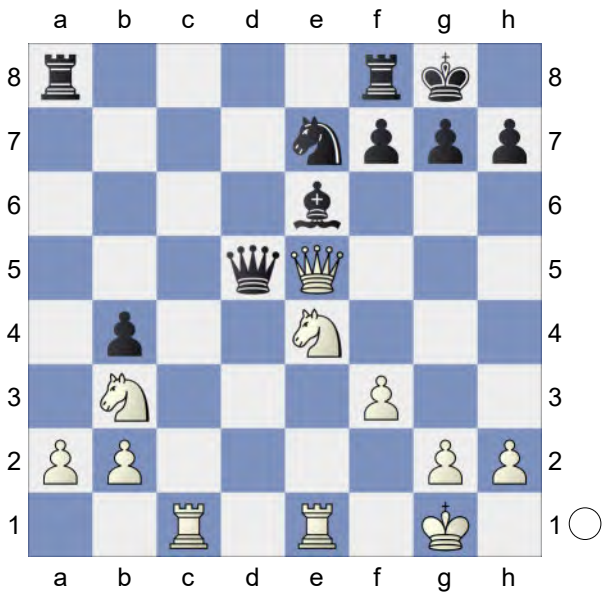
19...Nxe7 20.Rac1 0.11/22

[20.Nec5± 0.58/18 might be stronger.]

20...Qd5 0.76/20

[20...Ng6!= 0.11/22 remains equal. 21.Qd6 *(21.Rxc4 Nxe5 22.Rd4 Rxa2=)* 21...Qd5]

(Diagram)



21.Nec5! &Bianco is more active. Pair of Knights! **21...Qxe5 22.Rxe5 Ng6** 1.12/21

[Black should try 22...Nc6 0.73/21 23.Re3 *(23.Nxe6 Nxe5 24.Nxf8 Kxf8±)* 23...Bd5]

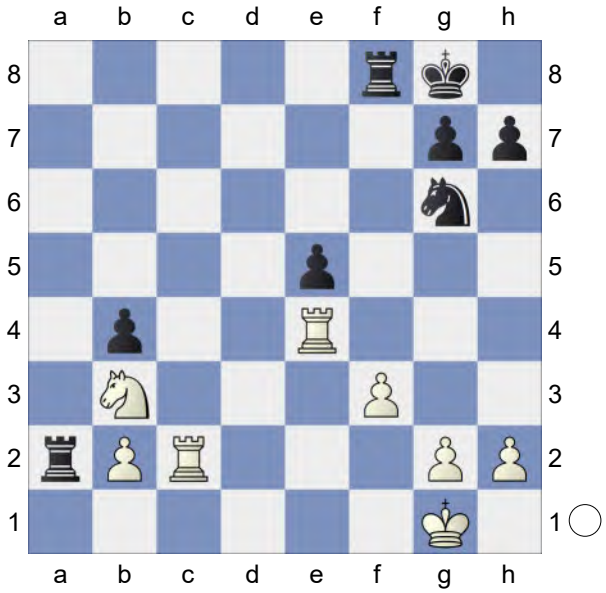
23.Re4↑ White is in control.

[Don't do 23.Nxe6 Nxe5 24.Nxf8 Kxf8±]

23...Rxa2 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.Rc2

[Avoid the trap 25.Rxe6? Rxb2 26.Nd4 Nf4-+]

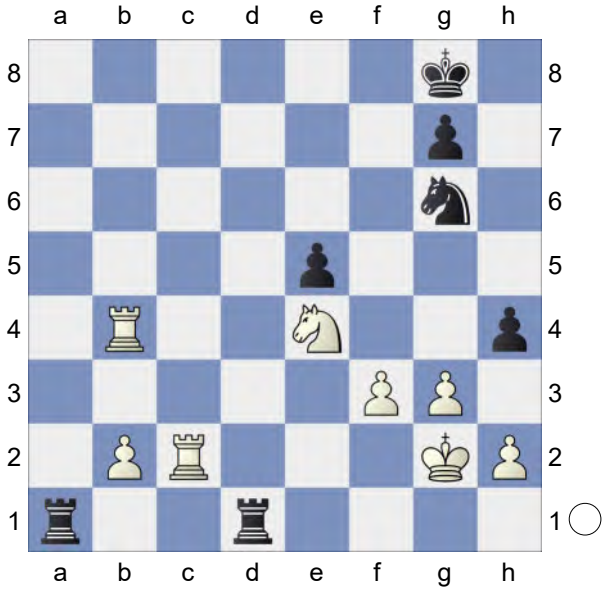
25...e5



26.Rxb4 Rd8 27.g3 h5 28.Kg2 h4 29.Nc5 Rd1? 2.81/21 This costs Black the game.

[29...Rc8± 1.30/19 might work better. 30.Rc3 hxg3]

30.Ne4+- Raa1



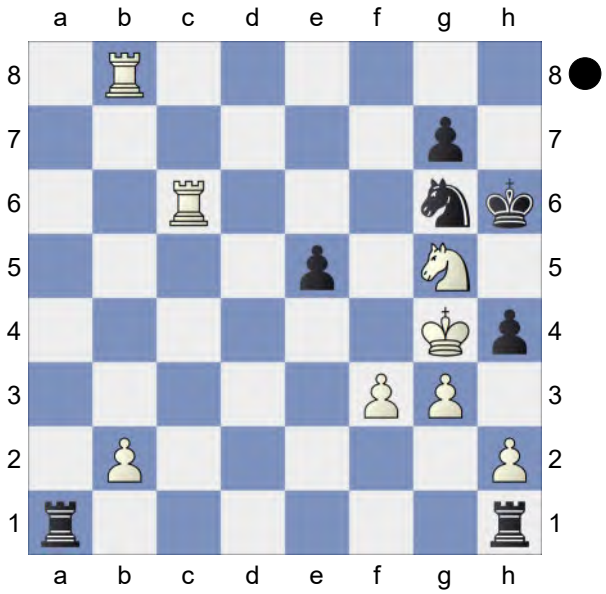
31.Kh3 Rf1? 5.39/21

[31...hxg3 2.82/19 32.hxg3 Rac1]

32.Kg4 Rh1? 13.19/25

[32...Rfc1 3.62/21]

33.Rb8+ Kh7 34.Ng5+ Kh6 35.Rc6



Weighted Error Value: White=0.24

(precise) /Black=0.64

1-0

131 **B54**

□ **Oleksiyenko,Mykhaylo** **2620**

■ **Cheparinov,Ivan** **2684**

Masters Open 2014 (5.10) 30.11.2014

[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

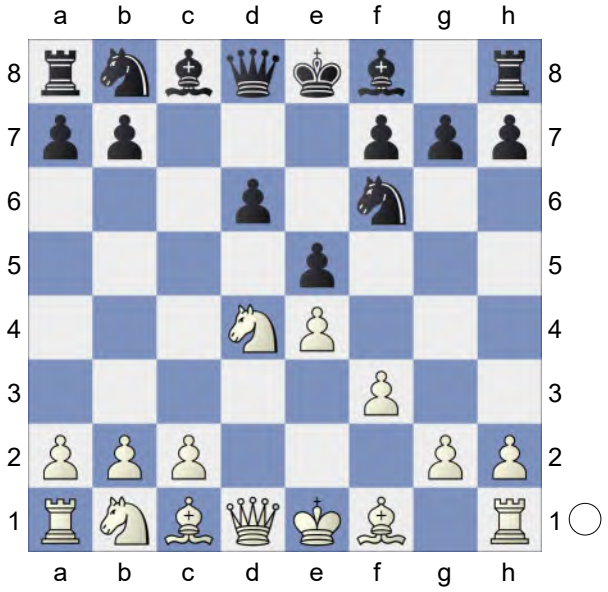
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1

Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

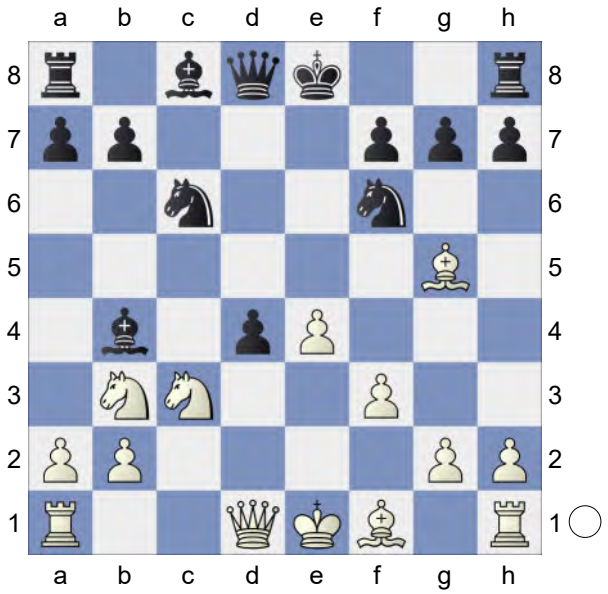


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.cxd4 Bb4+

[9...Nxd4 10.Nc3±]

10.Nc3 next d5 is good for White.

10...exd4



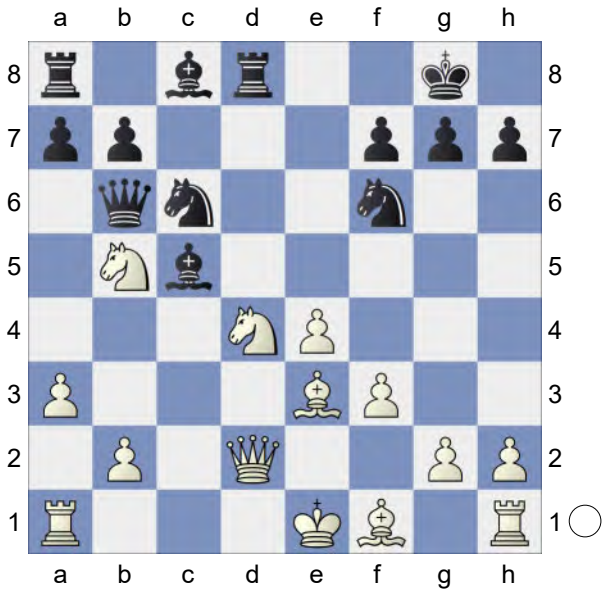
Pin **11.a3 Be7**

[11...dxc3 12.Qxd8+ Nxd8 13.axb4±]

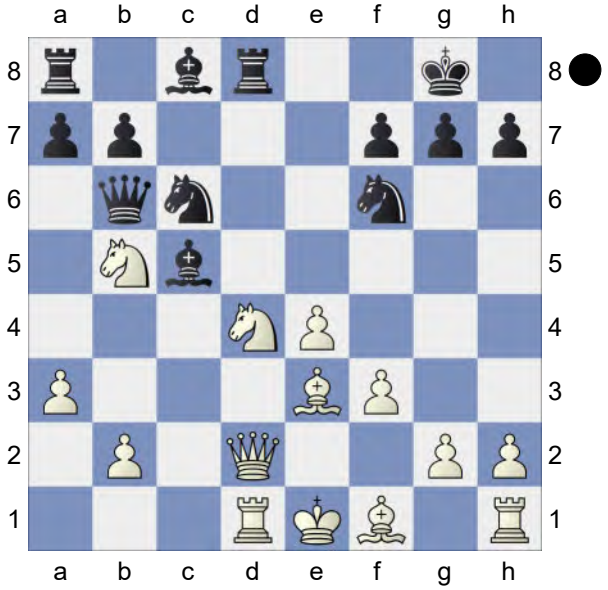
12.Nb5 0-0

[Don't play 12...h6 13.Bf4 0-0 14.Rc1± *(14.N3xd4 a6±; 14.N5xd4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Qb6±)*]

13.N3xd4 Qb6 And now ...Rd8 would win. **14.Be3! Rd8 15.Qd2** White wants to play Rc1. **15...Bc5**

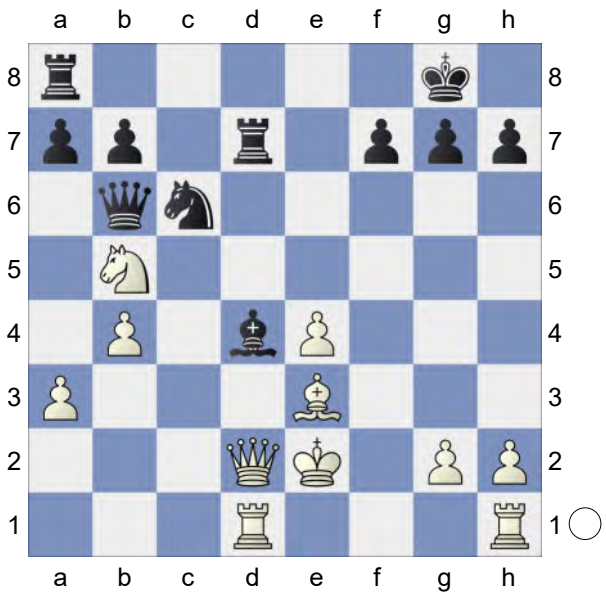


16.Rd1

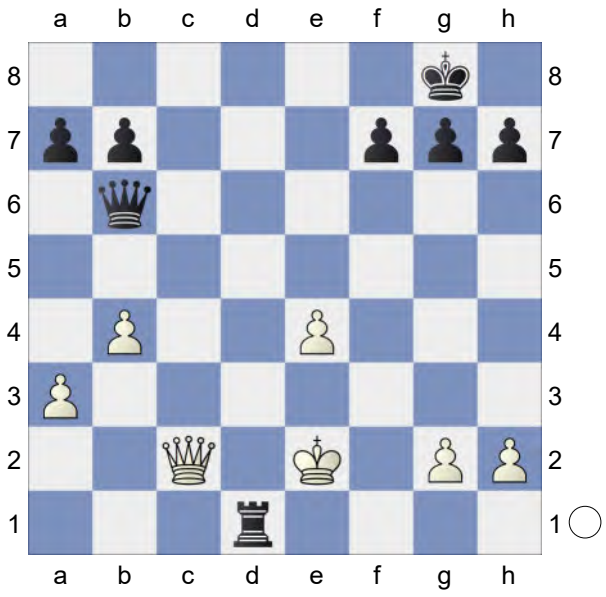


Nxe4! 17.fxe4 Strongly threatening b4. **17...Bg4 18.Be2 Bxe2 19.Kxe2 Rd7! 20.b4 Bxd4**

(Diagram)

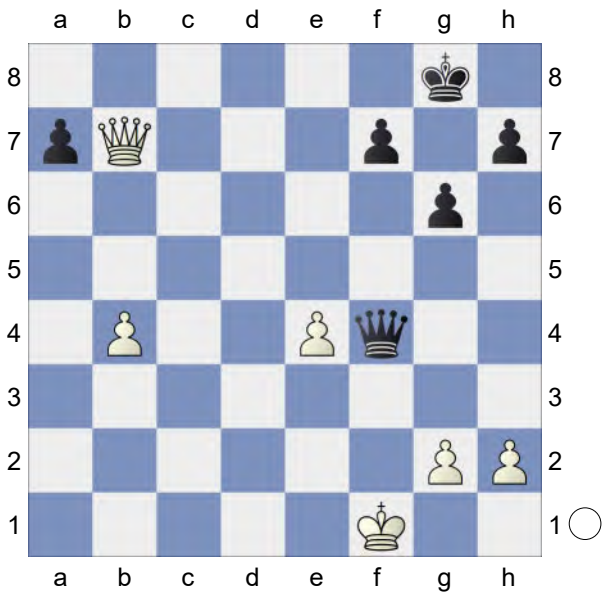


21.Nxd4 Qc3 is the strong threat. Chess con chili. **21...Rad8** **22.Qc2!** Hoping for Nxc6. **22...Nxd4+** **23.Rxd4 Rxd4 24.Bxd4 Rxd4 25.Rd1 Rxd1**

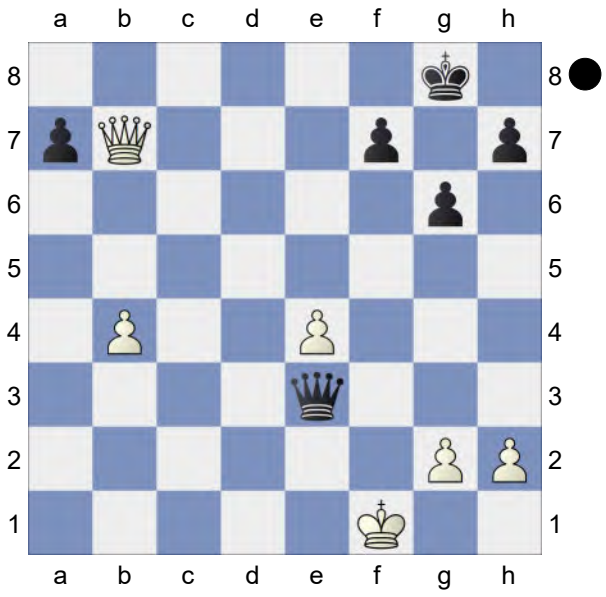


26.Qxd1= Endgame KQ-KQ **26...g6 27.Qd7 Qa6+ 28.Ke1 Qxa3 29.Qxb7 Qe3+ 30.Kf1 Qf4+**

(Diagram)



31.Kg1 Qe3+ 0.01/5
[31...Qc1+∓ -0.36/21 32.Kf2 Qf4+ 33.Kg1 Qe3+ 34.Kf1 Qf4+ 35.Kg1]
32.Kf1



Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)
½-½

132 **B55**
□ **Epishin,Vladimir** **2620**
■ **Volkov,Sergey** **2485**
RUS-Cup01 Chigorin Memorial (2) 1996
[Kittty Kat]

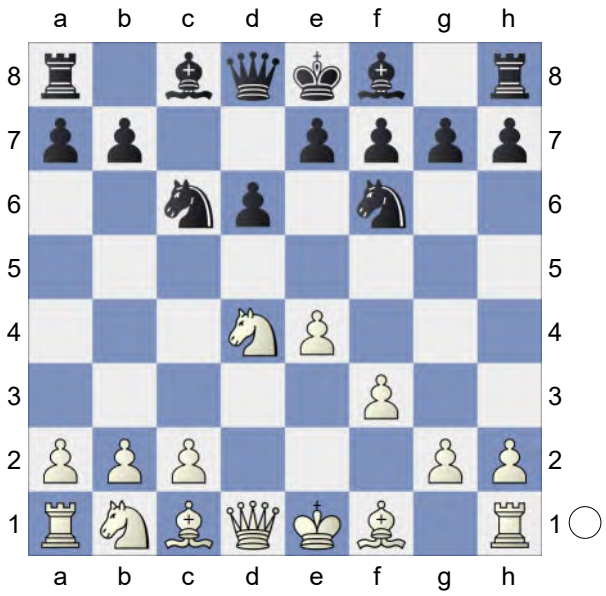
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

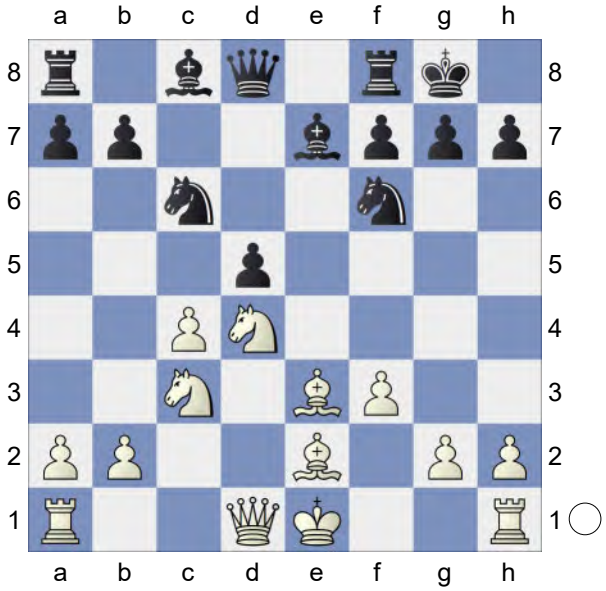
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 d5 10.exd5

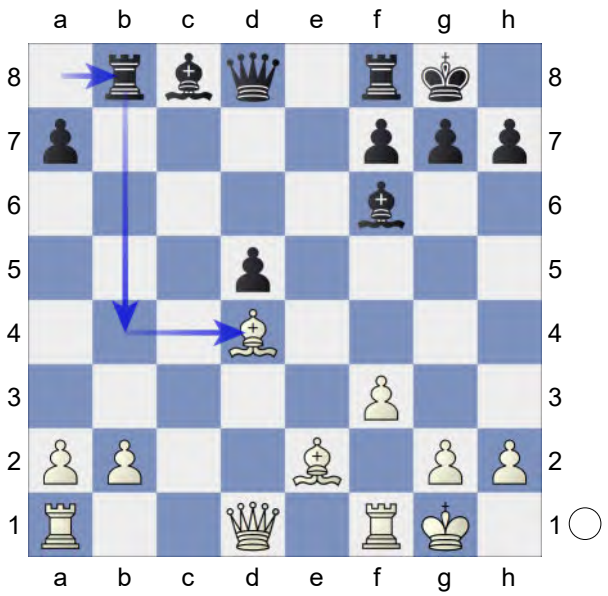
[10.cxd5 feels hotter. exd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.exd5 cxd5 13.0-0]

10...exd5

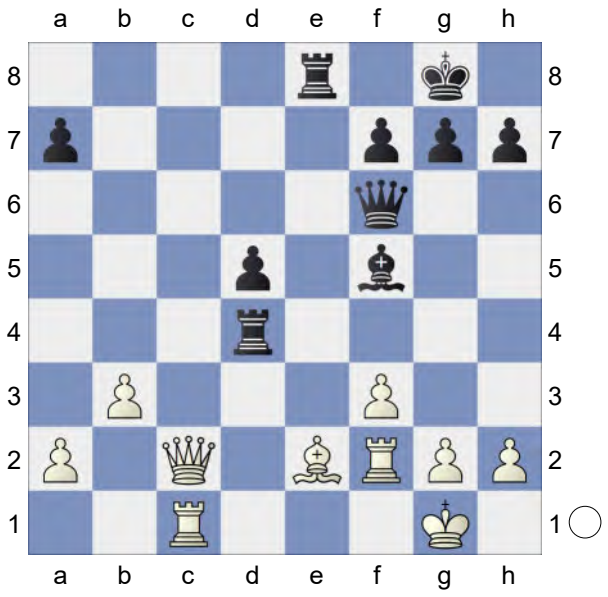


11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.cxd5 Black has an edge. **12...Nxd5 13.Nxd5 cxd5 14.0-0 Bf6 15.Bd4 Rb8**

(Diagram)

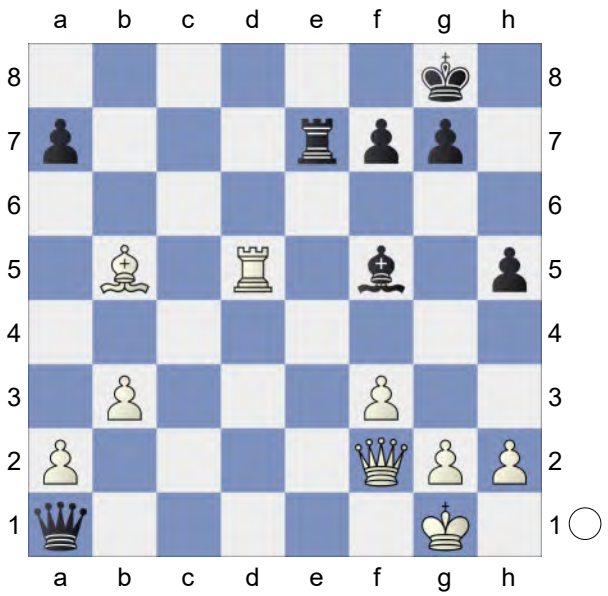


16.b3 Re8 Threatens to win with ... Bxd4+. **17.Rf2 Rb4 18.Bxf6 Qxf6**
[18...gxf6 19.Rc1±]
19.Rc1 Rd4 20.Qc2 Bf5

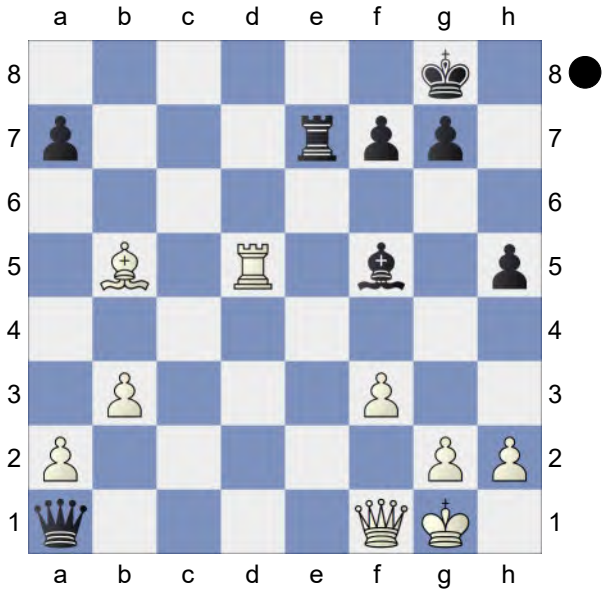


21.Qc5 Rd2 22.Bb5 Rxf2 23.Qxf2→ White mounts an attack. **23...Re7**
24.Rd1 h5 0.45/21
[24...Qd6= 0.02/19]
25.Rxd5± Qa1+ 1.17/22
[25...Re5± 0.42/19 26.Rxe5 Qxe5]

(Diagram)

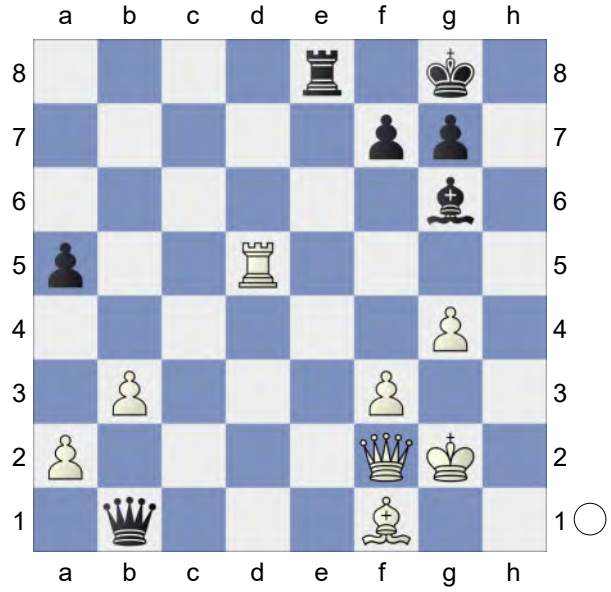


26.Bf1!± Hoping for Rd8+.
[26.Qf1?

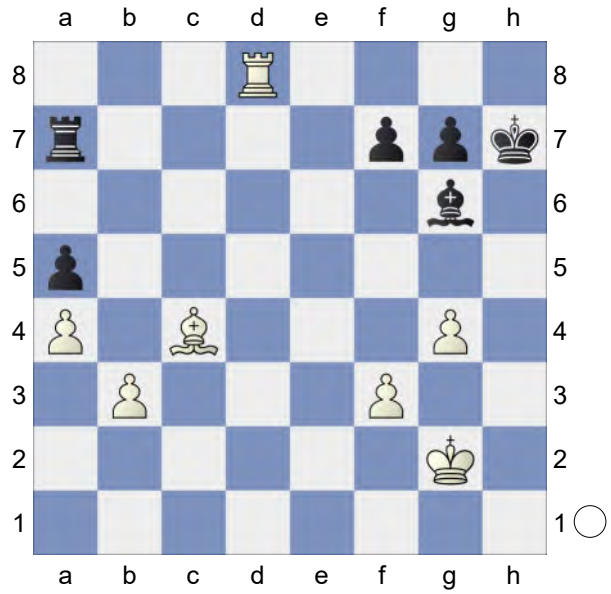


Re1! 27.Rxf5 *(27.Rd8+? Kh7-+)* 27...Qd4+ 28.Kh1 Rxf1+ 29.Bxf1 Qf2-+]
26...Bg6 27.g4 0.01/19
[27.f4± 0.89/23 f6 28.Qf3]
27...Qb1 1.73/22
[27...Qf6!= 0.01/19]
28.Kg2+- Re8 1.99/22
[⌓28...Kh7 1.62/20 29.gxh5 Bc2]
29.h3
[Much less strong is 29.gxh5 Bf5

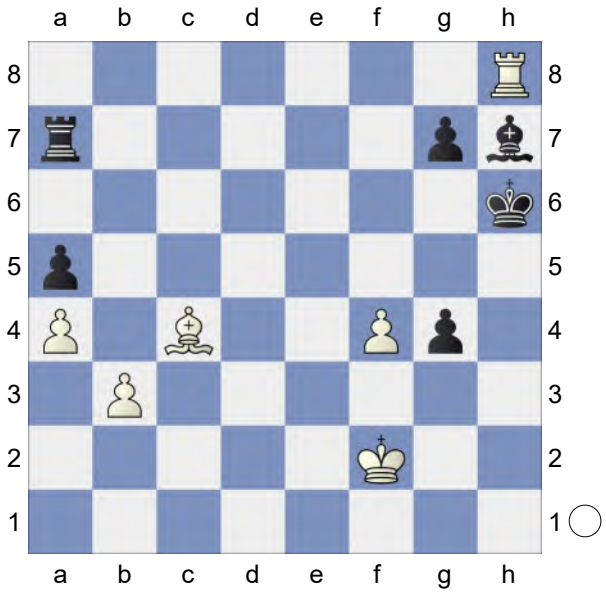
30.Rd2 Qc1±]
29...hxg4 2.05/23
[29...f5± 1.56/19]
30.hxg4 a5 2.57/22
[30...Qc1 1.98/20 was worth a try.
31.Bc4 Ra8]



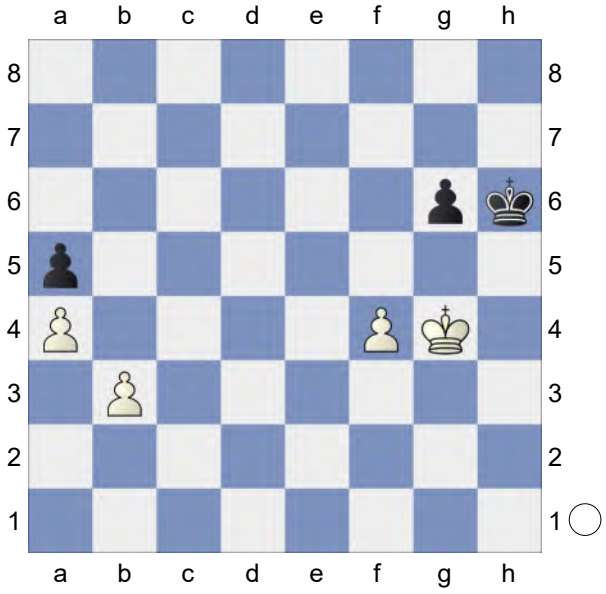
31.Bc4
[Don't take 31.Rxa5?! Bd3±]
31...Ra8 32.a4 Qc1 33.Qd2 Qxd2+ 34.Rxd2 Endgame KRB-KRB **34...Ra7 35.Rd8+ Kh7**



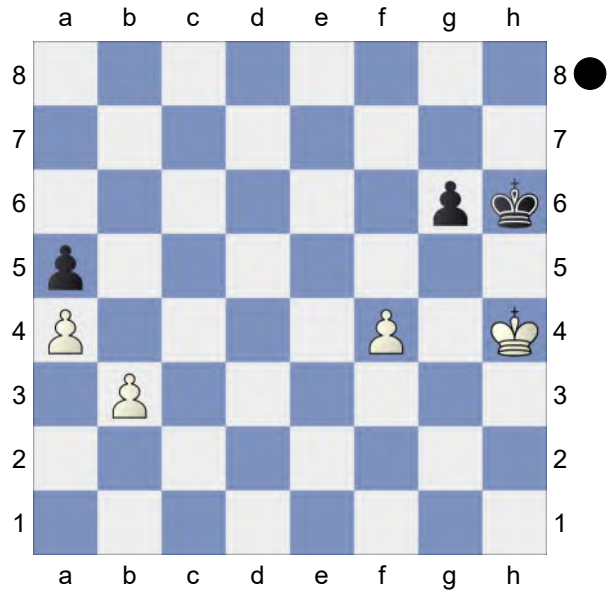
36.Kf2 f6 37.Bg8+ Kh6 38.Bc4?
-0.01/21
[38.Bd5+- 2.36/23]
38...f5? 4.56/25
[38...Kh7!= -0.01/21 and Black is okay.]
39.f4 Strongly threatening Rh8+.
39...fxg4 7.20/26
[⌓39...Bf7 4.94/25 40.gxf5 Kh7]
40.Rh8+ Bh7



41.Bg8 g6 42.Kg3 Rg7 43.Rxh7+ Rxh7 44.Bxh7 Kxh7 45.Kxg4 Kh6



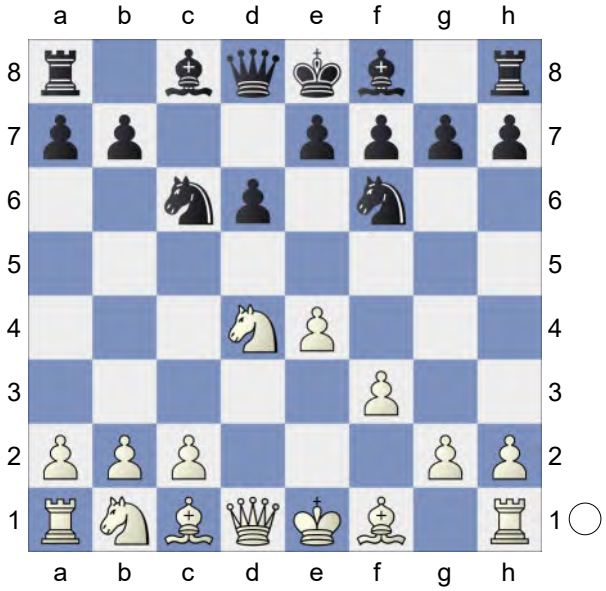
46.Kh4
[Inferior is 46.f5 g5 47.Kh3 Kg7=]



Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.51
1-0

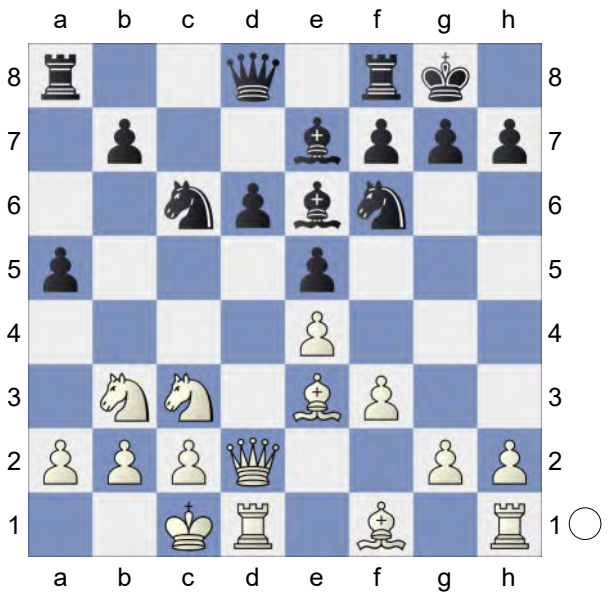
133 **B54**
□ **Lu Shanglei** **2609**
■ **Svane,Frederik** **2668**
World Rapid 2024 (4.28) 26.12.2024
[Kitty Kat]

B56: Classical Sicilian: Unusual Lines
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

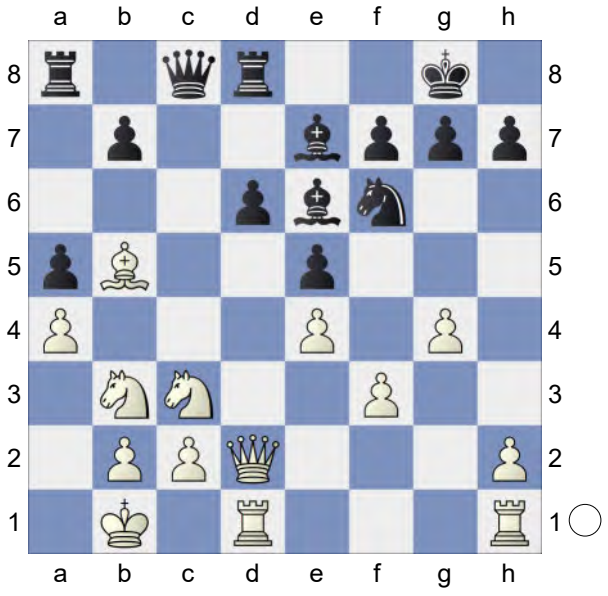


6.Nc3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 Be6 10.0-0-0 a5

(Diagram)

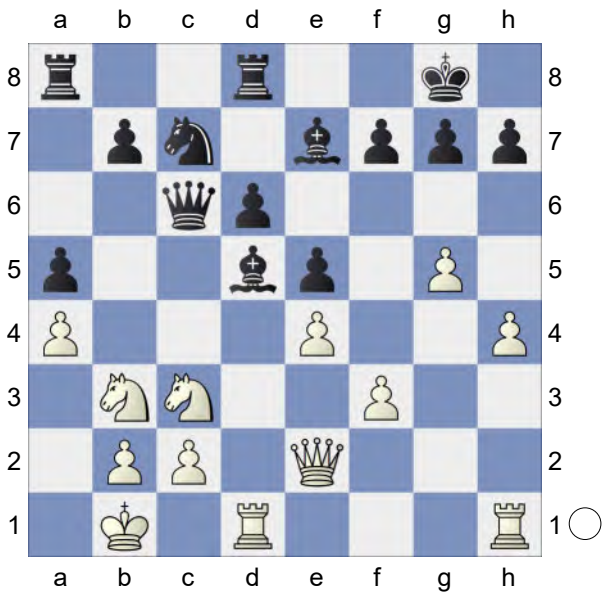


11.Bb5 Qc8 12.Kb1 Na7 13.Bxa7 Rxa7 White is slightly better. **14.g4 Ra8 15.a4 Rd8**

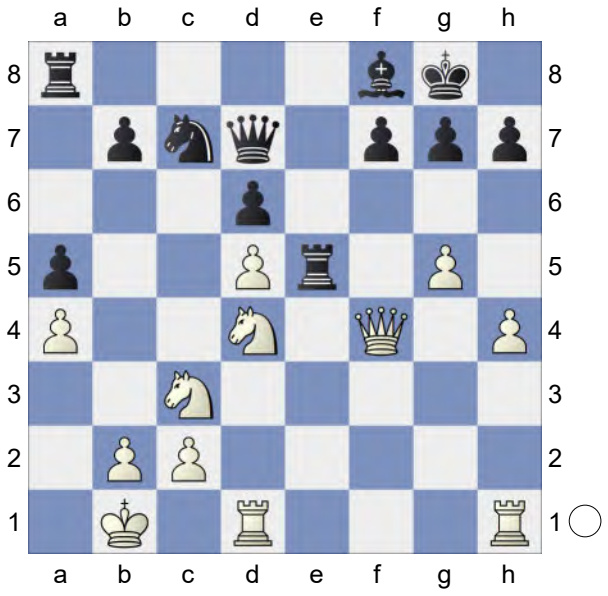


16.Qe2 Ne8 17.h4 Nc7 18.Bc4 Qd7 19.g5 Qc6 20.Bd5 Bxd5

(Diagram)

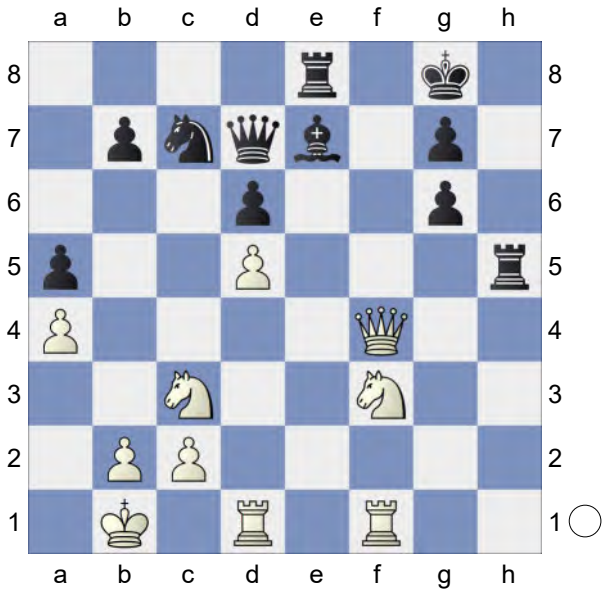


21.exd5 Qd7 1.27/22
[⌓21...Qa6 0.91/23]
22.f4± exf4 23.Nd4 0.75/21
[⌓23.Rdf1 1.22/21]
23...Re8 24.Qf3 &Bianco is much more active. **24...Bf8! 25.Qxf4 Re5**



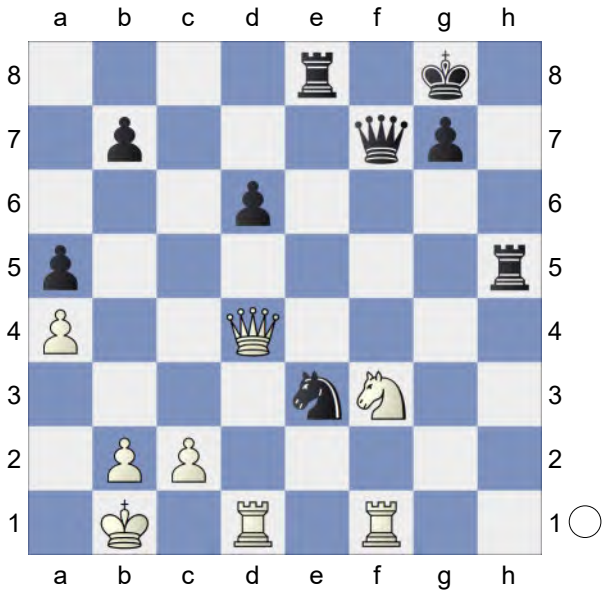
26.h5 Rae8 0.96/20
[26...Nxd5± 0.59/21 27.Nxd5 Rxd5]
27.g6 0.22/21
[27.Nb3!± 0.96/20]
27...fxg6? 1.89/21
[27...Nxd5= 0.22/21 and Black is okay. 28.Nxd5 Rxd5]

28.hxg6+- hxg6 3.73/24
[⌓28...h6 2.33/23 29.Rhf1 Ra8]
29.Nf3? 0.41/23 Pair of Knights!
[White should play 29.Qg3+- 3.73/24 g5 30.Nf3]
29...Rh5± 30.Rhf1 0.28/22
[30.Rhg1!± 0.72/21]
30...Be7

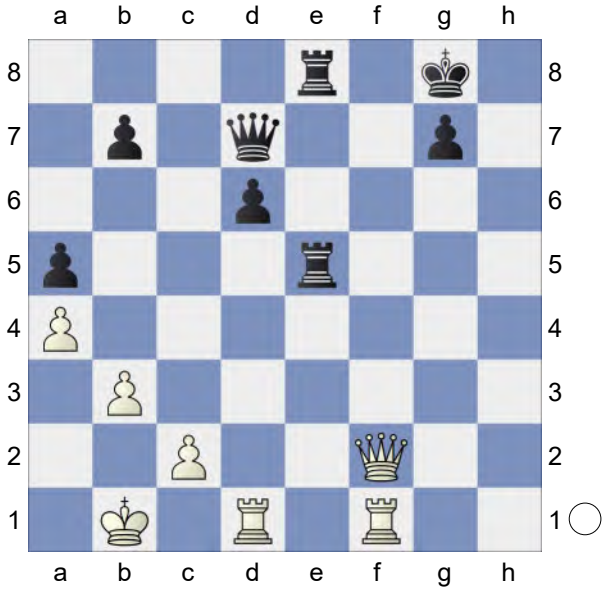


31.Qg3 -0.01/21
[31.Ne5!± 0.31/22 Qf5 32.Qc4! Qxe5 33.Rfe1 *(33.Qxc7 Bf6=)*]
31...Bf6= ...Bxc3 is the strong threat.
32.Qxg6 -0.41/22
[32.Nd4= -0.04/22 should be considered. Rh6 33.Qd3]
32...Qf7? 1.28/24
[32...Qf5∓ -0.41/22 33.Rg1 *(33.Qxf5 Rxf5 34.Nb5 Nxb5∓)* 33...Qxg6 34.Rxg6 Bxc3 35.bxc3 Nxd5]
33.Qd3 0.54/21
[33.Qg4!± 1.28/24]
33...Bxc3± 34.Qxc3 -0.35/20
[34.Nd4± 0.57/22 Qd7 35.Qxc3]
34...Nxd5∓ 35.Qd4 Ne3 0.23/22
[35...Nb4∓ -0.49/22 36.b3 Rc5]

(Diagram)

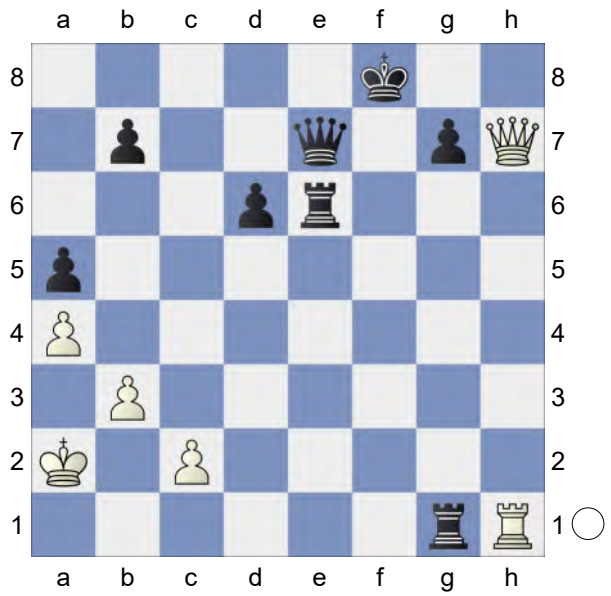


36.Ne5!= Qe6
[36...dxe5 37.Qxe3]
37.Qxe3 Rxe5 0.88/20
[37...dxe5± 0.46/22 is more appropriate. 38.Qc5 b6]
38.Qb6± Qd7 39.b3 White has compensation. **39...Qc6 40.Qf2 Qd7**

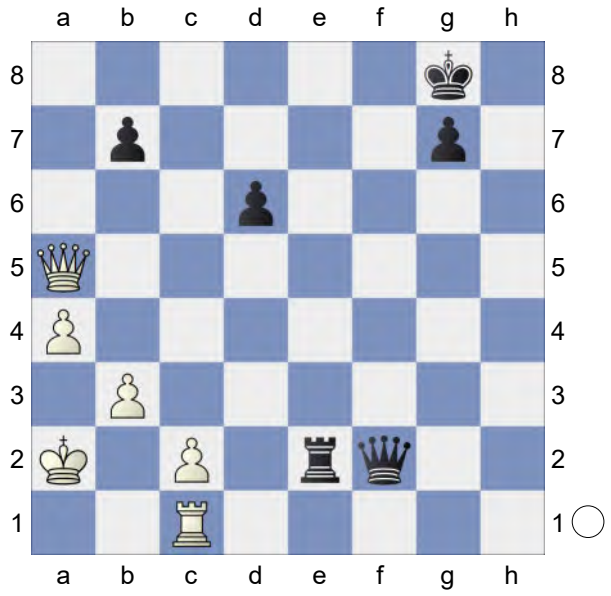


Inhibits Qf7+. **41.Rh1 R8e6** 1.06/20
[41...Qf5!= 0.23/21 42.Qxf5 Rxf5]
42.Rdg1↑ Keeping Black busy. **42...Qe7 43.Qh2 Re1+ 44.Ka2 Rxg1 45.Qh7+ Kf8**

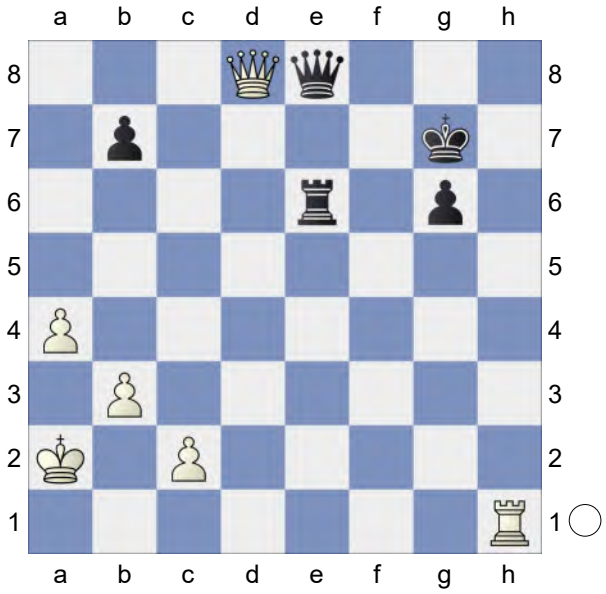
(Diagram)



46.Rxg1 Endgame KQR-KQR
[46.Qh8+ Kf7 47.Rxg1 Rg6 48.Rf1+ *(48.Qh5 Qe4=)* 48...Rf6±]
46...Qf6 47.Qh8+ Kf7 48.Qh5+ Kg8 49.Qxa5
[Much weaker is 49.Rh1?! Qc3±]
49...Qf2 50.Rc1 Re2 1.64/21
[50...Qe3± 1.14/20 keeps fighting. 51.Kb1 Qf3]

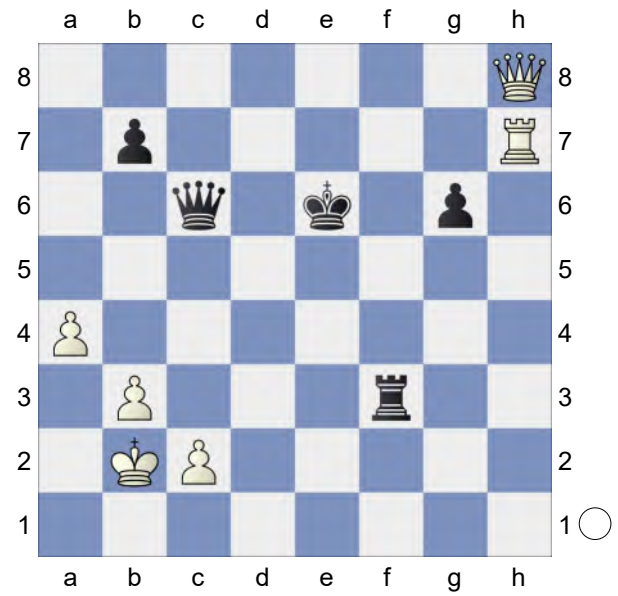


51.Qd5++- Qf7 52.Qxd6 Re6 53.Qd3 g6 3.38/22
[⌓53...Qg6 1.89/19 54.Qd5 Qe4]
54.Rh1 Kg7 4.96/26
[⌓54...Qc7 3.38/23 55.Kb1 *(55.Qh3 Qxc2+ 56.Ka1 Re2±)* 55...Rf6]
55.Qd8 Qe8

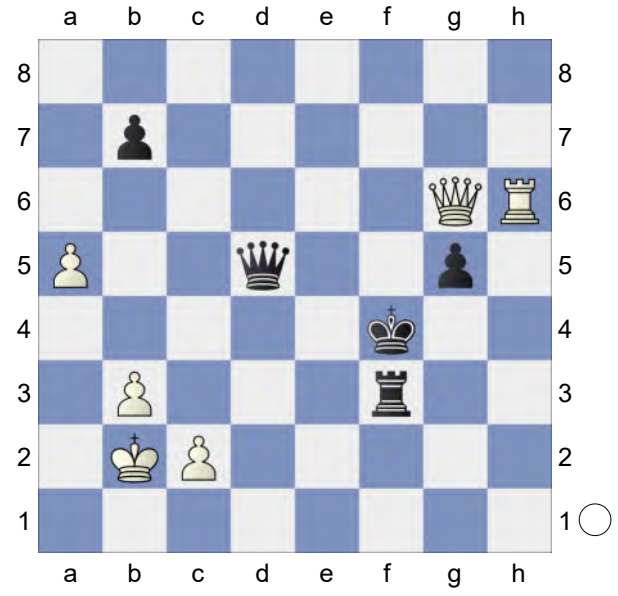


Inhibits Qh8+. **56.Qd4+**
[56.Qh4 Re2 57.Kb1 b6 58.Qh6+ Kf7 59.Qf4+ Kg7 60.Qc7+ Qe7 61.Qxb6 Qe4 62.Qc7+ Qe7 63.Qc3+ Qe5+-]
56...Rf6 57.Qh4 White threatens Qh7+ and mate. **57...Qc6 58.Kb2 Rf3** 3.69/22
[⌓58...Rf2 2.38/23 59.Qh7+ *(59.Qxf2 Qxh1 60.Qc5 Qf3±; 59.Qe7+ Rf7±)* 59...Kf8]
59.Qh8+ Kf7 60.Rh7+ Ke6

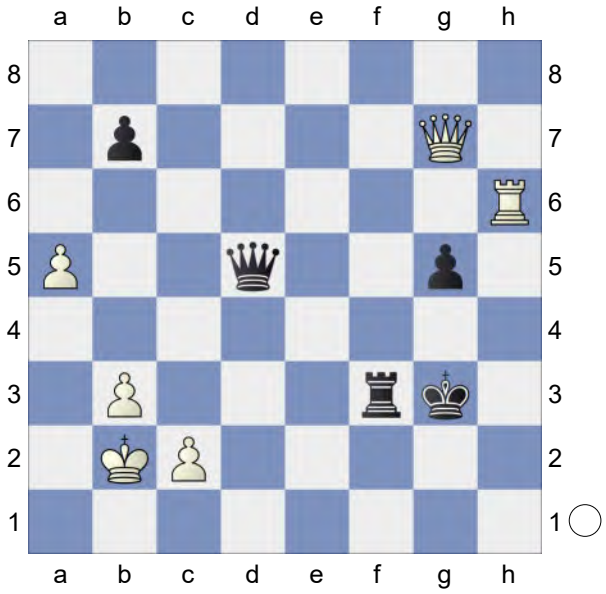
(Diagram)



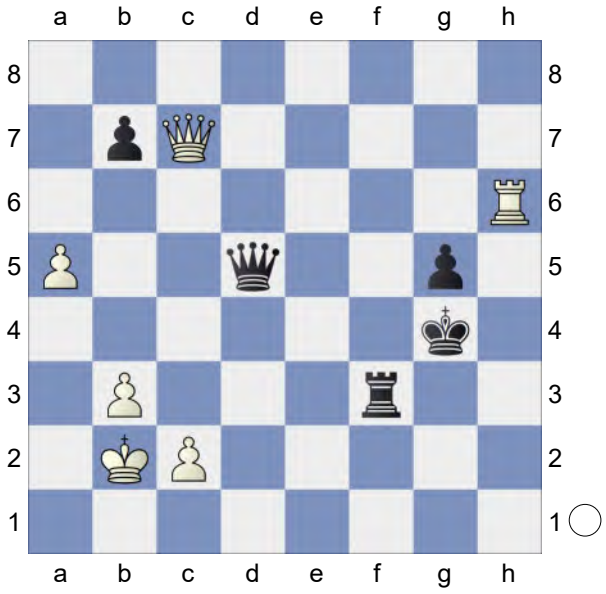
61.Qg7 Kf5 62.a5 g5 63.Rh6? 1.48/23
[63.Qd7++- 4.50/23 has better winning chances. Kg6 64.Qg7+ *(64.Qxb7? Qc3+ 65.Ka3 Qxa5+ 66.Kb2 Qc3+ 67.Ka3 Rf5-+)* 64...Kf5 65.b4]
63...Qd5± 64.Qg6+ 0.86/21
[64.b4+- 1.80/19]
64...Kf4



65.Qg7 -0.01/20
[65.Qb6!± 1.01/20]
65...Kg3 1.29/21
[65...Kf5!= -0.01/20 keeps the balance.]

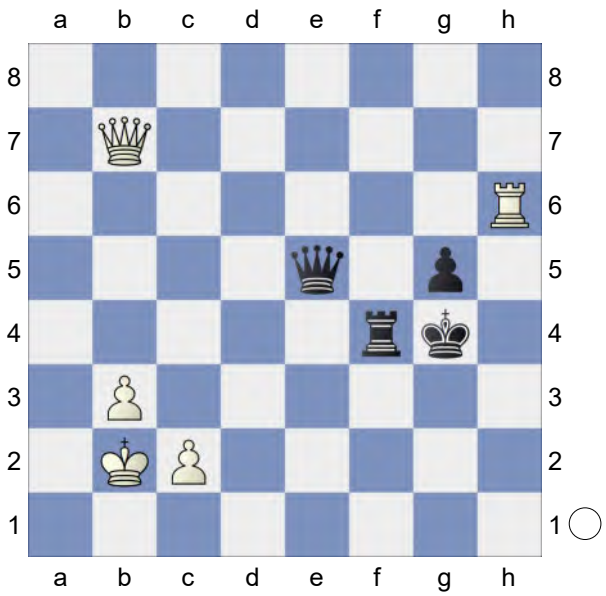


66.Qc7+ Kg4

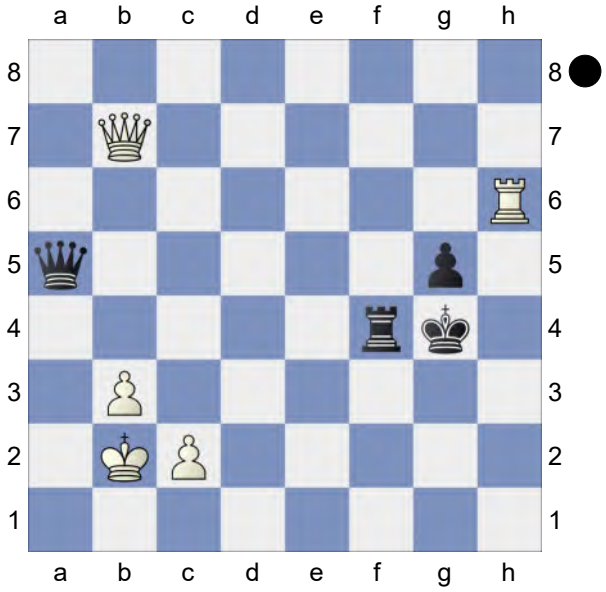


67.Qg7 -0.01/26 Inhibits Qd4+.
[67.Rh2!± 1.37/20]
67...Qxa5 68.Qd4+ Rf4 69.Qd7+ Qf5 70.Qxb7 0.01/23
[70.Qd1+± 0.32/21 was preferrable. Rf3 71.Rh1]
70...Qe5+=

(Diagram)



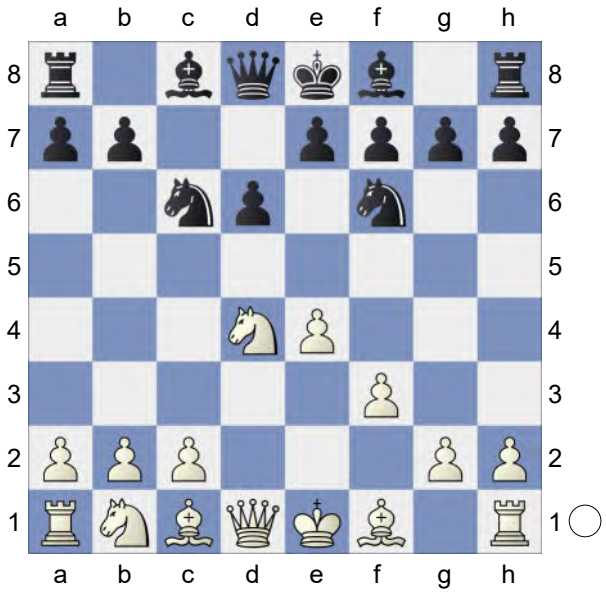
The position is equal. **71.Ka2** Threatens to win with Qg2+. **71...Qa5+ 72.Kb2** Threatening mate with Qg2+. **72...Qe5+ 73.Ka2** aiming for Qg2+. **73...Qa5+ 74.Kb2**



Black defended with fortune.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/ Black=0.36
½-½

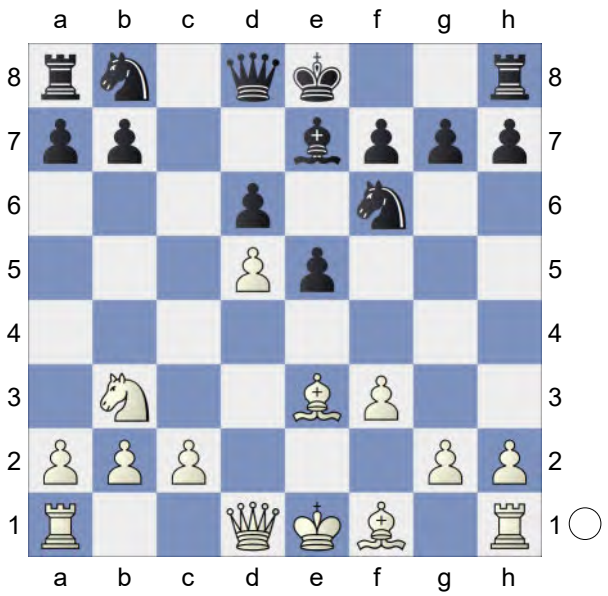
134 **B56**
□ **Baklan,Vladimir** **2589**
■ **Nagy,Gabor** **2500**
153/70 Aarhus 2022
[Perunovic,Milos]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6

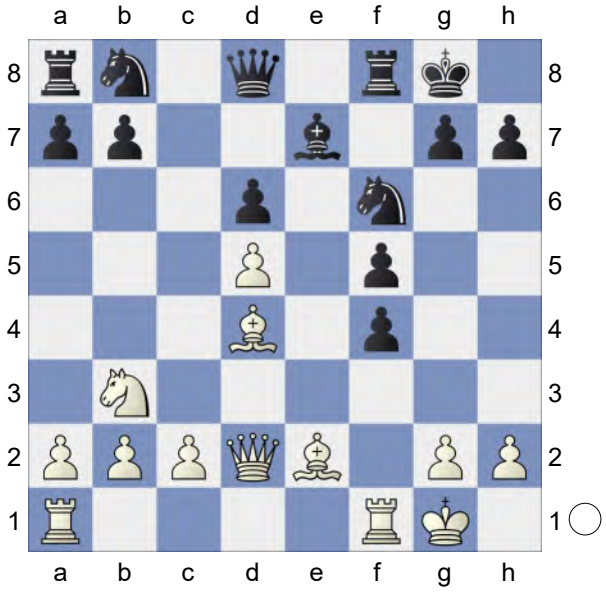


6.Nc3
[6.c4 Qb6 *(6...Qb6 7.Nc2 e6 8.Nc3 Be7 9.Rb1 Nb4 10.Nxb4 Qxb4 11.Be3 0-0 12.Be2 Bd7 13.0-0 Bc6 14.a3 Qa5 15.b4 Qc7 16.Rc1)*]
6...e5
[6...e6 7.Be3]
7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 Be6 9.Nd5 Bxd5 10.exd5 Nb8

(Diagram)

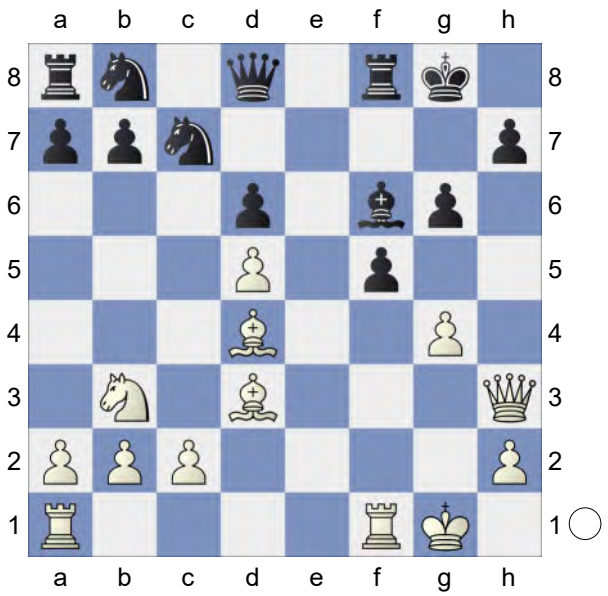


11.Qd2
[11.a4 a5 12.Bb5+ Nbd7 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2 Qc7 15.Rac1 Nc5 16.Rfd1]
11...0-0 12.Be2
[12.Rc1 Nbd7 13.Na5 Qc7 14.Be2 Nh5 15.0-0 Nf4 16.Bd1 Bg5 17.b4 h6 18.c4]
[12.0-0-0 a5 13.Kb1 a4 14.Nc1 a3 15.b3 Na6 16.g4 Nd7 17.h4]
12...Nh5
[12...a5 13.a4 *(13.c4 Nfd7 14.0-0∞ h6!?∞ 15.g3 a4 16.Nc1 Bg5 17.f4 exf4∞ 18.gxf4* - 144/43 *Bf6 19.Rb1 Re8 20.Bf3 Qa5 21.Qxa5 Rxa5 22.Bf2 Na6 23.Bg4 Nab8 24.Nd3)* 13...Nfd7 14.0-0 h6∞ 15.Bb5 Bg5 16.f4 exf4 17.Bxf4]
[12...Nbd7 13.Na5 *(13.0-0 b6 14.a4 a5 15.c3 Nh5 16.Bb5)* 13...Qb8 *(13...Qc7 14.c4 h6 15.b4 Nh7 16.0-0 Bg5 17.Rac1)* 14.0-0 Bd8 15.Rfd1 Bb6 16.Bxb6 Nxb6 17.c4]
13.0-0 f5 14.f4
[14.c4 b6 15.a4 a5∞ 16.f4 exf4 17.Bd4]
14...exf4
[14...Nxf4∞ 15.Bxf4?! exf4 16.Nd4 *(16.Qxf4 Bg5 17.Qb4 Qc7 18.Bd3=)* 16...Qb6 17.Kh1 Nd7 18.Ne6 Rf7 19.c3 Nf6 20.Bf3]
15.Bd4
[15.Bxf4∞ Nxf4 16.Qxf4 Bg5]
15...Nf6 Diagram

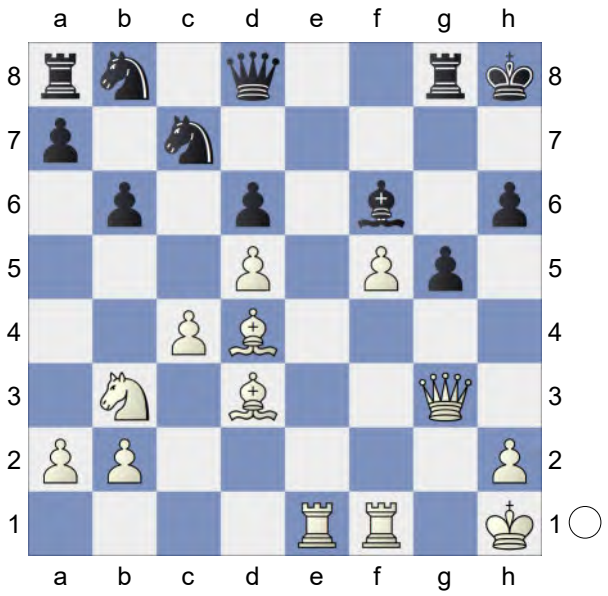


16.Qxf4N Ne8
[16...Ne4 17.Bd3 Bg5 18.Qf3]
[16...g6! 17.c4]
17.Qe3 Nc7 18.Bd3 g6 19.g4 Bg5
[19...fxg4!? 20.Bxg6]
20.Qh3 Bf6! Diagram
[20...f4 21.Bxg6∓ hxg6 22.Qh8+ Kf7 23.Qh7+ Ke8 24.Rae1+ Be7 25.Bg7∞]

(Diagram)

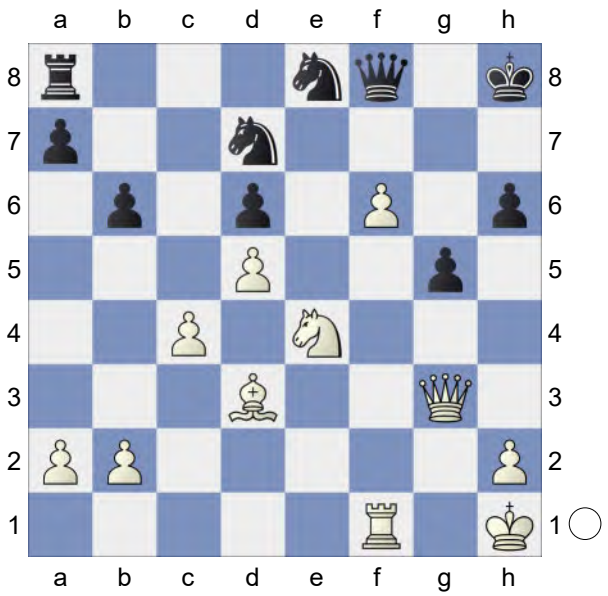


21.gxf5?! g5 22.Qg3 Kh8 23.c4 b6! 24.Kh1! h6 25.Rae1 Rg8

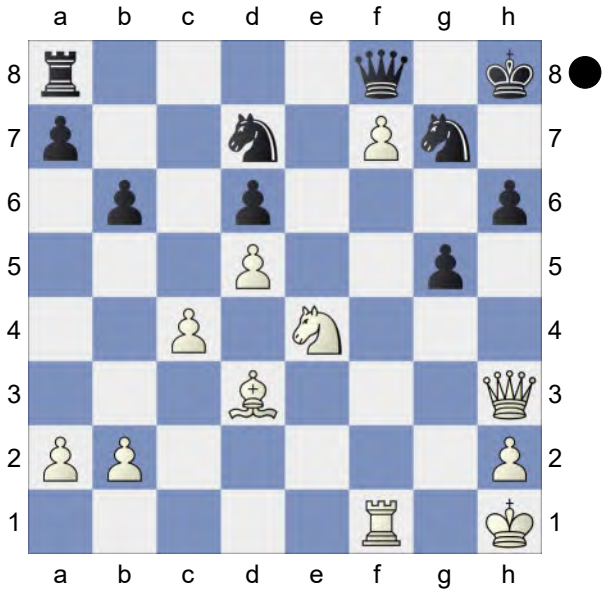


26.Bxf6+ Qxf6 27.Nd2 Re8
[27...Nd7 28.Ne4 Qf8 29.Qxd6 Qxd6 30.Nxd6]
28.Rxe8+ Nxe8 29.Ne4 Qf8 30.f6 Nd7

(Diagram)



31.f7 Ng7!∓ 32.Qh3



½-½

135 **B55**
□ **Hess,Robert L** **2588**
■ **Andriasian,Zaven** **2588**
Negroponte op (8) 16.08.2010
[John Shaw]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

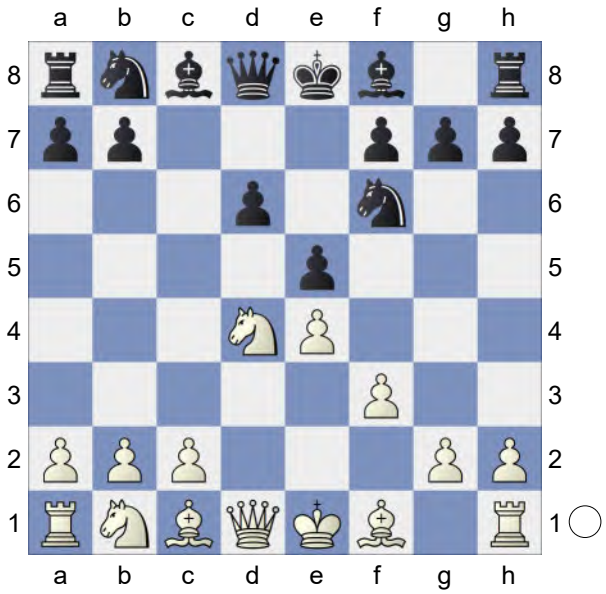
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

(Diagram)



6.Nb3 d5 This is a tough move to put a symbol on. I want to say?! because it is dull and unambitious but it may also equalize very cleanly, which is usually acceptable for Black after 6 moves.

[6...Be7 is covered in Varga- Kraemer next.]

7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5

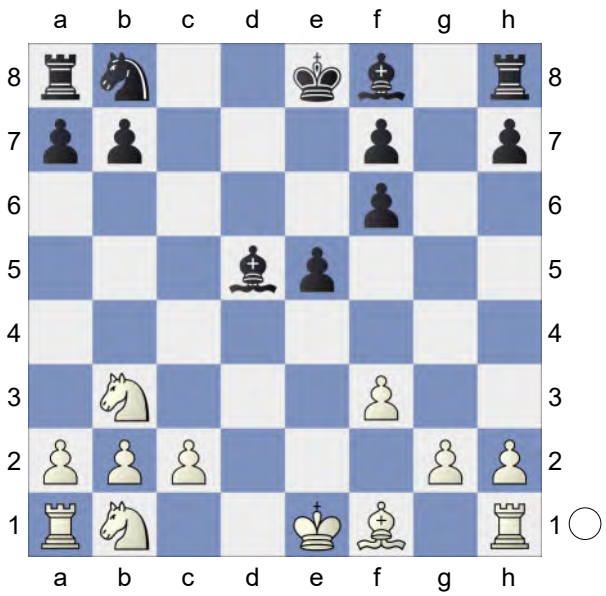
[The little explored 9.Bb5+ Nc6 10.exd5 Qxd5 11.Qxd5 Bxd5 12.Nc3 may be worth a look, as in Liang Jinrong - Y. Wei, China 2010.]

9...Qxd5 The queens are probably coming off whichever way Black takes on d5.

[9...Bxd5 10.Nc3 Bb4 11.Qd2 Be6 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8 13.0-0-0+ Kc7 14.Nd5+ Bxd5 15.Rxd5± Nisipeanu - Azmaiparashvili, Pune 2004, is mentioned briefly in the Archives.]

10.Qxd5 Bxd5

(Diagram)



11.Nc3 Now it's decision time for Black: **11...Bc6** 0.91/20 The wrong choice. Black's light-squared bishop is likely to have to be exchanged for a knight whether it chooses c6 or e6, but Black should make sure that knight is the one on c3 rather than its less threatening colleague on b3.

[11...Be6!

A) The move order 12.Nb5 allows the black king to cover the queenside, and especially c7 and b7. Nc7+ is the strong threat. Kd8! Prevents Nc7. *(12...Kd7!* is very likely to transpose*)* 13.0-0-0+ Kc8 14.Nd6+ -0.09/20 Winning the "wrong" bishop. *(14.Na5 Nc6 15.Nc4 Bc5 16.Ncd6+ Kb8 17.Bc4 a6* aiming for ...Bxc4. *18.Nc3 Kc7 19.Nce4 Bxd6 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.Nxd6 Rhg8!=* Malakhov - Tyomkin, Holon 1995, was agreed drawn over a hundred moves later.*; 14.Kb1± 0.39/17)* 14...Bxd6= 15.Rxd6 Kc7 16.Rd2 Nc6 17.Bb5 Rad8 18.Rhd1 Rxd2 19.Rxd2 a6 20.Bxc6 1/2-1/2 Palac - Tyomkin, Lisbon 2001. Black never looked in any trouble.;

B) 12.0-0-0 Nd7 13.Nb5 Threatens to win with Nc7+. Ke7 14.Nc7 Rd8 15.Nd5+ Bxd5 16.Rxd5 Bh6+ 17.Kb1 Nc5! This attempted back-ranker kills White's winning chances. 18.Bc4 Rxd5 19.Bxd5 Nxb3 20.axb3 b6= Black's very accurate move order has levelled the game. Some wild optimists might claim the tiniest edge for White, but it would take a few major errors to make this anything other than a draw. GM Lupulescu has drawn this position twice with Black just to back up my assessment: 21.b4 *(White also* failed to make a dent with: *21.Rd1* 0.01/21 21.Re1 0.36 *Rd8 22.c3 a5* 1/2-1/2 G. Szabo - Lupulescu, Pleven 2010.*)* 21...f5 22.c4 b5 23.cxb5 *(23.c5?!* -0.39/22 23.Re1 0.01 *Bd2)* 23...Be3 24.Kc2 f4 25.g3 Rd8 26.Rd1 h5 White has no advantage, and made a slip now, possibly due to the extreme dullness of the position. 27.Bc6?! -1.03/28 *(27.gxf4 Bxf4 28.h3=; 27.gxf4!=* -0.25/23 keeps the balance. *Bxf4 28.h3)* 27...Rxd1∓ 28.Kxd1 fxg3 29.hxg3 Bf2∓ In McShane - Lupulescu, Novi Sad 2009, White eventually held the draw even though he later went two pawns down the wonders of opposite-coloured bishops.]

[11...Bb4?! 0.95/21 11...Be6 0.39 One for Black to avoid, as now he must give up both bishops to reach a nasty ending. 12.0-0-0! Bxb3 *(12...Bxc3?* 2.62/22 12...Bxb3 1.01 *13.Rxd5 Bb4 14.Rb5+-)* 13.axb3

Bxc3 14.bxc3± This is a dream position for White in this line. I will offer a couple of fairly recent examples:

A) 14...Nd7?! 1.47/20 14...Ke7 0.91 15.Bb5 Rd8?? 8.14/21 *(15...0-0-0 16.Rd6±; 15...0-0-0± 1.59/23)* 16.Rxd7 1-0 S. Rudolf - Zikeli, Augsburg 2010.;

B) 14...Ke7 15.Bd3 Nc6 16.Rd2 h6 17.Re1 Rhd8 18.Rde2 Kf8 19.Re4 Rac8 20.Kb2 Rc7 21.Rh4 Kg7 22.Re3 0.65/20 *(22.Rg4+± 0.98/18 Kf8 23.Rh4)* 22...Ne7± 23.f4 Black must now prevent Rg3+. exf4 1.00/21 *(23...Ng6± 0.57/22 24.Rg3 exf4 25.Rxf4 Rd5)* 24.Rxf4± White eventually won in Kotsur - Tabada, Dubai 2009.]

[11...Bxb3?! only helps White's cause.]

[Black should play 11...Be6± 0.40/22]

12.0-0-0± a6 Prevents Nb5.

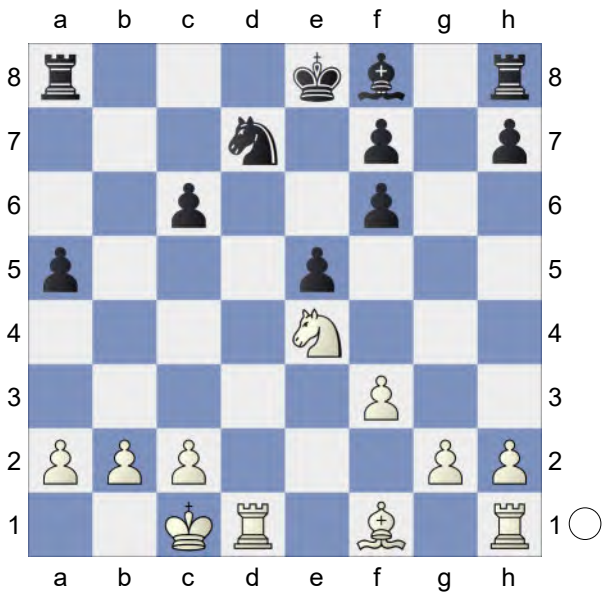
[The c6-bishop is also harassed after 12...Nd7 13.Na5]

13.Na5 Nd7 1.41/19

[⌓13...Rg8 0.88/18]

14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Ne4 Instant unpleasantness. **15...a5**

(Diagram)

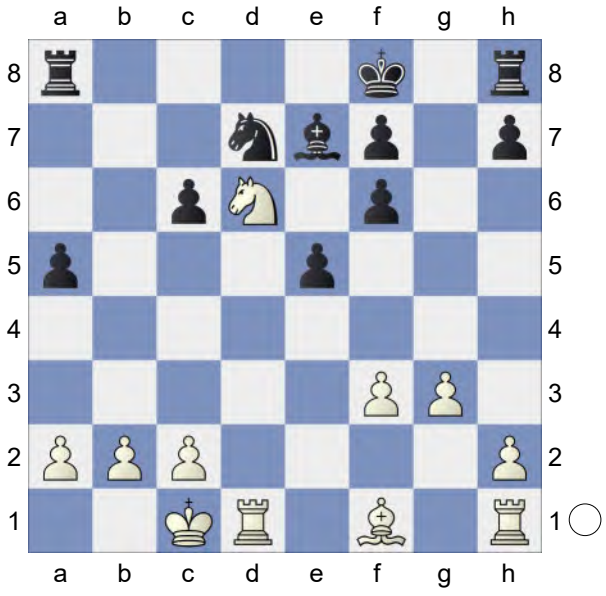


16.g3 &Bianco is more active.

[Don't do 16.Bc4?! Nb6 17.Bd3 *(17.Nxf6+? Ke7-+)* 17...Be7±]

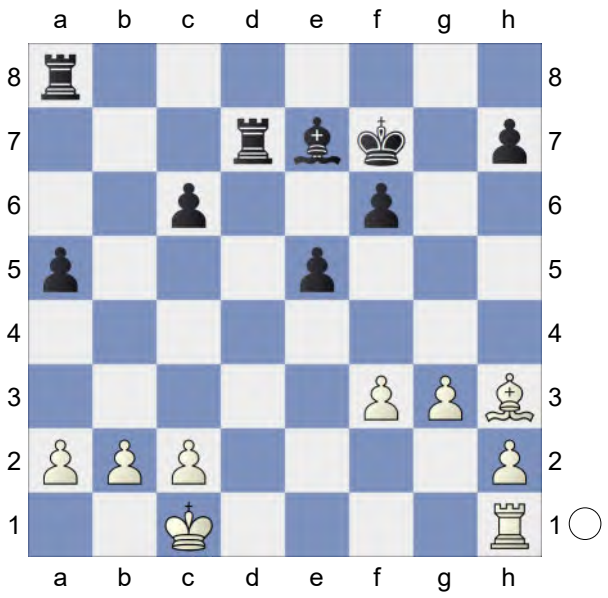
16...Be7 17.Nd6+ Kf8

[After 17...Bxd6 18.Rxd6 Black must give up a pawn for nothing: Ke7 *(18...Rc8?!* 2.53/22 18...Ke7 1.76 *19.Bh3 Rc7 20.Rhd1)* 19.Rxc6]

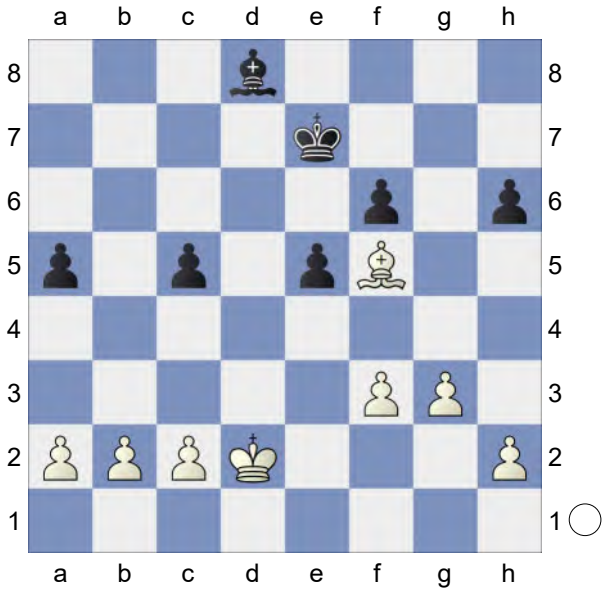


18.Nxf7! Cashing in, but White also had other good options, including: **18...Kxf7 19.Rxd7 Rhd8 20.Bh3 Rxd7**

(Diagram)

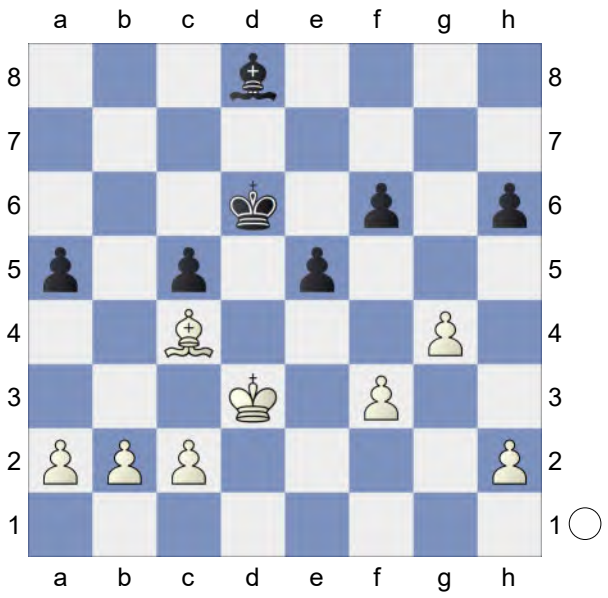


21.Bxd7+- Endgame KRB-KRB **21...c5 22.Bf5 h6 23.Rd1 Rd8 24.Rxd8 Bxd8** I will leave the details of the rest of the game for an endgame columnist. White has an extra pawn, the better structure and a grip on the light squares that offers his king superb prospects. I will guess it's winning. Hess finished smoothly. KB-KB **25.Kd2 Ke7**

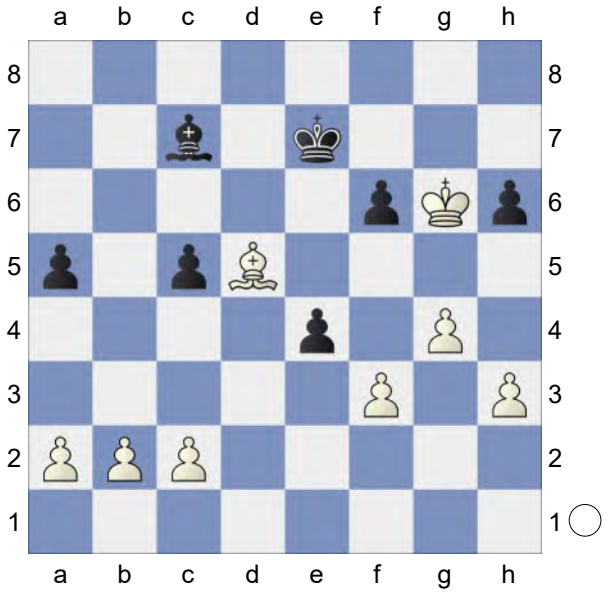


26.Kd3 Kd6 27.Bh7 Bb6 28.g4 Bd8 29.Bg8 Bb6 30.Bc4 Bd8

(Diagram)



31.Ke4 Bc7 32.Kf5 Ke7 33.h3 Bb8 34.Bd5 Bc7 35.Kg6 e4

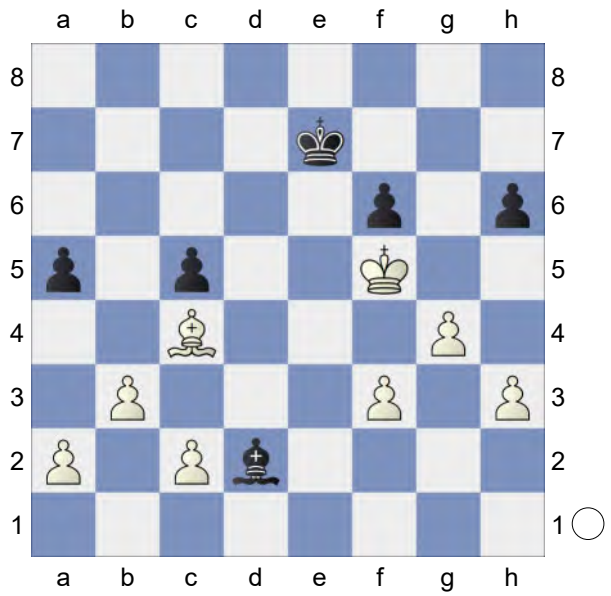


36.Bxe4

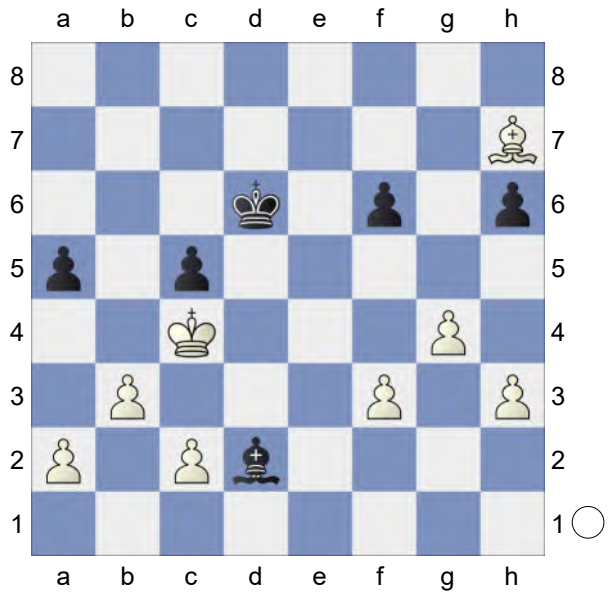
[Not 36.fxe4 Bf4 37.Kf5 Bc1±]

36...Bf4 37.Kf5 Bc1 38.b3 Bd2 39.Bd3 Be1 40.Bc4 Bd2

(Diagram)

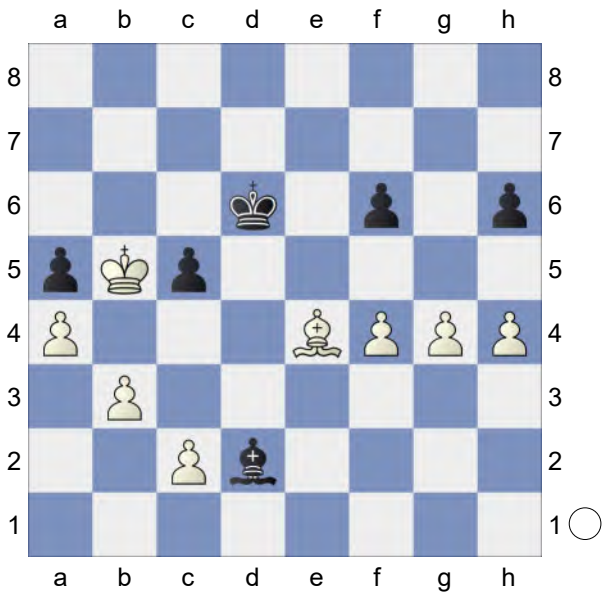


41.Ke4 Kd6 42.Bg8 Be1 43.Kd3 Ke5 44.Kc4 Kd6 45.Bh7 Bd2



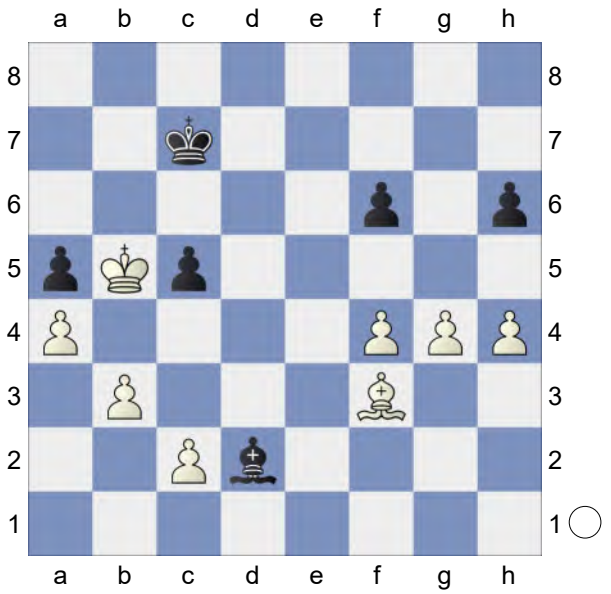
46.Be4 Be1 47.Kb5 Bd2 48.h4 Be1 49.a4 Bb4 50.f4 Bd2

(Diagram)



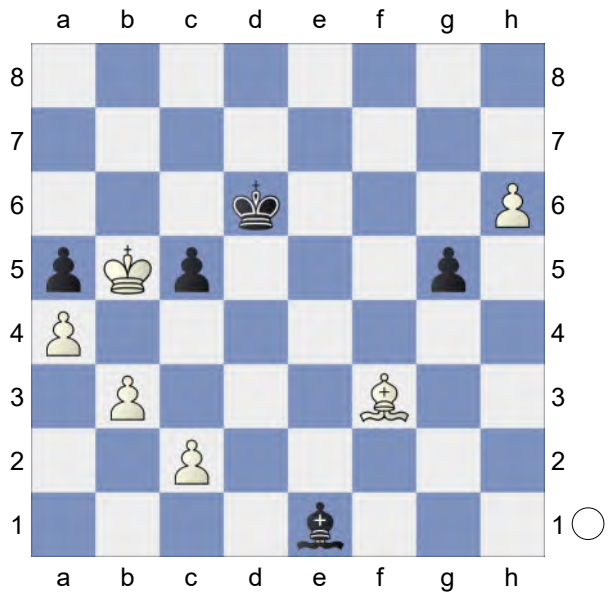
51.Bf3 Kc7? 7.95/25

[51...Bc3 3.65/26 52.Kb6 Bb4]

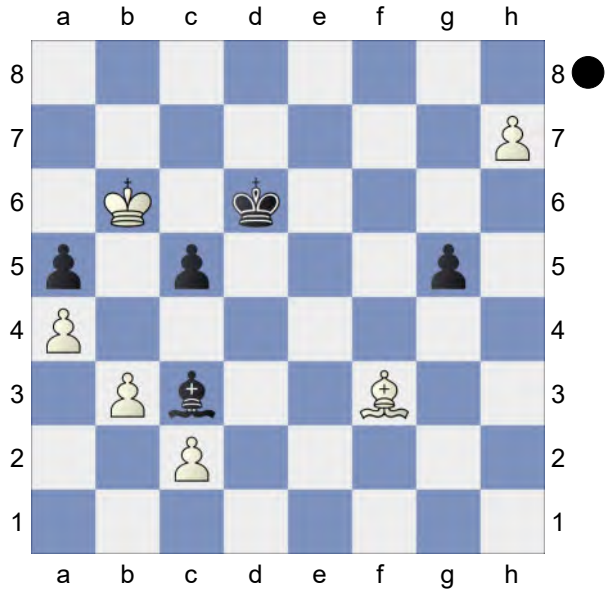


52.g5 White is clearly winning. **52...fxg5 53.fxg5 hxg5 54.h5 Kd6 55.h6 Be1**

(Diagram)



56.h7 Bc3 57.Kb6



The latest in a long series of zugzwangs ends Black's resistance. Black got outplayed after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.17 (very precise)
1-0

136 **B55**
□ **Smeets,Jan** **2585**
■ **Keymer,Vincent** **2527**
82nd Tata Steel GpB (8.7) 19.01.2020
[Collins,Sam]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

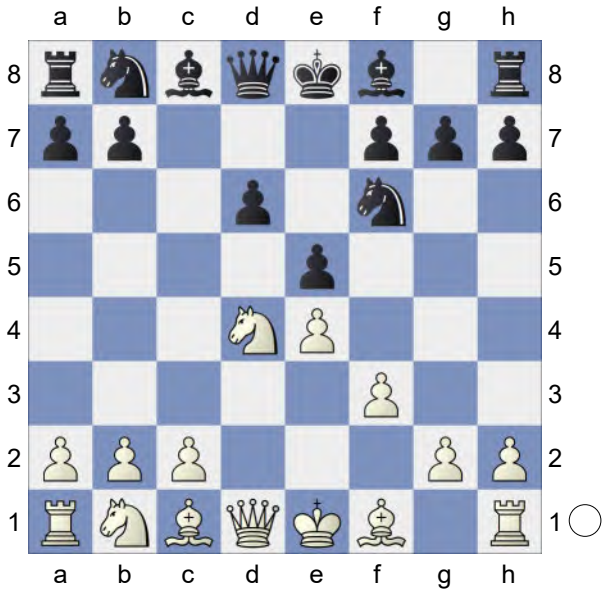
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

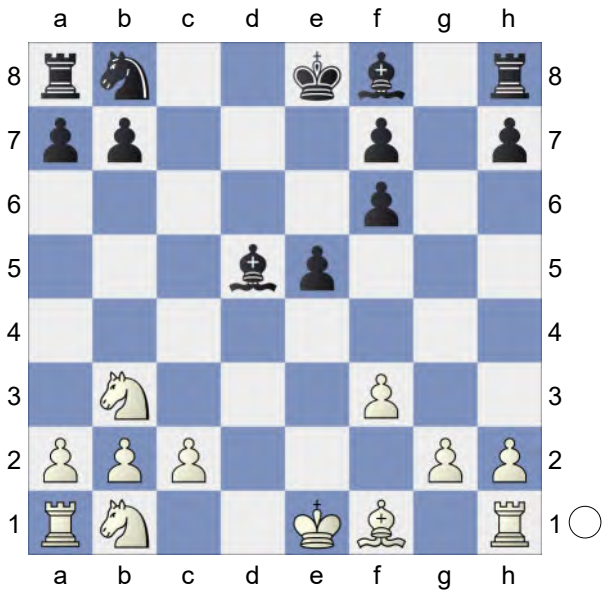
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060

[Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Bxd5



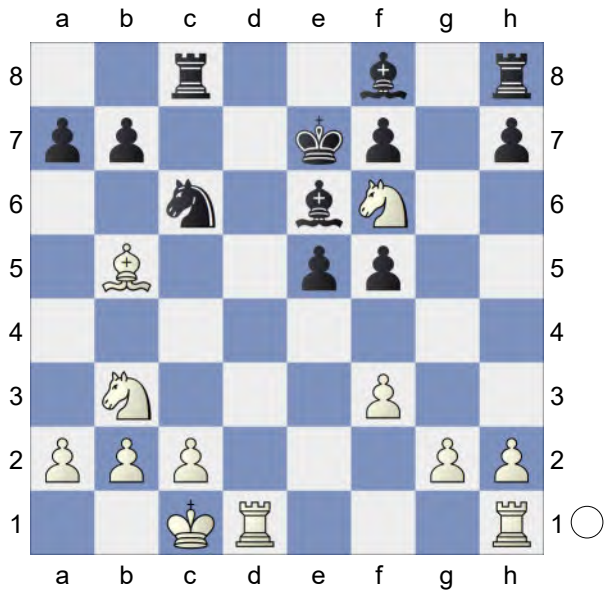
11.Nc3 Be6 At the risk of annotating by result, I don't see the attraction of this endgame (which I analysed in the Archives - see T.Nabaty - S.Sjugirov, EU-chT 2018 (1/2 - 1/2 in 26)) for White. Black has two bishops and his pawn structure, while not cosmetically ideal, gives good central control and prospects of play on the half-open c- and g-files. White advancing his queenside majority to calmly queen his c-pawn seems a remote prospect. Of course White isn't worse (as we'll see in a moment, he can more or less force an immediate draw), but he isn't better either. **12.0-0-0**

[12.Nb5 keeps more tension. Kd7 13.0-0-0+ Kc8 14.g3]

12...Nc6 13.Bb5 Rc8 14.Nd5 The position is equal. **14...f5 15.Nf6+** Pair of Knights!

[15.Na5 was played in P. Harikrishna - A.Giri, Shenzhen 2017 (0-1 in 56), as I mentioned in the notes to the Nabaty game. Including Nd5-f6-d5 can't be bad, of course, although Giri chose not to castle against Harikrishna in any event.]

15...Ke7

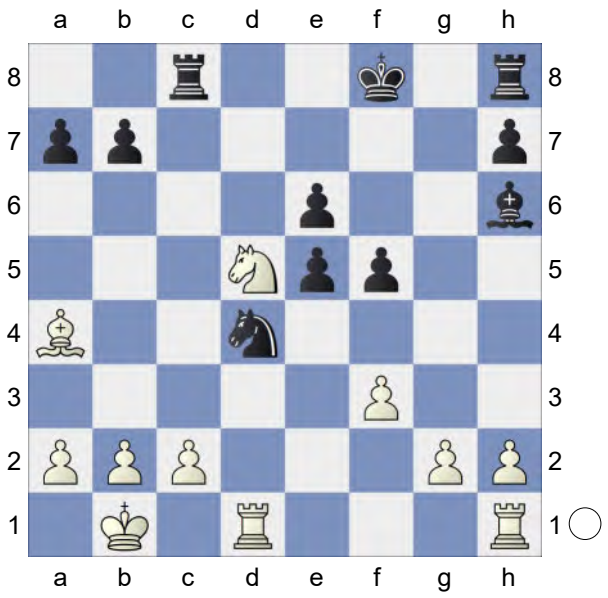


16.Nd5+ Ke8 17.Ba4 This is a novelty OTB but has been tested in a couple of correspondence games. **17...Bh6+! 18.Kb1 Kf8 19.Nc5**

[19.Rhe1 Kg7 20.Bxc6?! bxc6 21.Nc3 A.Sheward - S.Jenkinson, ICCF email 2018 (0-1 in 23). Kf6=]

19...Nd4! 20.Nxe6+ fxe6

(Diagram)

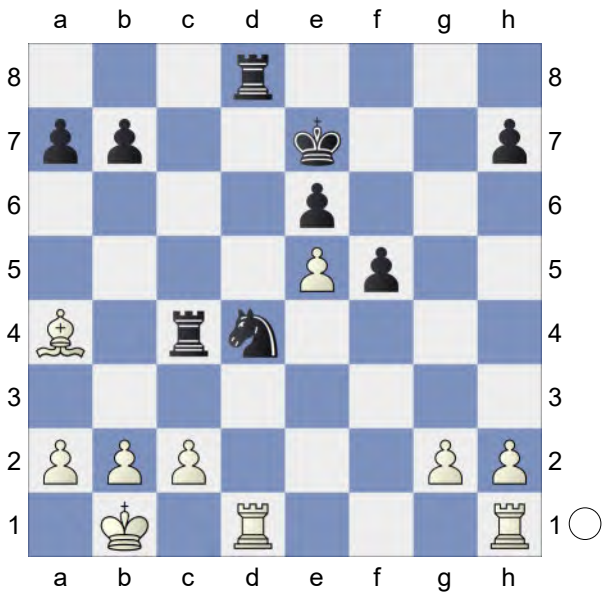


21.Nf6 Ke7 22.Nd7 Rhd8 23.Nxe5 Bg7 This is a funny position. At first glance, one might think that Black has some compensation for the pawn and drawing chances based on the opposite coloured bishops and reduced material. In fact, Black has at least full compensation and the easier position to play. The a4-bishop is an important target, at risk of being trapped and encouraging Black's standard Sicilian minority attack (...b5, ... a5 etc) with tempo. **24.f4** The first new move.

[24.Nd3 b5 25.Bb3 a5! 26.c3 a4 27.cxd4 Black must now prevent Bc2. axb3 28.axb3 Threatens to win with Ne5. Rxd4 29.Nc1 Rcd8 30.Rxd4 Rxd4 31.Kc2 Against Rd2+ Rd7 and a draw was agreed in Y. Volodarsky - L.Castellano, ICCF email 2017.]

24...Bxe5! 25.fxe5 Rc4!↑

(Diagram)

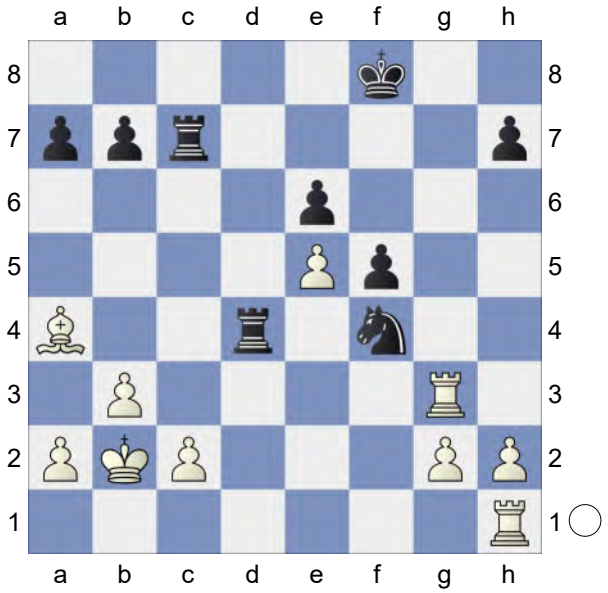


Black has some pressure. **26.b3** This seems ambitious, but White didn't have full equality in the rook endgame.

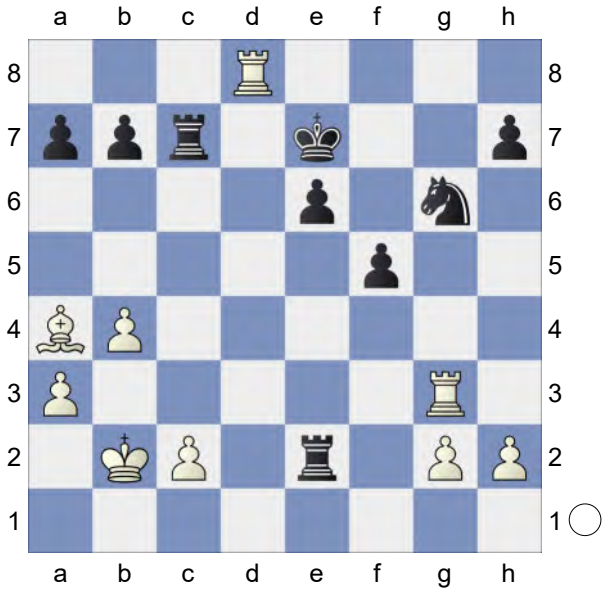
[26.Bb3 Nxb3 27.Rxd8 Kxd8 28.axb3 Re4∓ and White should be able to hold.]

26...Rc7 Black has compensation. **27.Rd3 Ne2 28.Rh3 Kf8! 29.Kb2** Inhibits Nc3. **29...Nf4 30.Rg3 Rd4** -0.01/17

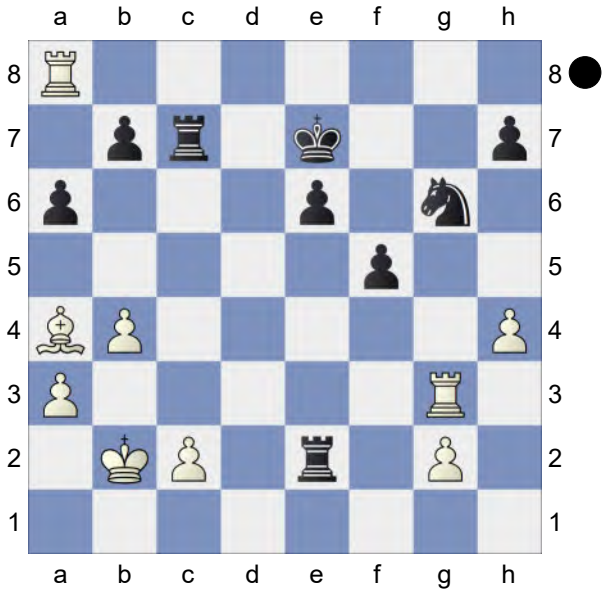
[30...a5∓ -0.50/21 should be considered.]



31.a3
[31.Rf1 seems wilder. a6 32.c3 Rd2+ 33.Kc1]
31...Ng6
[31...a5!?]
32.Re1 Rd5 Against Bb5 **33.b4**
[33.c4 Rd8⩱ retains full compensation. It's hard to see how the bishop (which, admittedly, is difficult to attack) gets out without dropping the c-pawn.]
33...Rxe5 34.Rd1 -0.60/21 White is still okay after this, but only if he finds the sequence at the notes to move 37.
[34.Rxe5 Nxe5 35.Bb3 Kf7∓ and White should make a draw.]
[34.Rxe5= -0.01/22 Nxe5 35.Rc3 Rxc3 36.Kxc3]
34...Re2∓ 35.Rd8+ -1.16/21
[35.Bb3∓ -0.59/20]
35...Ke7 -0.01/22
[35...Kf7∓ -1.16/21 Threatening ...f4. 36.Rc3 Re7]

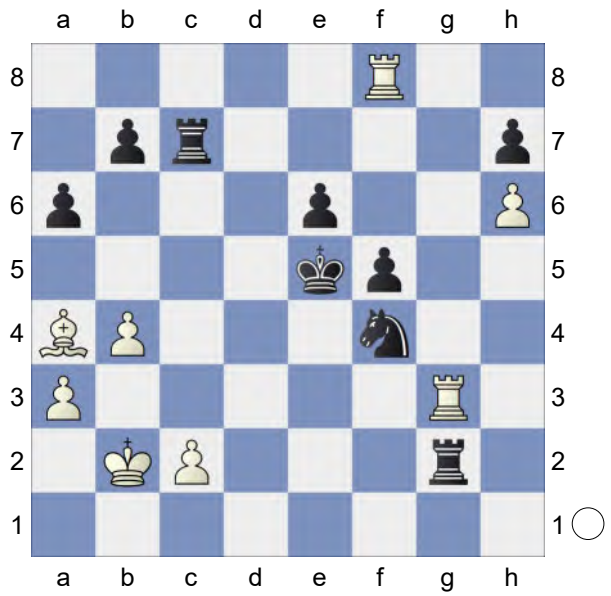


36.Ra8!= a6 37.h4? -1.52/22
[White can save himself with computer precision in the sharp lines after 37.Rc3! Rxc3 38.Kxc3 Rxg2 And now ...f4 would win. 39.Ra7 Rxh2 aiming for ...Kf6. *(39...Kf6* Strongly threatening ...f4. *40.Rxb7 Rxh2* Hoping for ...f4. *41.b5!* transposes since *Rh4 42.b6!! Rxa4 43.Rc7!=* is also a draw) 40.b5 -0.45/22 *(40.Rxb7+=* 0.01/18 *Kf6 41.Bb3)* 40...axb5 -0.08/21 *(40...Kf6∓* -0.45/22 *41.b6 Ne5 42.Rxb7 Rh3+ 43.Kb2 Nc4+ 44.Kb1 Rg3)* 41.Rxb7+= Kf6 42.Bxb5 and the passed a-pawn gives enough counterplay.]
[37.Rc3!= 0.01/22 Rxc3 38.Kxc3]

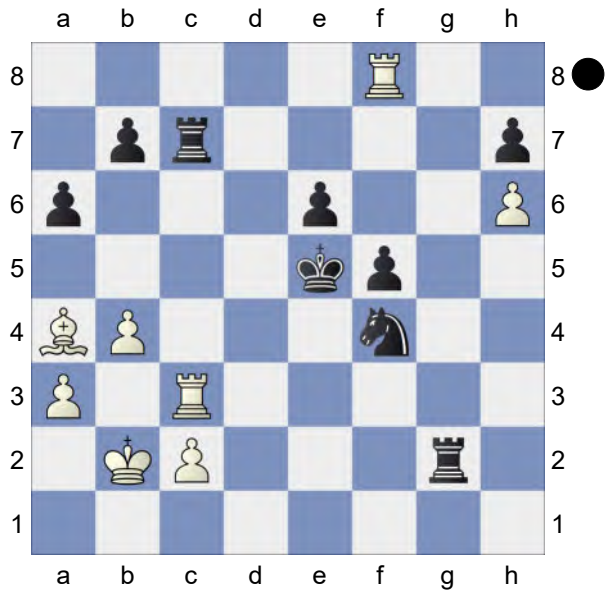


37...Kf6!∓ Keymer makes no mistakes in the technical phase.
[37...Nxh4? 38.Rg7+ Kd6 39.Rd8+ Ke5 40.Rxc7+-]
38.h5 Nf4 39.Rf8+ Ke5 &Nero is more active. **40.h6 Rxg2**

(Diagram)

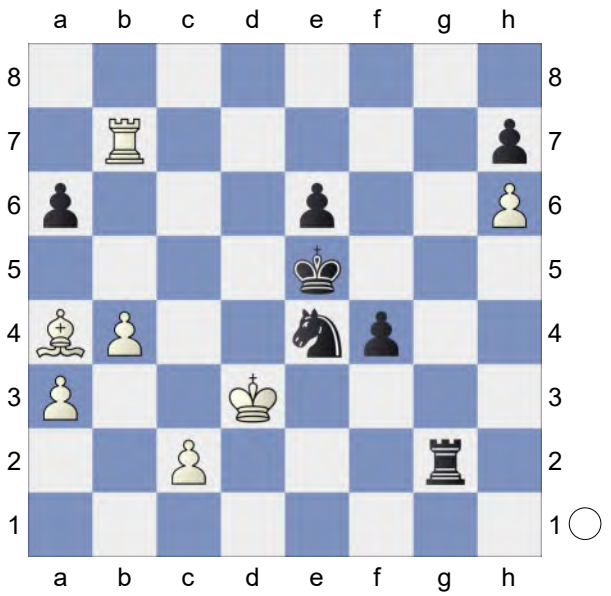


41.Rc3 -4.07/20
[41.Rxg2∓ -1.55/21 was worth a try. Nxg2 42.Rg8]

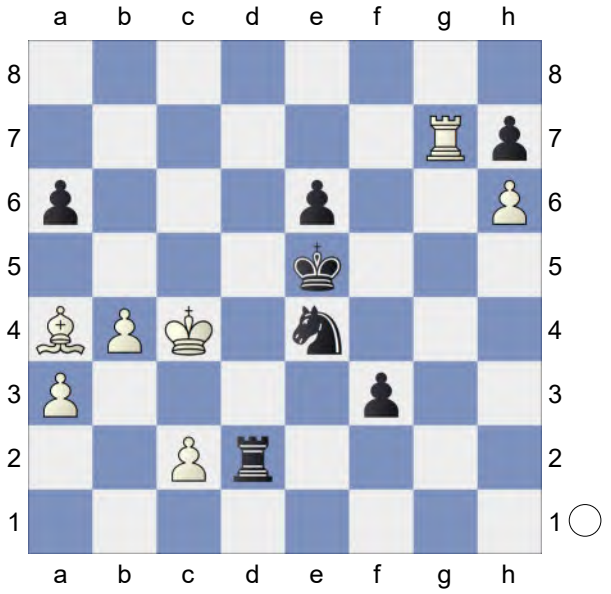


This move loses the game for White.
41...Rxc3-+ 42.Kxc3 Endgame KRB-KRN **42...Nd5+ 43.Kd3 f4 44.Rf7?** -5.26/23
[44.b5 -3.08/21]
44...Nf6 Black is clearly winning.
45.Rxb7 Ne4

(Diagram)



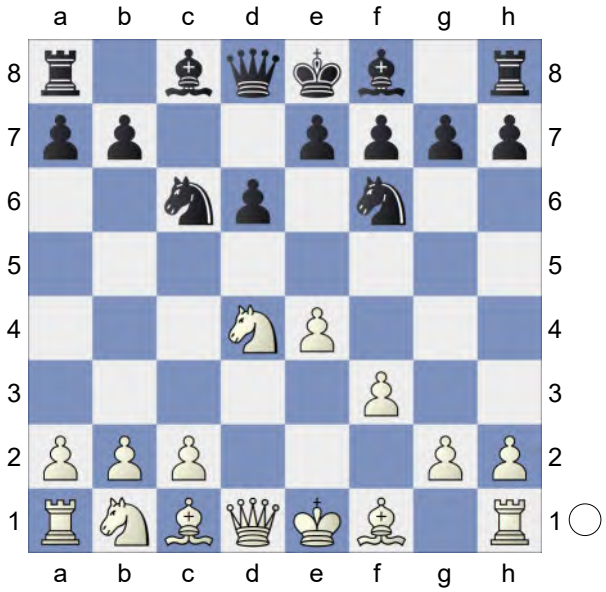
46.Rg7 Rd2+ 47.Kc4 f3



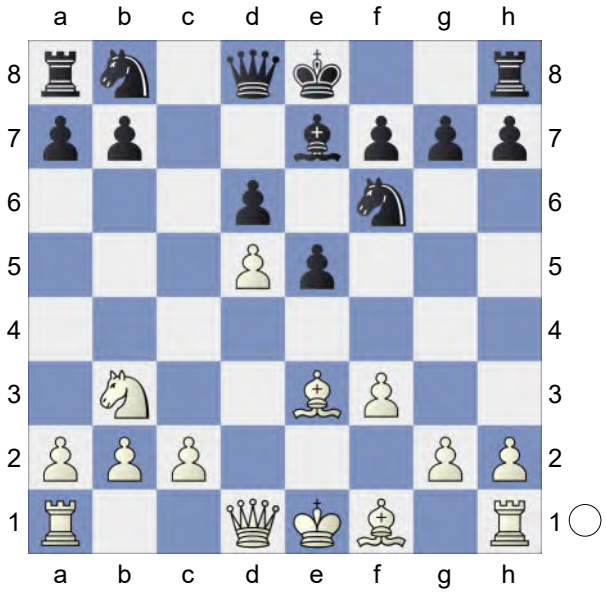
An excellent game by Keymer.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.47/ Black=0.11 (very precise)
0-1

137 **B56**
□ **Baklan,Vladimir** **2584**
■ **Onischuk,Vladimir** **2349**
UKR-ch KO 74th (1.1) 24.08.2005
[Gofshtein,Leonid D]

1.e4 Gofshtein,L Gofshtein,L **1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3** Black delays the development of his knight, preparing to transpose to the Maroczi bind **5...Nc6**



6.Nc3 6.c4 was an alternative and as the game below shows white has some advantage
[6.c4 Qb6⇄ *(6...Qb6 7.Nc2 e6 8.Nc3 Be7 9.Rb1 Nb4 10.Nxb4 Qxb4 11.Be3 0-0 12.Be2 Bd7 13.0-0 Bc6 14.a3 Qa5 15.b4 Qc7 16.Rc1±* ½-½ Mastrovasilis,D-Georgiev,K/Topola 2004/CBM 101 (29) *)*]
6...e5!? 6... e6 or 6...g6 were also possible, transposing to either sheveningen or to the dragon systems
[6...e6 7.Be3]
7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 Be6 9.Nd5 White prevents the freeing breakthrough d6-d5 **9...Bxd5** Black is practically forced to exchange on d5, as after c2-c4 white's space edge would be evident
10.exd5 Nb8



11.Qd2 Developing the queen and preparing in some cases Na5 with an attack on the queenside. 14.a4 was also seen trying to start an immideate game on the queenside
[11.a4!? a5 12.Bb5+ Nbd7 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2 Qc7 15.Rac1 Nc5 16.Rfd1± 1-0 Motylev,A-Polajzer,D/Lvov 1999/EXT 2000 (32)]
11...0-0 12.Be2 White has a pleasent choice between the play on both flanks. In both cases white's chances look preferable
[12.Rc1 Nbd7 13.Na5 Qc7 14.Be2 Nh5 15.0-0 Nf4 16.Bd1 Bg5 17.b4 h6 18.c4± 1-0 Varga,Z-Wittmann,W/Budapest 2000/EXT 2002 (47)]
[12.0-0-0!? a5 13.Kb1 a4 14.Nc1 a3 15.b3 Na6 16.g4 Nd7 17.h4± 1-0 Kantaria,M-Sergeev,V/Dos Hermanas 2004/CBM 099 ext (40)]
12...Nh5 Black tries to start a counterplay on the kingside, as the games below show 12...a5 was also

possible trying to get some space on the queenside

[12...a5!? 13.a4 *(13.c4 Nfd7 14.0-0 h6 15.g3 a4 16.Nc1 Bg5 17.f4 exf4 18.gxf4 Bf6 19.Rb1 Re8 20.Bf3 Qa5 21.Qxa5 Rxa5 22.Bf2 Na6 23.Bg4 Nab8 24.Nd3± ½-½ Grosar,A-Wirthensohn,H/Graz 1993/CBM 035 (37))* 13...Nfd7 14.0-0 h6 15.Bb5 Bg5 16.f4 exf4 17.Bxf4± ½-½ Varga,Z-Wells,P/Budapest 1997/CBM 058 ext (36)]

[12...Nbd7 13.Na5 *(13.0-0 b6 14.a4 a5 15.c3 Nh5 16.Bb5± 0-1 Schneider,B-Bagaturov,G/Boeblingen 1996/EXT 2001 (35))* 13...Qb8!? *(13...Qc7 14.c4 h6 15.b4 Nh7 16.0-0 Bg5 17.Rac1± 1-0 Sakelsek,T-Kokol,P/Grize 2001/CBM 084 ext (31))* 14.0-0 Bd8!? 15.Rfd1 Bb6⇄ 16.Bxb6 Nxb6 17.c4 ½-½ Yakovich,Y-Ubilava,E/Kharkov 1985/MCL (17)]

13.0-0 f5 14.f4!? A typical plan for this position. White sacrifices a pawn in order to stop the advance of the black pawns on the kingside and gets a penetration square on e6 for his knight. 14.c4 first as was played in the game below also deserves attention

[14.c4!? b6 15.a4 a5 16.f4 exf4 17.Bd4⩲ 1-0 Chandler,M-Hermesmann,H/Germany 1988/GER-chT (70)]

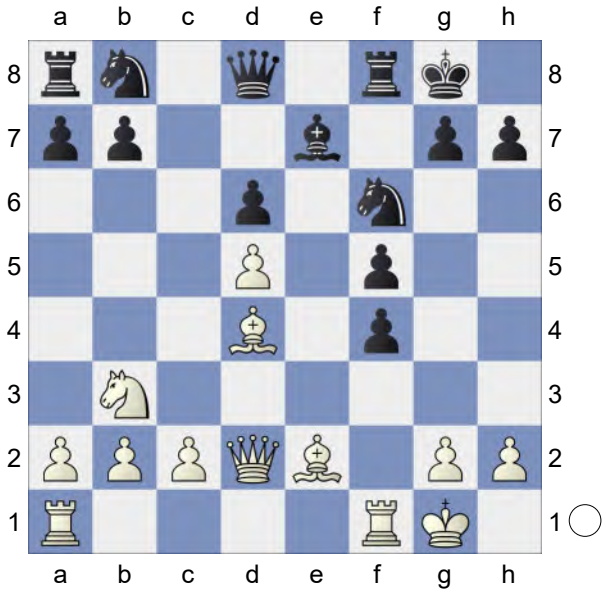
14...exf4?! 14...Nf4 was stronger, trying to exchange the white dark squared bishop

[14...Nxf4!? 15.Bxf4 exf4 16.Nd4 *(16.Qxf4 Bg5 17.Qb4 Qc7 18.Bd3±)* 16...Qb6 17.Kh1 Nd7 18.Ne6 Rf7 19.c3 Nf6 20.Bf3⩲]

15.Bd4! A strong move, after which white gets a clear edge

[15.Bxf4 Nxf4 16.Qxf4 Bg5]

15...Nf6



16.Qxf4± A bishop pair, the weak pawn on f5 and the e6 square give white a big advantage **16...Ne8** Black tries to cover the weakness on e6

[16...Ne4 17.Bd3 Bg5 18.Qf3↑]

[16...g6 17.c4±]

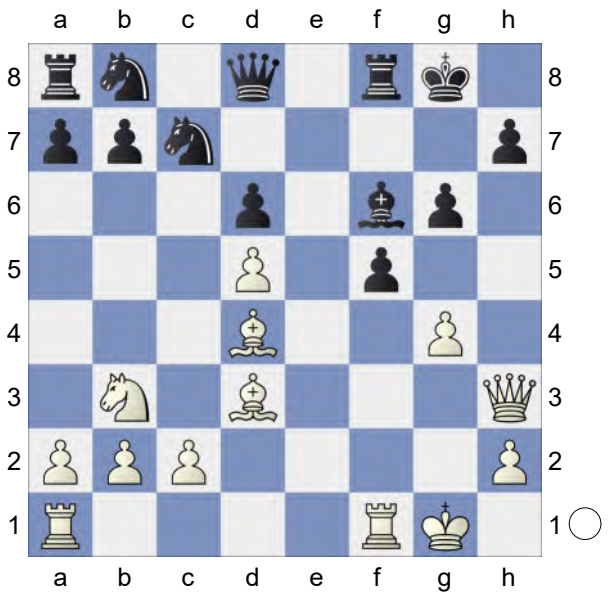
17.Qe3 Nc7 18.Bd3 Creating threats to the black king **18...g6 19.g4!** Opening files on the black king **19...Bg5**

[19...fxg4 20.Bxg6+-]

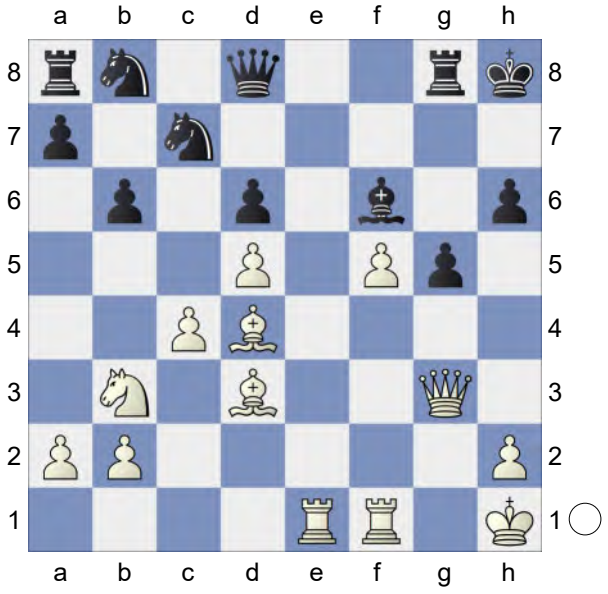
20.Qh3 Bf6 White's attack is also very dangerous after 20...f4

[20...f4 21.Bxg6 hxg6 22.Qh8+ Kf7 23.Qh7+ Ke8 24.Rae1+ Be7 25.Bg7→]

(Diagram)



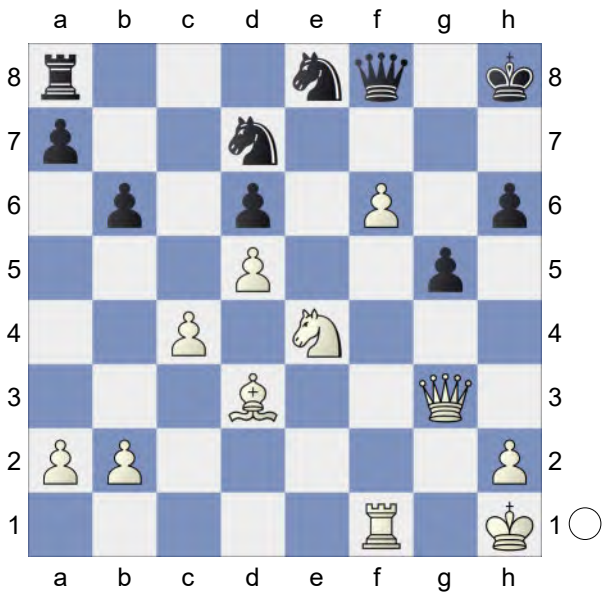
21.gxf5 g5 22.Qg3 White has an extra pawn and also the attack **22...Kh8 23.c4 b6 24.Kh1** White has a clear advantage and further pressing black **24...h6 25.Rae1 Rg8**



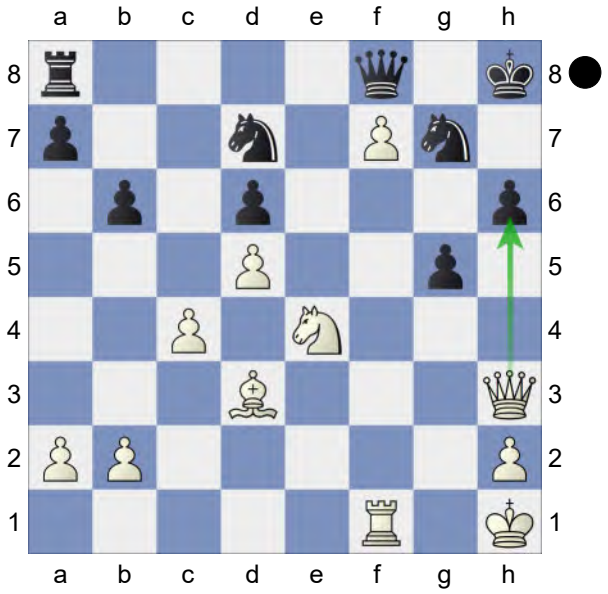
26.Bxf6+ Qxf6 27.Nd2!+- White transfers his "passive" knight to an active position **27...Re8**

[27...Nd7 28.Ne4 Qf8 29.Qxd6 Qxd6 30.Nxd6+-]

28.Rxe8+ Nxe8 29.Ne4 Breaking the blockade on the f5 pawn **29...Qf8 30.f6 Nd7**



31.f7 Ng7 32.Qh3



1-0

138 **B55**

□ **Iljushenok,Ilia** **2567**

■ **Salemgareev,Tagir** **2466**

RUS-ch Blitz (9) 14.10.2022

[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

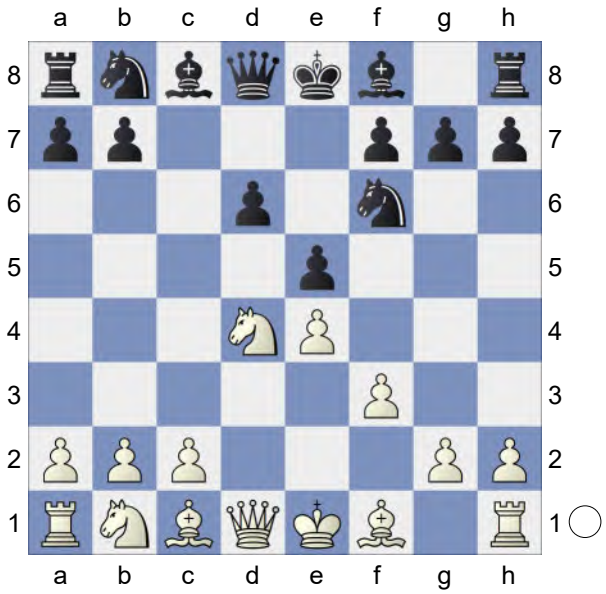
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

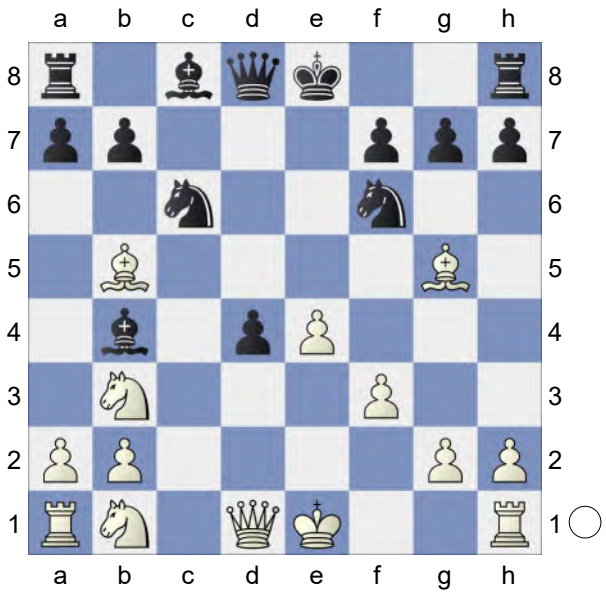
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

(Diagram)



6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.cxd4! punktet besser als das ältere 9.Bb5. The position is equal. **9...exd4 10.Bb5 Bb4+**



11.Bd2 And now Bxb4 would win.

11...Be7 0.89/21

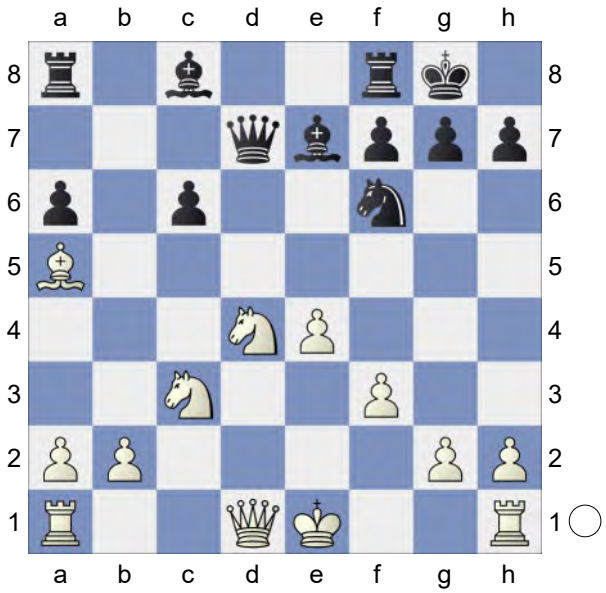
[11...Bd6= 0.06/20 deserves consideration.]

12.Ba5!↑ White is really pushing.

12...Qd7N

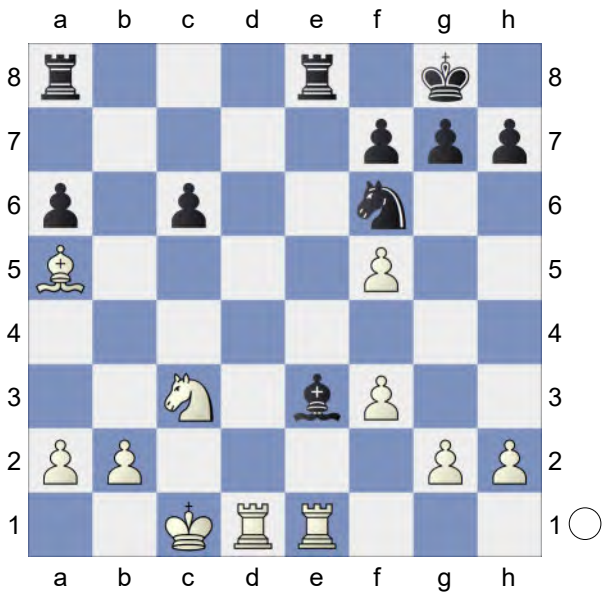
[Vorgänger: 12...Qd6 13.Qxd4 Bd7 14.Qxd6 Bxd6 15.Bxc6 Bxc6 16.N1d2 0-0 17.0-0-0 0.45/19

(17.Nc4± 0.93/17 Be7 18.Ne3)
17...Rac8 aiming for ...Bxe4+. Threatens to win with ...Bxe4+. 18.Kb1 Bf4 1.00/19 0-1 (68) Juhasz,A (2369)-Anisimov,P (2527) Chess.com INT 2020 *(18...Be5± 0.60/19 feels stronger.)*]
13.Nxd4! a6 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.Nc3 0-0

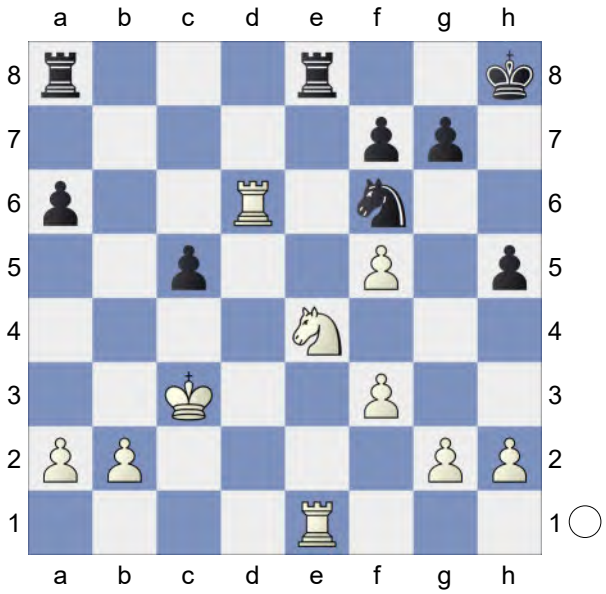


16.Nf5 And now Qxd7 would win.
16...Bc5 1.37/19
[⌓16...Qxd1+± 0.75/20 17.Rxd1 Bxf5]
17.Qxd7± Bxd7 18.0-0-0 Bxf5 19.exf5 Rfe8 20.Rhe1 Inhibits Re5. Prevents Re5. **20...Be3+**

(Diagram)

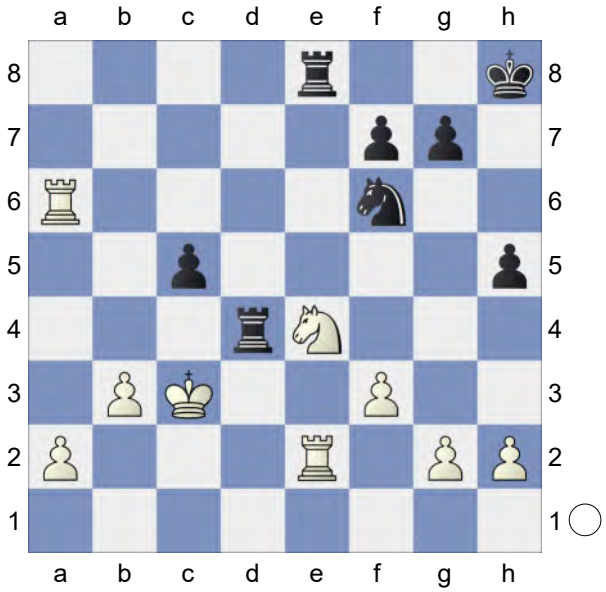


21.Kc2 c5 2.08/20
[21...h5± 1.47/21 22.Bd8 Rexd8]
22.Ne4+- Bd4 23.Bc3 Bxc3 1.98/21
[23...Red8± 1.55/20 24.Nxf6+ gxf6]
24.Kxc3 h5 25.Rd6 1.34/22
[25.Nxf6++- 1.92/22 gxf6 26.Kc4]
25...Kh8 1.88/23
[25...Kf8± 1.34/22 might work better. 26.Re2 Re5]

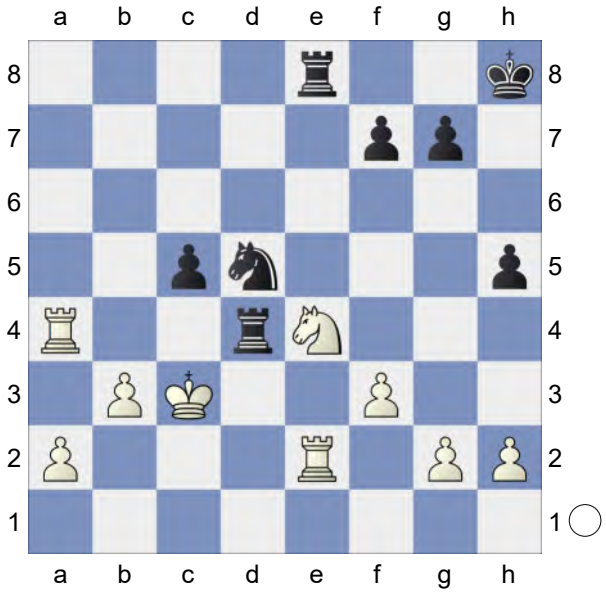


26.b3 1.28/20
[26.Kc4+- 1.67/19]
26...Re5 27.Kd3 1.11/22 &Bianco is

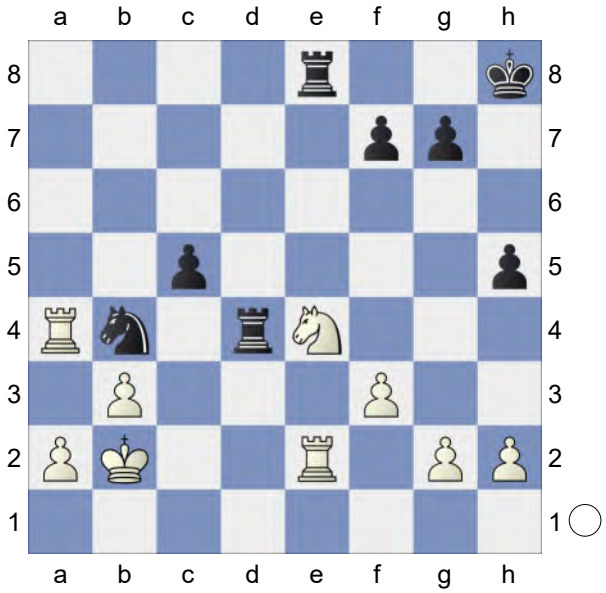
more active.
[⌓27.Kc4 1.57/22]
27...Rae8? 3.44/23
[27...a5± 1.11/22 keeps fighting.
28.Re2 Nd5]
28.Rxa6 Rxf5 29.Re2 Rd5+ 30.Kc3 Rd4? 8.29/23
[30...Nxe4+ 1.97/21 31.fxe4 *(31.Rxe4 Red8+-)* 31...Rde5]



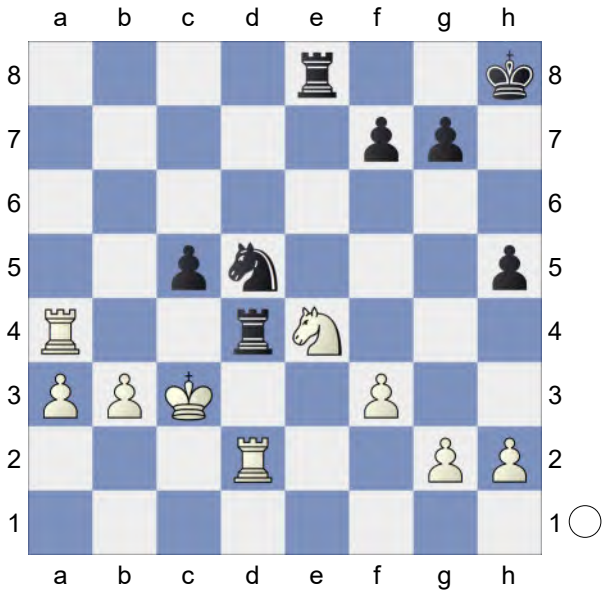
31.Ra4? 0.85/24
[31.Nxf6!+- 8.29/23 Red8 32.Nxh5]
31...Nd5+±



32.Kb2! Rxd4 is the strong threat.
32...Nb4 1.11/25
[32...f5± 0.39/23]



33.a3 0.61/25
[33.Ka3!± 1.11/25]
33...Nd3+ 1.29/24
[⌓33...f5!± 0.61/25]
34.Kc3 Nf4 35.Rd2 0.85/24
[⌓35.Rc2 1.40/22]
[⌓35.Rf2 1.36/19]
35...Nd5+



36.Kc2 Ne3+ 37.Kc1 f5 2.21/21

[37...Rxa4± 1.29/22 38.bxa4 Ra8]

38.Nd6? 0.21/21

[Don't play 38.Nxc5?! Rxd2 39.Kxd2 Nxg2+-]

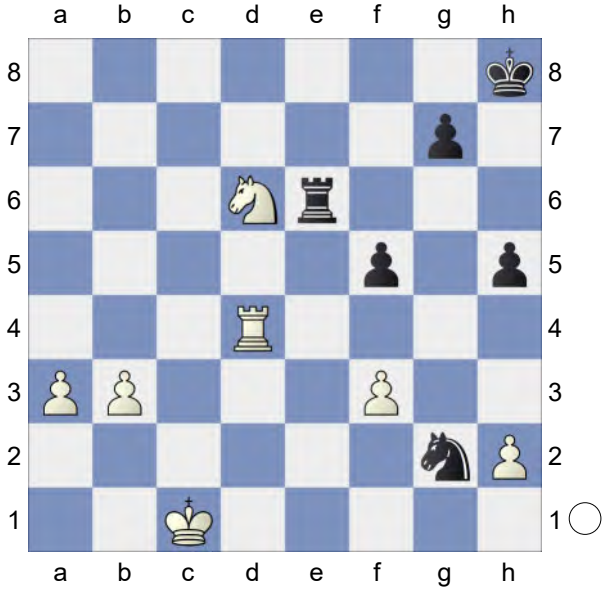
[Resist 38.Rdxd4+- 2.21/21 cxd4 39.Nd6 *(39.Rxd4 fxe4 40.Rxe4 Rc8+ 41.Kd2 Nxg2=)* 39...Rb8+-]

[38.Raxd4+- 2.51/20 cxd4 39.Nd6 *(39.Rxd4 fxe4 40.Rxe4 Rc8+ 41.Kd2 Nxg2=)*]

38...Re6? 4.25/25

[Black should play 38...Rxa4= 0.21/21 and Black is okay. 39.bxa4 Ra8]

39.Rdxd4+- cxd4 40.Rxd4 Nxg2



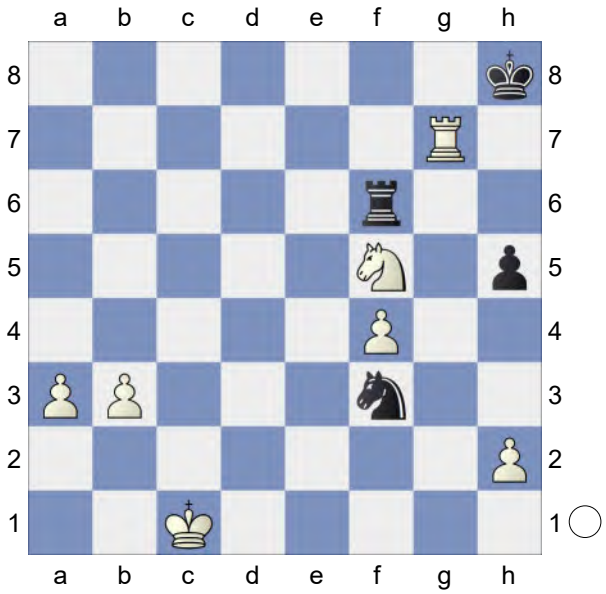
41.Nxf5 Endgame KRN-KRN Endgame Re4 is the strong threat. KRN-KRN

41...Ne1 42.f4 Nf3 43.Rd8+ Kh7 44.Rd7 Rf6? 4.80/22

[44...Re1+ 1.93/20 was necessary. is more resistant. 45.Kc2 Re2+ *(45...Kg6)* 46.Kc3 Kg6]

45.Rxg7+ Kh8

(Diagram)



46.Rg3! Nxh2 47.Rh3 Rxf5 48.Rxh2 KR-KR **48...Kg7 49.Rg2+?** 1.18/22

[49.Kd2+- 2.84/24 and White stays clearly on top.]

[49.Rh4+- 2.90/22 and White stays clearly on top.]

49...Kf6 1.62/19

[49...Kh6± 1.08/21]

50.Rg5? 0.51/24

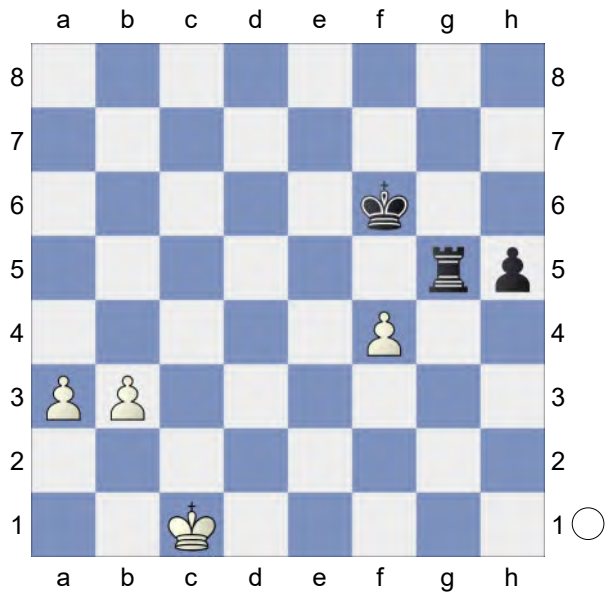
[50.Kb2± 1.46/20]

[Better is 50.a4+- 1.62/19]

50...Rxg5?? 9.72/22

[50...h4± 0.51/24 51.Rg1 Rxf4]

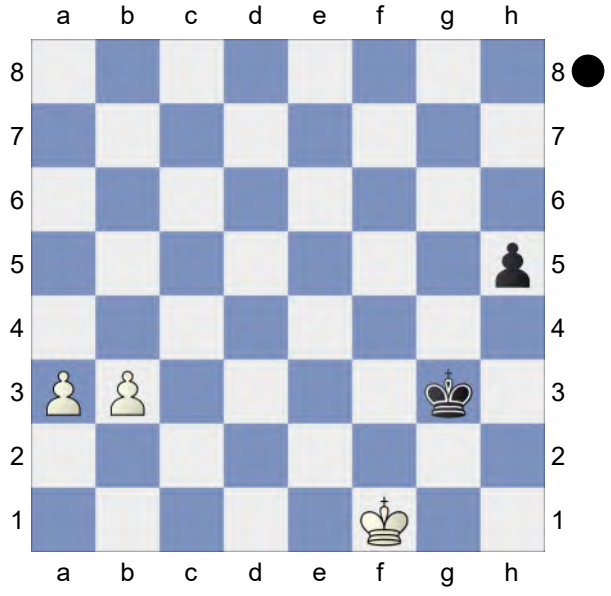
(Diagram)



51.fxg5+ Kxg5 52.Kd2 a4 would kill now. **52...Kg4 53.Ke2** 19.14/28 White threatens a4 and mate.

[⌓53.a4 #19/25 h4 54.Ke2 h3 55.Kf2 Kf5 56.a5 Ke6 57.a6 Kf7 58.a7]

53...Kg3 54.Kf1



Weighted Error Value: White=0.51/ Black=0.70

Weighted Error Value: White=0.53/ Black=0.72

1-0

139 **B55**

□ **Rodriguez Vila,Andres** **2565**

■ **Fiorito,Fabian** **2470**

Clarin GP final (5) 1997

[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

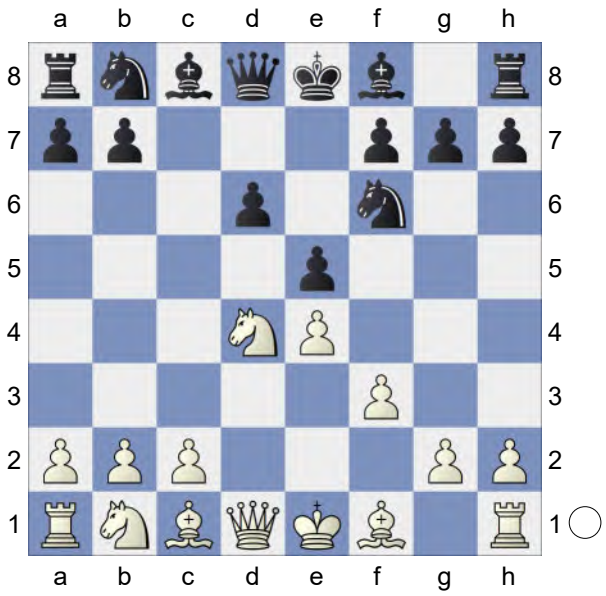
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060

[Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 Nc6 7.c4 Nxe4 8.fxe4 Strongly threatening Bd3. **8...Qh4+** The position is equal. **9.Kd2 d5** 1.21/19

[9...Qxe4 10.Nc3 Qg6 11.Nd5± *(11.Ke1 Nb4±)*]

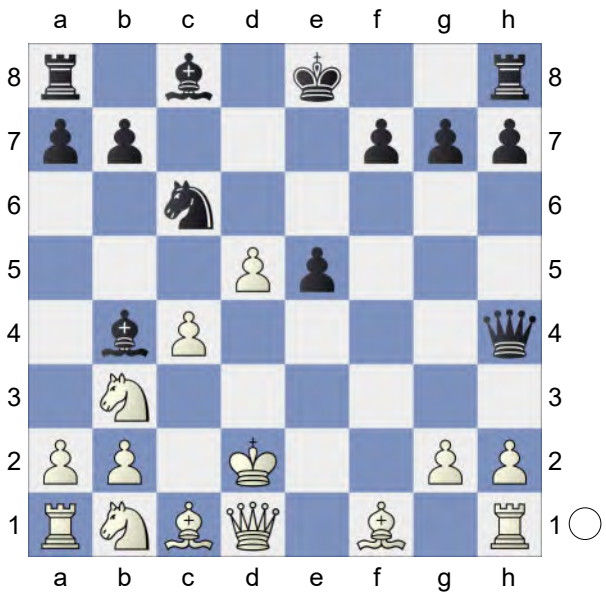
[9...Qf4+± 0.38/20 10.Kd3 Nb4+ 11.Kc3 Qxe4]

10.exd5± Black must now prevent Nc3.

10...Bb4+ 1.93/19

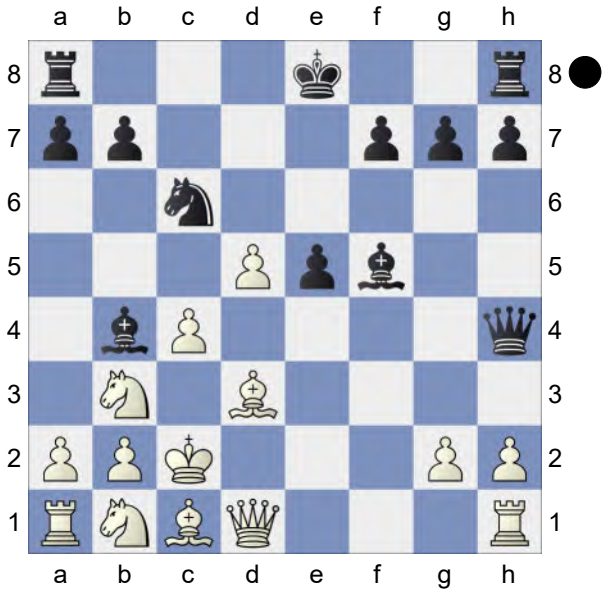
[10...Qg5+± 1.19/20 11.Ke1 Qh4+ 12.g3 Qe4+ 13.Qe2 Qxh1]

(Diagram)



11.Nc3+-

[11.Kc2 Bf5+ 12.Bd3



e4!∓]

11...0-0

[11...Bg4? 12.Qe1 Qxe1+ 13.Kxe1+-]

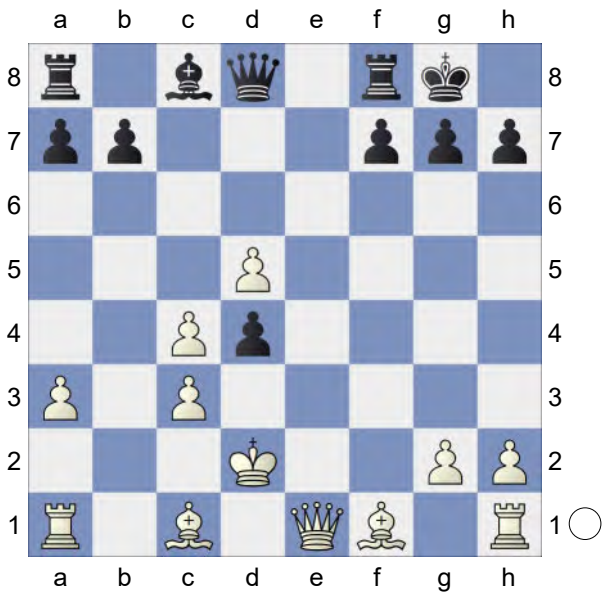
12.Qe1

[Don't take 12.Kc2 Bf5+ 13.Bd3 e4]

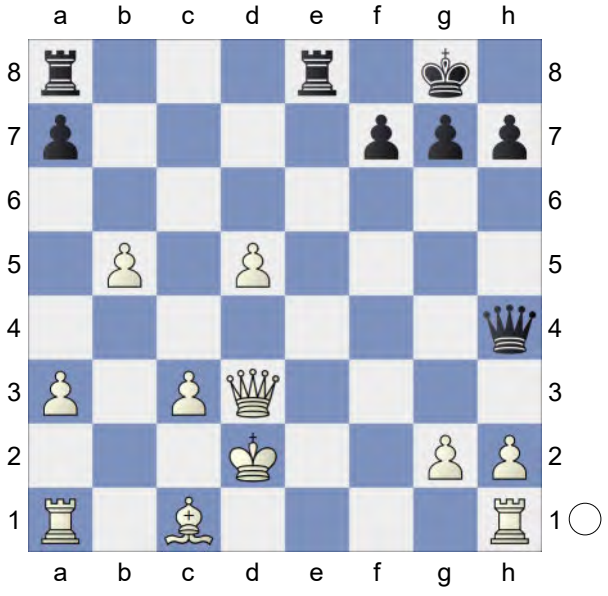
12...Qd8 13.a3 Nd4 14.Nxd4

[Stronger than 14.axb4 Nxb3+ 15.Kc2 Nxa1+ 16.Kb1 Nb3 17.Qxe5 Re8∓]

14...Bxc3+ 15.bxc3 exd4

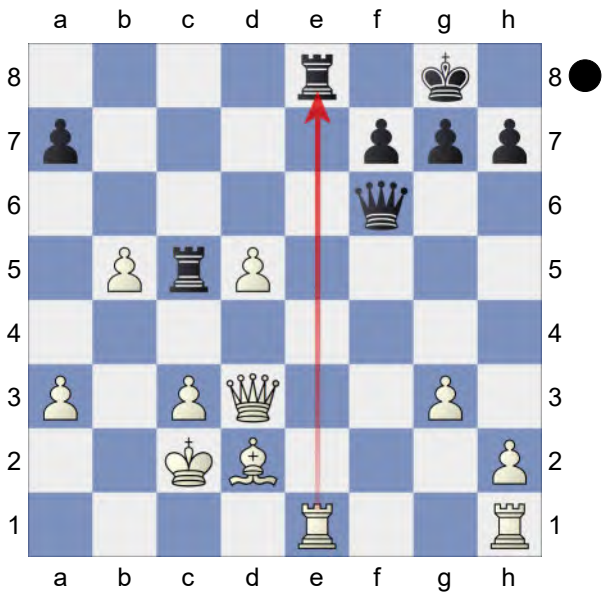


16.Qe5 Re8 17.Qxd4
[Not 17.Qg3 b5±]
17...Bf5 18.Bd3 Bxd3 19.Qxd3 b5 20.cxb5 White is clearly winning.
20...Qh4

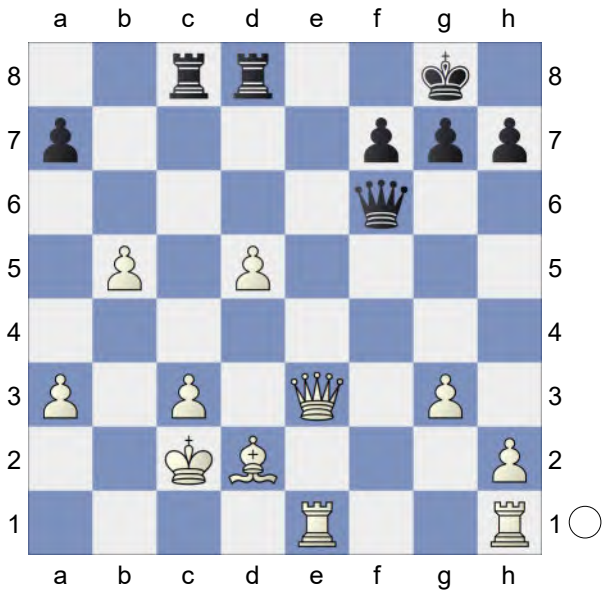


21.g3 Qf6 22.Kc2 Rac8 23.Bd2 Rc5 24.Rae1

(Diagram)

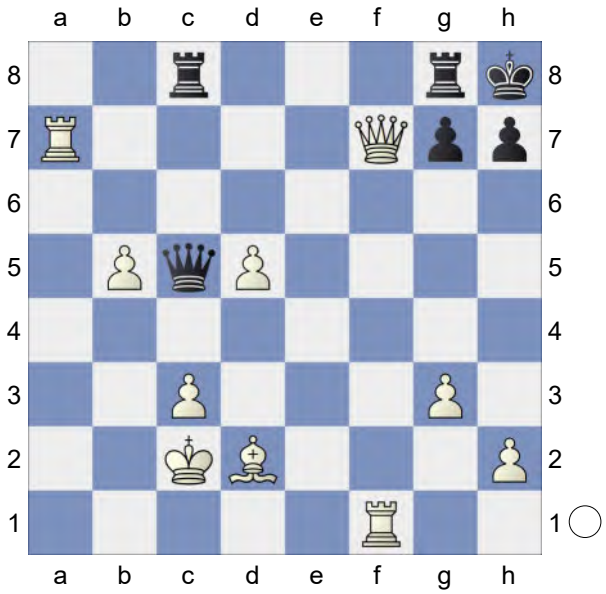


Rd8 25.Qe3 Qe8+ would kill now.
25...Rcc8 8.56/21
[⌓25...Qf5+ 4.89/20 26.Qe4 Qc8]

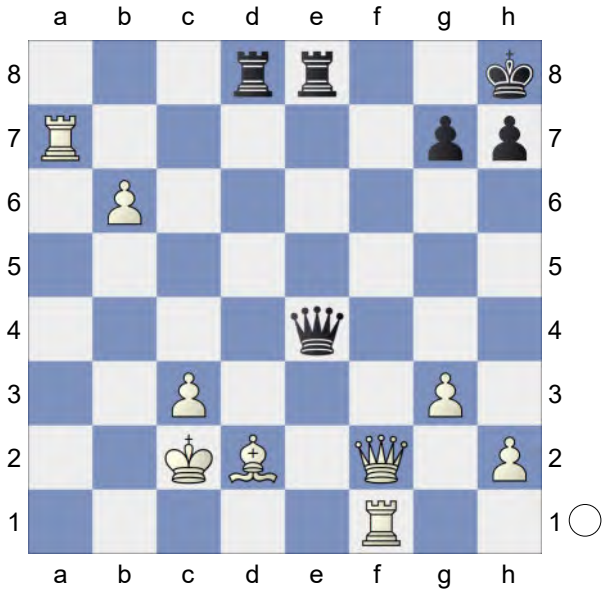


26.Rhf1 Qd6 27.Qf3 Qxa3 28.Qxf7+ Kh8 29.Ra1 Qc5 30.Rxa7 Rg8

(Diagram)



31.Qb7 Rb8 32.Qa6 Qxd5 33.b6 Rbd8 34.Qe2 Rge8 35.Qf2 Qe4+



Black did not feel at home in the position after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.22 (precise) /Black=0.53
1-0

140 **B55**
□ **Lodici,Lorenzo** **2562**
■ **Mendonca,Leon Luke** **2621**
Abu Dhabi op-A 30th (5) 20.08.2024
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

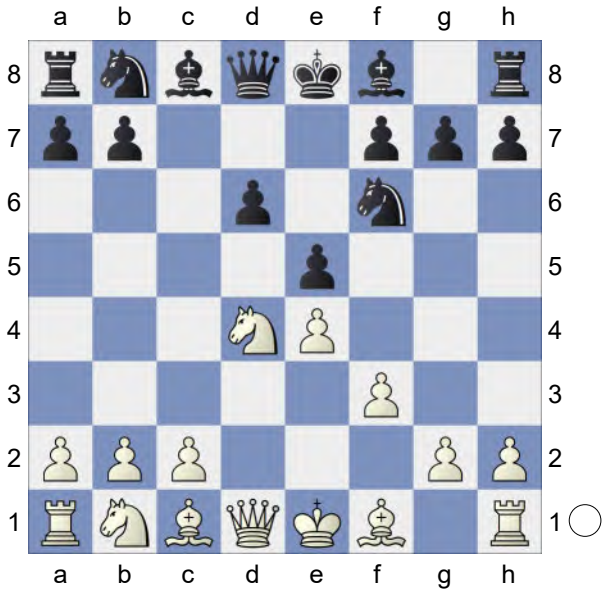
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060

[Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4! 8.c3 Nc6 9.cxd4 -0.17/20 The position is equal. is more profitable than 9.Bb5 at the moment. scheint profitabler als 9.Lb5.

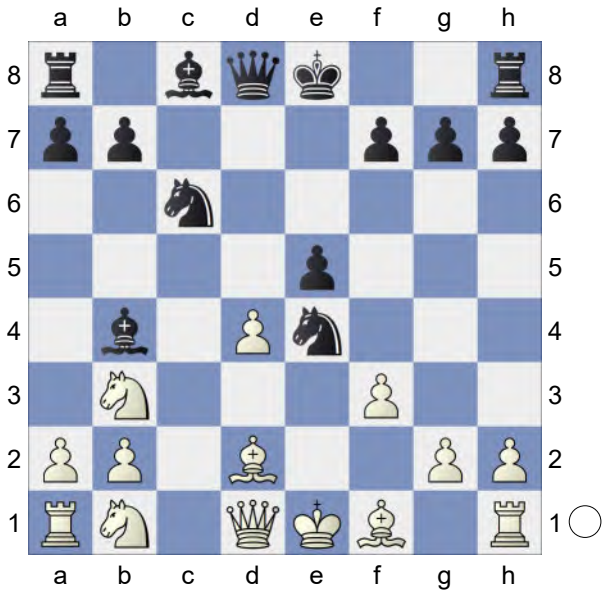
[9.Bb5 0.15/19 is more appropriate.]

9...Bb4+=

[9...exd4 10.Bb5±]

[9...Nxd4 10.Nc3±]

10.Bd2 Nxe4

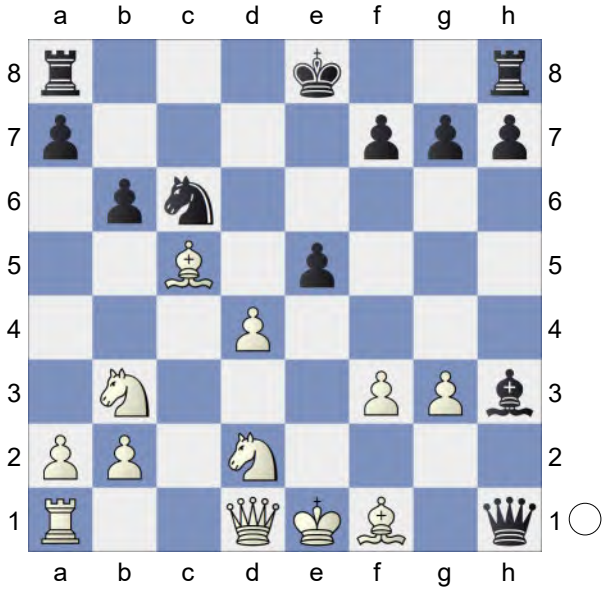


Threatens to win with ...Qh4+. **11.Bxb4 Qh4+! 12.g3 Nxg3 13.hxg3 Qxh1**

14.Bc5 Black must now prevent d5.

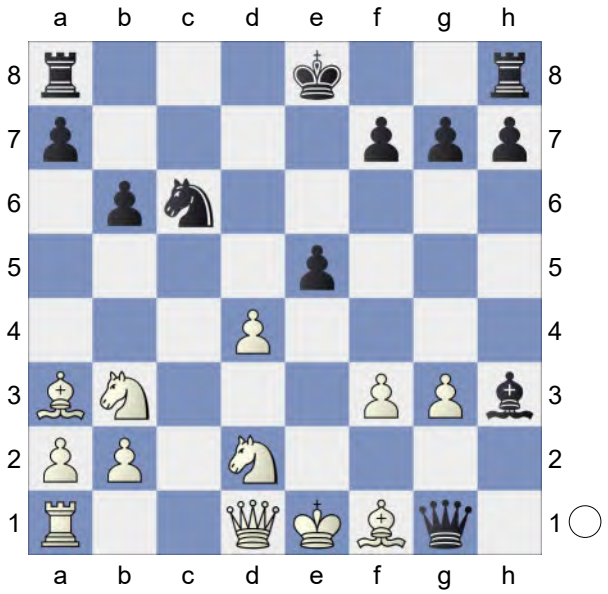
14...Bh3 15.N1d2↑ Hoping for dxe5. Black is under pressure. **15...b6!?** 0.73/22 A promising side line. Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante.

[15...0-0-0= 0.13/19 16.Qc2 Bxf1]



16.d5± 0.75/20

[Vorgänger: White should play 16.Ba3 0.16/19 16.d5 0.80 aiming for d5. Qg1! 0.95/20 *(⌓16...Qh2 1.40/22)*



17.Qe2!± 0.26/21 *(17.Rc1!± 0.62/21 Qxg3+ 18.Ke2)* 17...Qxg3+= 18.Kd1

aiming for Bxh3. Bxh3 is the strong threat. Bxf1 19.Qxf1 Hoping for Rc1. 0-0-0! Strongly threatening ...Kb7. 20.Rc1 Kb7 21.Rxc6 0.01/17 *(21.d5± 0.34/22 is more appropriate. Nd4 22.Nxd4 exd4 23.Be7 Rxd5 24.Qc4 Qg1+ 25.Nf1)* 21...Kxc6= 22.Na5+ bxa5 ½-½ Garcia Ramos,D (2435)-Santos Latasa,J (2672) ESP-ch 87th Linares 2022 (7)]

16...Rd8 1.50/20 **17.Qc2** 0.01/21 **Bxf1!=**

[17...bxc5 18.dxc6 0-0 19.Qe4± *(19.Qxc5± Bxf1 20.Nxf1 Qxf3±)*]

18.0-0-0 Qh6 0.55/21

[Don't do 18...bxc5 19.dxc6 *(19.Rxf1 Qh6±)* 19...Qh6 20.Rxf1 Qxc6 21.Rh1± *(21.Qxc5 Qxc5+ 22.Nxc5 h5=; 21.Nxc5 0-0±)*]

[18...Rxd5= 0.09/22 19.Rxf1 Qh6]

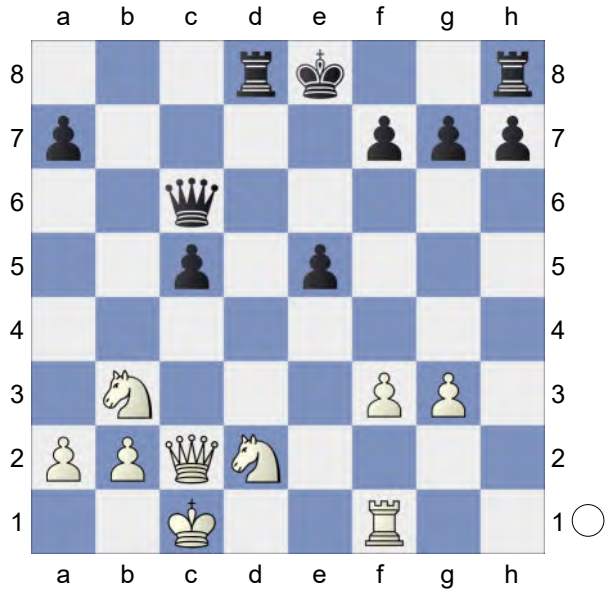
19.Rxf1 0.01/22

[19.dxc6± 0.55/21 Qxc6 20.Rxf1 bxc5 21.Kb1 *(21.Qxc5 Qxc5+ 22.Nxc5 h5=; 21.Nxc5 0-0±)*]

19...bxc5 0.48/21

[19...Rxd5= 0.01/22 should be considered. 20.Ba3 a5]

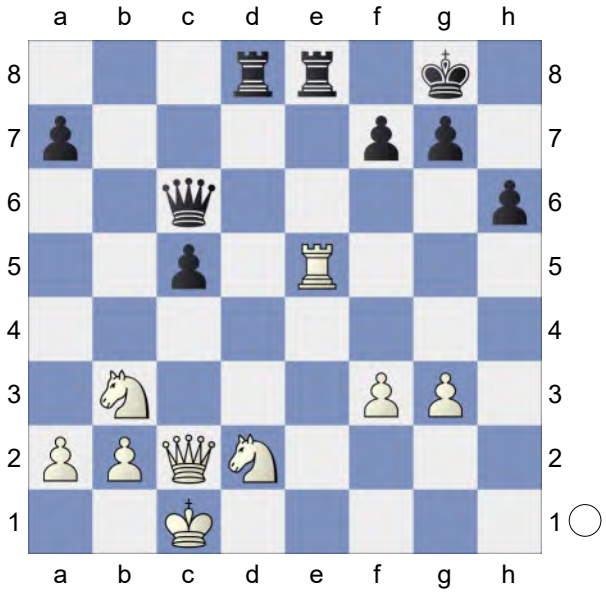
20.dxc6± Qxc6



21.Rh1 h6 22.Re1 0.19/21

[22.Qxc5± 0.59/21 Qxc5+ 23.Nxc5]

22...0-0= 23.Rxe5 Rfe8



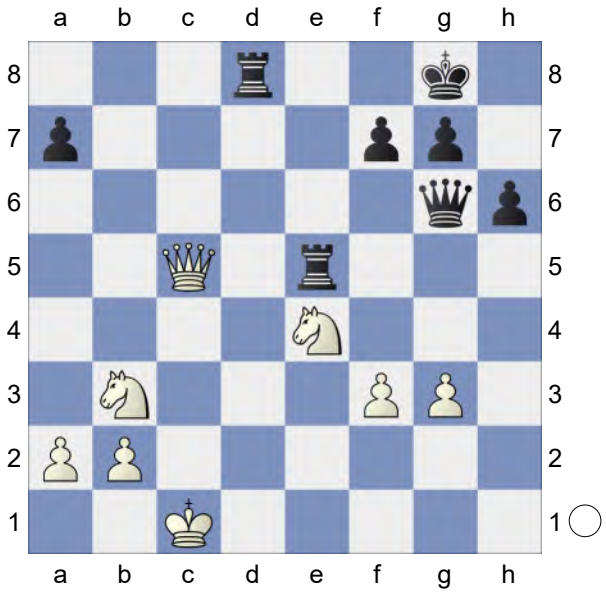
24.Qxc5 Qg6 0.53/22

[24...Qd7= 0.22/23 25.Rxe8+ Rxe8]

25.Ne4 0.13/18

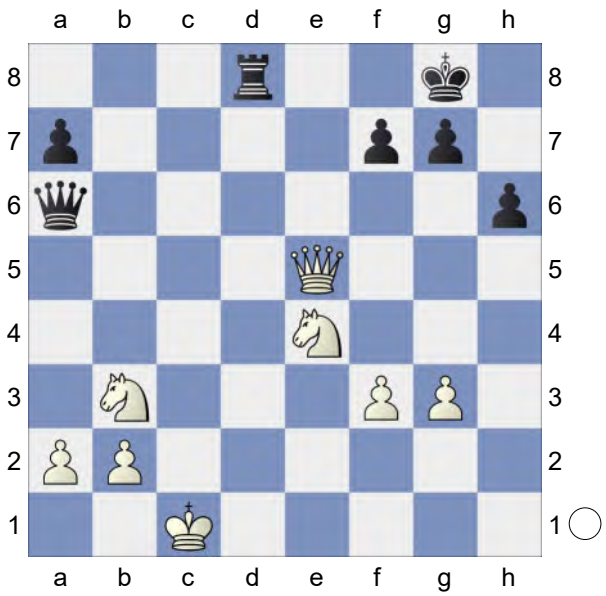
[25.Rxe8+± 0.53/22 Rxe8 26.Ne4]

25...Rxe5

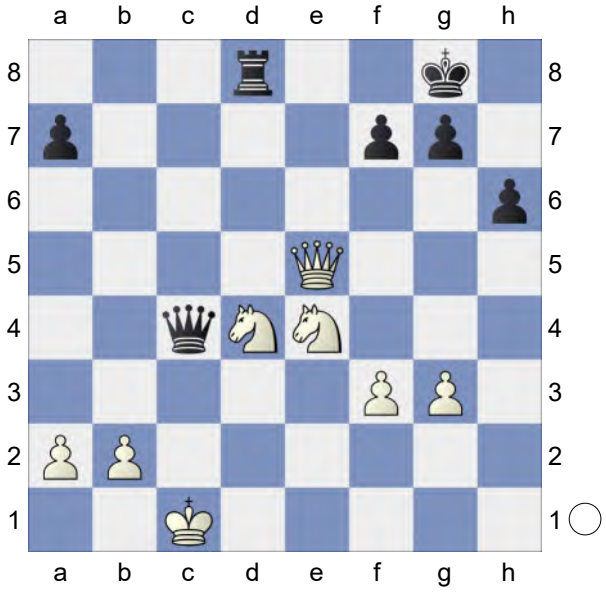


26.Qxe5 Qa6

(Diagram)



(-> ...Qf1+) **27.Nd4?** -4.18/24
[27.Nbc5= -0.01/21 and White is okay. Qf1+ 28.Kc2]
[27.Ned2= -0.01/19]
27...Qc4+

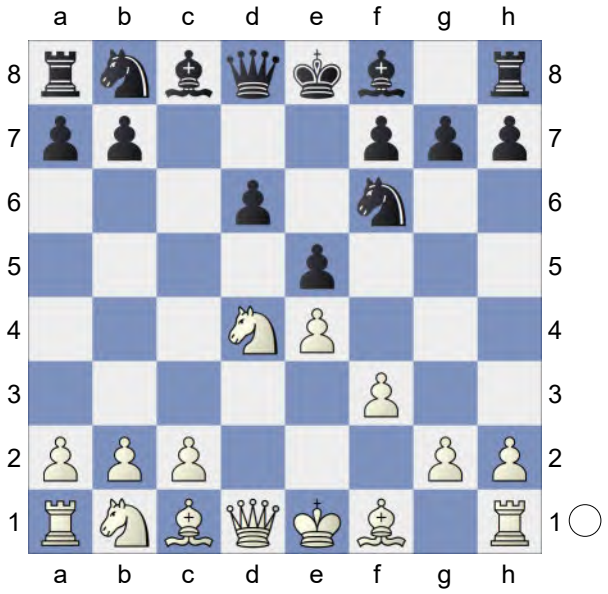


Weighted Error Value: White=0.63/ Black=0.17 (very precise)
Weighted Error Value: White=0.55/ Black=0.20 (precise)
0-1

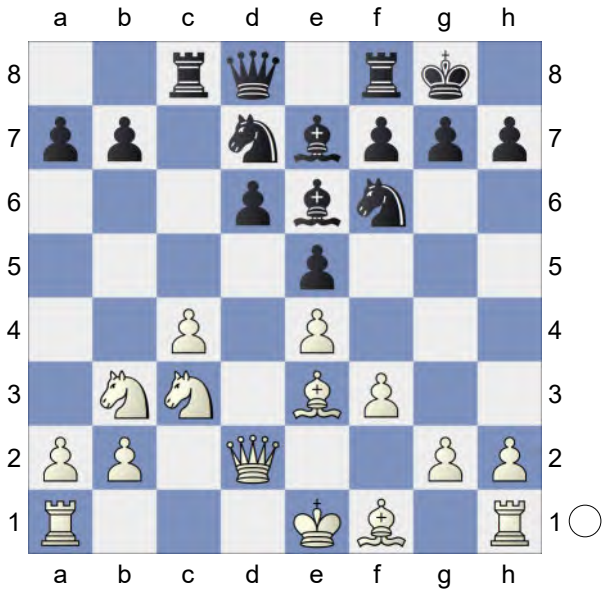
141 **B55**
□ **Timoshenko,Georgy** **2560**
■ **Anagnostopoulos,Dimitrios** **2475**
72/200 Linares 1998
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060

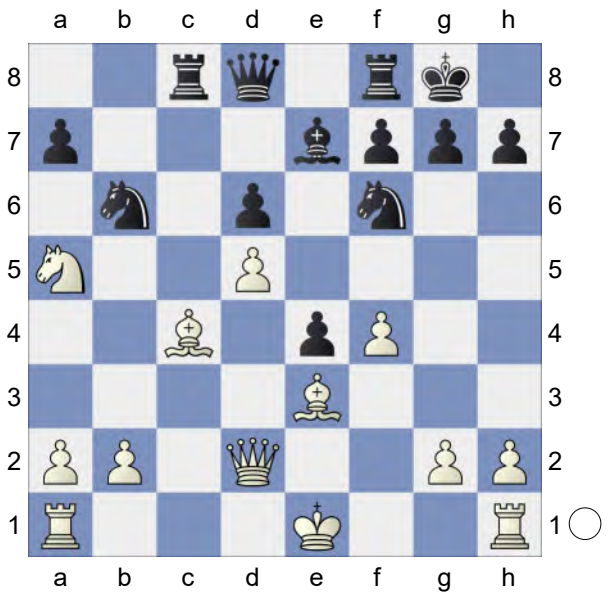
[Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



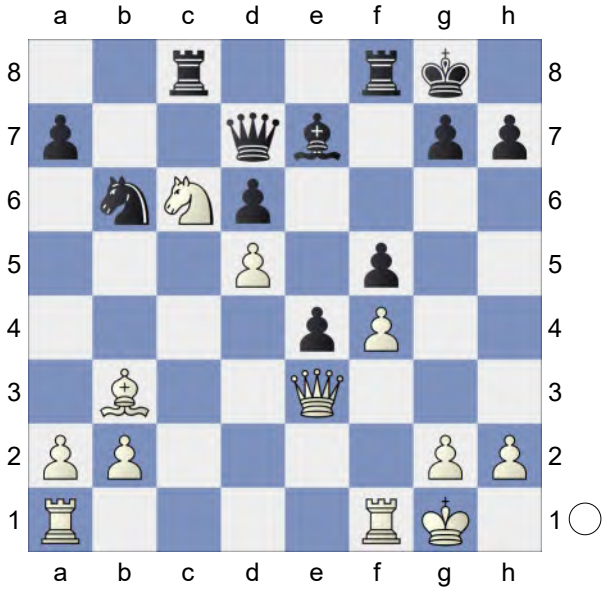
6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 Be7
[7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]
8.Be3 0-0 9.Nc3 Nbd7 10.Qd2 White has an edge. **10...Rc8**



11.Nd5 b5 12.Na5 Hoping for Nb7.
12...bxc4! 13.Bxc4 Bxd5 14.exd5 e4 15.f4 -0.07/21 Inhibits Ne5.
[White should play 15.Nc6± 0.54/20 Qe8 16.0-0 *(16.Bxa7 exf3 17.0-0 Ne5±)*]
15...Nb6

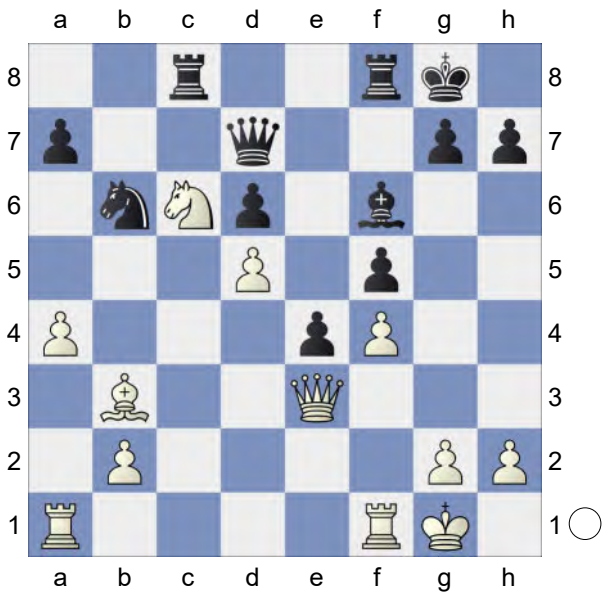


16.Bb3 Ng4 Pair of Knights! **17.Nc6 Qd7 18.0-0 Nxe3** 0.56/22
[18...Rfe8!= 0.14/18]
19.Qxe3± f5 0.83/19
[19...Nxd5± 0.39/20 is more appropriate. 20.Bxd5 Rxc6]

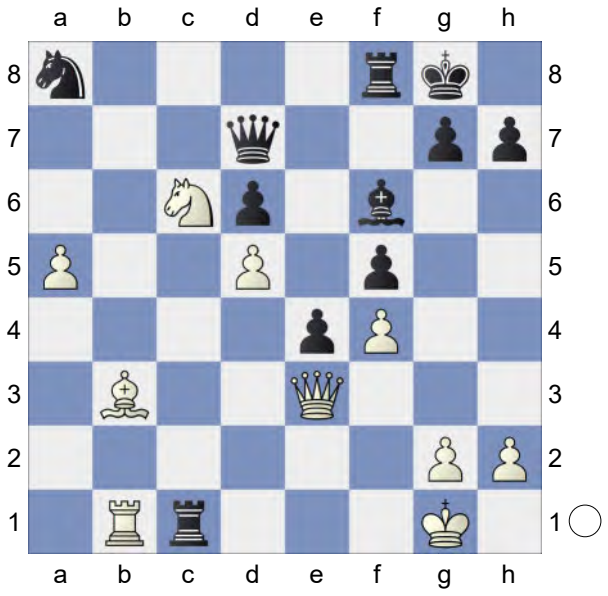


20.a4!± Bf6 1.52/21
[⌓20...Ra8 0.89/22]

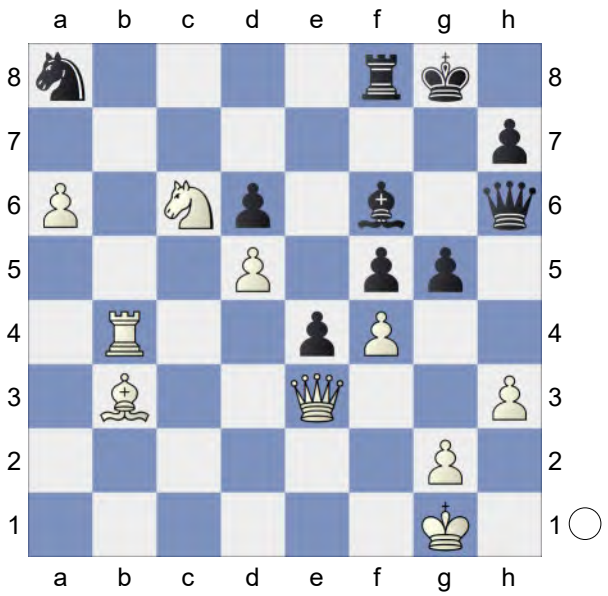
(Diagram)



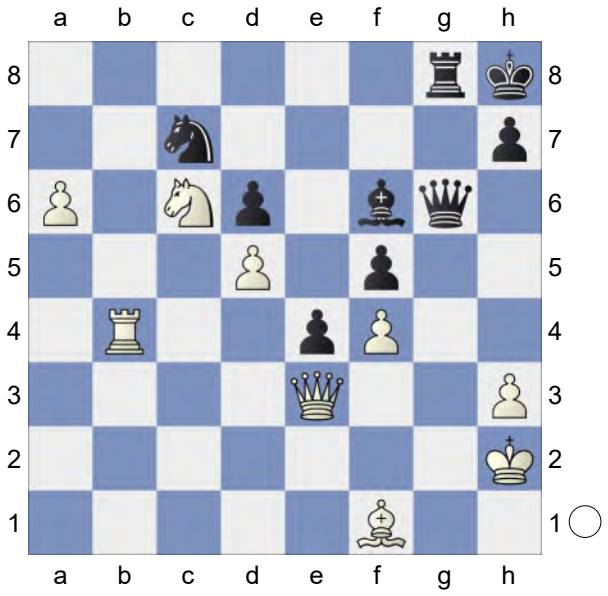
21.a5 Na8 22.Nxa7
[22.Qxa7? Qxa7+ 23.Nxa7 Bd4+ 24.Kh1 Bxa7-+]
22...Rc5 23.Nc6 Bxb2 ...Rc3 is the strong threat. **24.Rab1 Bf6** 2.35/21
[24...Bc3± 1.60/21]
25.Rfc1+- Rxc1+



26.Rxc1 Qb7 2.48/19
[26...Bb2 1.94/19 was worth a try.]
27.Rc4 g6 28.h3
[28.Rb4?! Qg7 29.a6 Bd8]
28...Qg7 29.a6 g5 30.Rb4 Qh6
(Diagram)



31.g3 gxf4 32.gxf4
[Don't take 32.Qxf4 Bg5 33.Qf1 Be3+ 34.Kg2 *(34.Kh1 Bb6±)* 34...Bb6±]
32...Kh8 33.Kh2? 0.63/22
[White should try 33.Bc4+- 2.18/22]
33...Rg8!± (-> ...Qg6) **34.Bc4!** And now Rb7 would win. **34...Qg6 35.Bf1** Against Qg2+. Strongly threatening Rb7. Active counter play!
35...Nc7



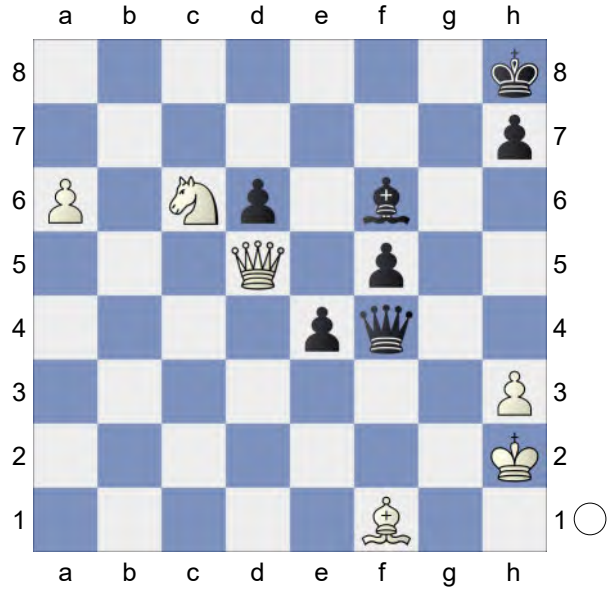
36.Rb8 aiming for a7. **36...Nxd5?** 4.81/21 A mistake that costs the game.

[Resist 36...Rxb8 37.Nxb8 Nxd5 38.Qd2±]
[36...Nxa6= 0.25/24 and Black is okay. 37.Rxg8+ Qxg8]

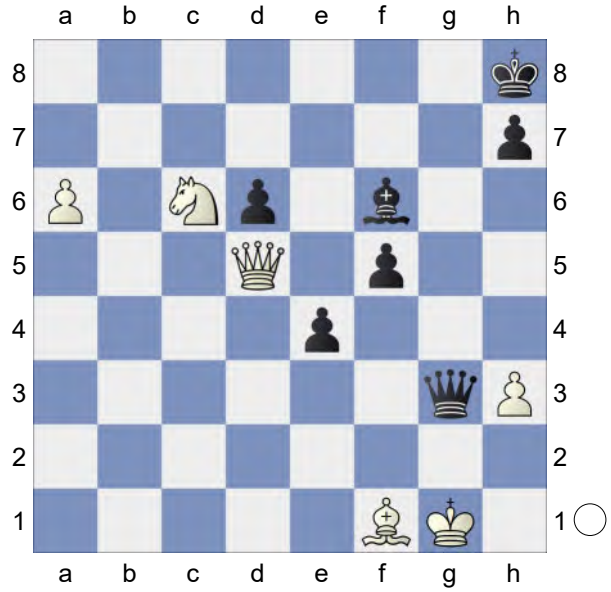
37.Rxg8++- Qxg8 38.Qa3 Qf8 6.25/20
[38...Nxf4? 39.a7 Qa8 40.Qxd6+-]
[38...Nc7 3.88/19 39.Qxd6 Qg7]

39.Qa5 White is clearly winning.

39...Qh6 40.Qxd5 Qxf4+



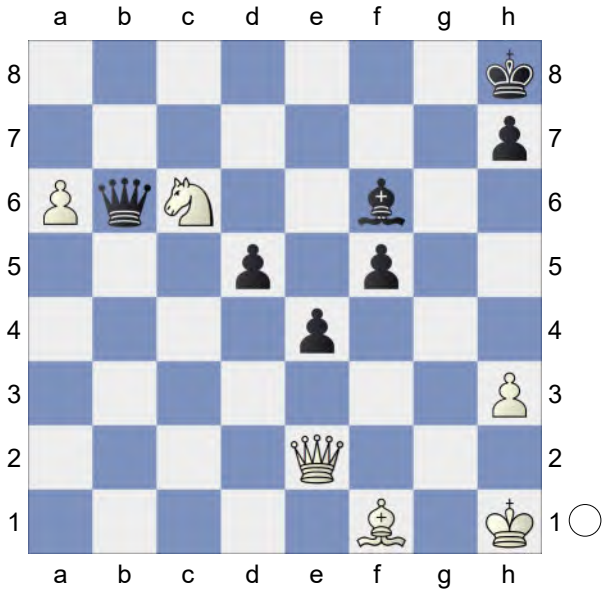
41.Kg1 Qg3+



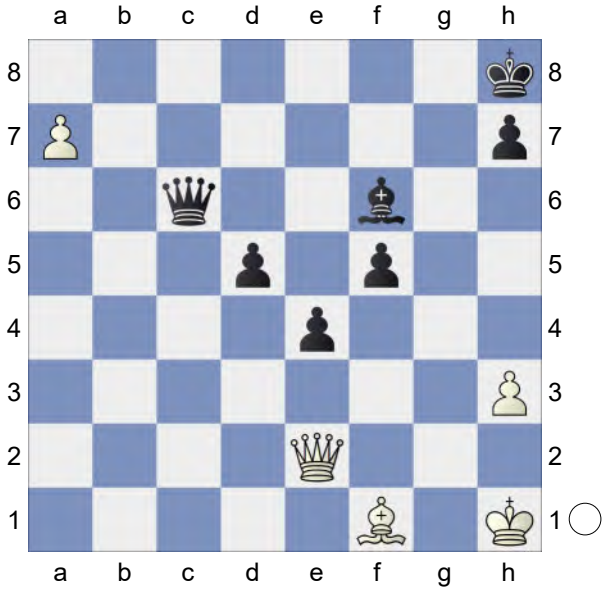
42.Kh1! Qf2 43.Qc4 4.82/22
[⌓43.Qb5 10.30/19 Threatens to win with a7. Kg7 44.a7 Qf3+ 45.Bg2 Qd1+ 46.Kh2]

43...d5 11.74/20
[⌓43...Qf3+ 4.82/22 44.Bg2 Qa3]

44.Qe2 Qb6

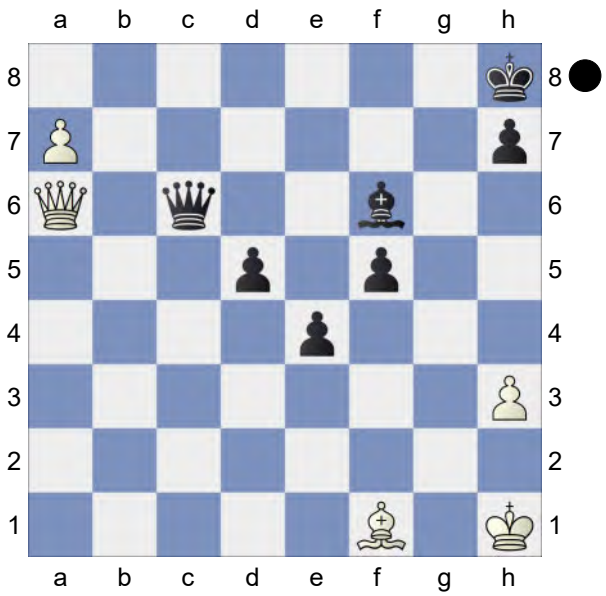


45.a7! Qxc6



46.Qa6

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.35/ Black=0.41

1-0

142 **B28**

□ **Carpentier,Pierre** **2545**

■ **Dizdar,Goran** **2200**

Montpellier op-A (1) 1997

[Kitty Kat]

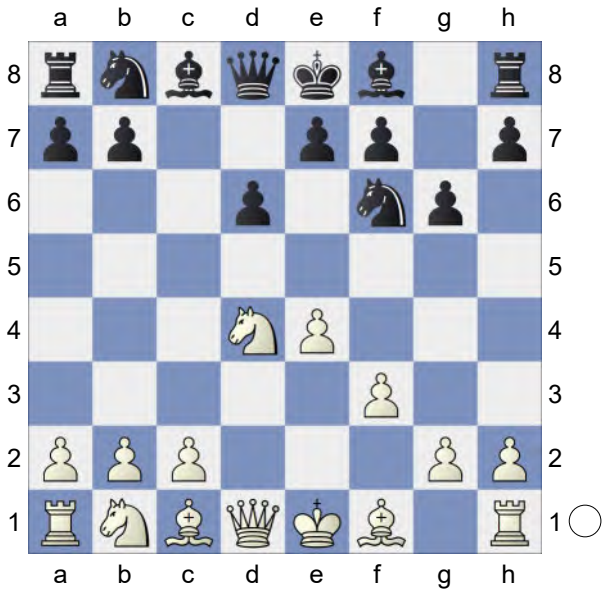
B28: Sicilian: 2 Nf3 a6 (O'Kelly Variation)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 g6N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

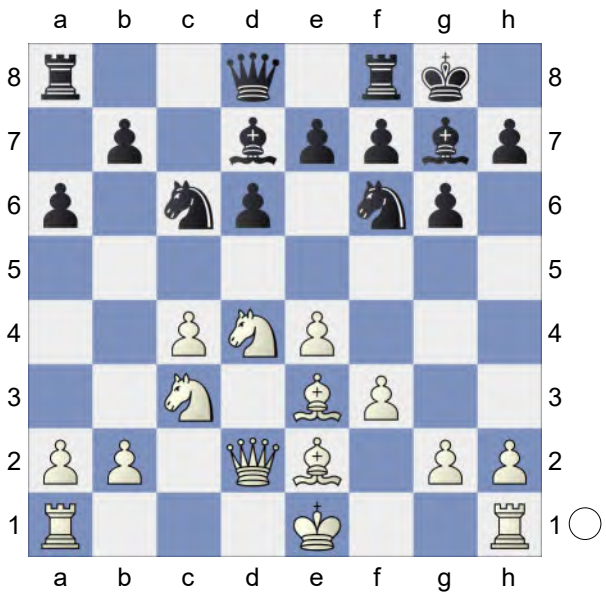
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

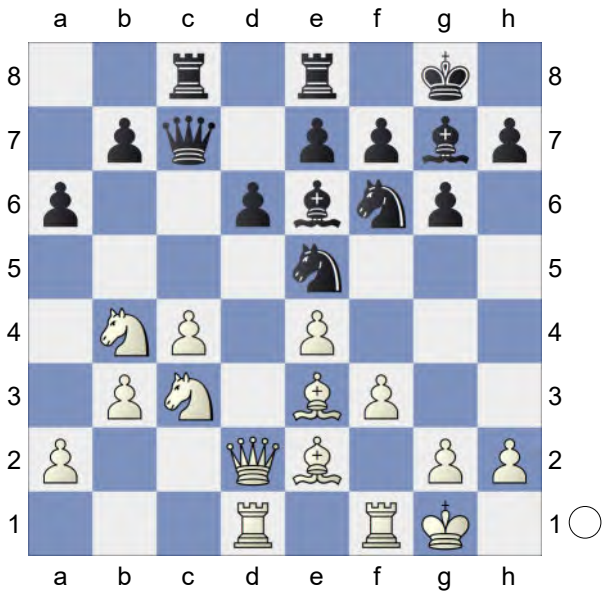


6.c4 Bg7 7.Be3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.Nc3 a6 10.Be2 Bd7

(Diagram)



11.Nc2 Re8 12.0-0 Ne5 13.Rad1 Rc8 14.b3 Qc7 15.Nb4 Be6

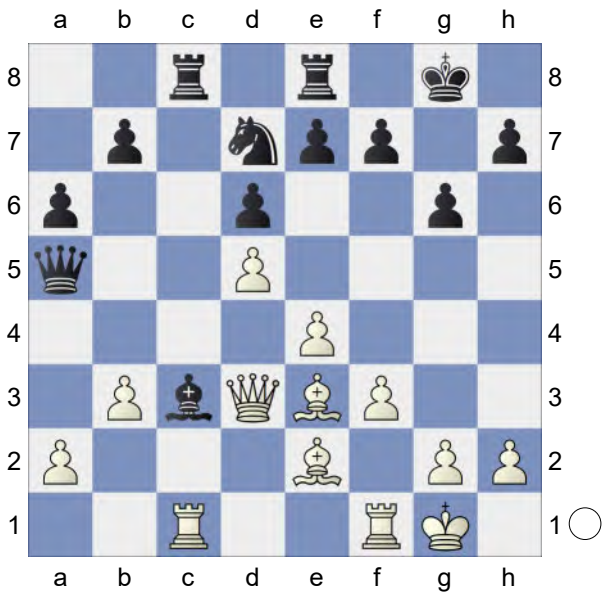


16.Nbd5 Bxd5 17.Nxd5 Nxd5 18.cxd5 0.29/23

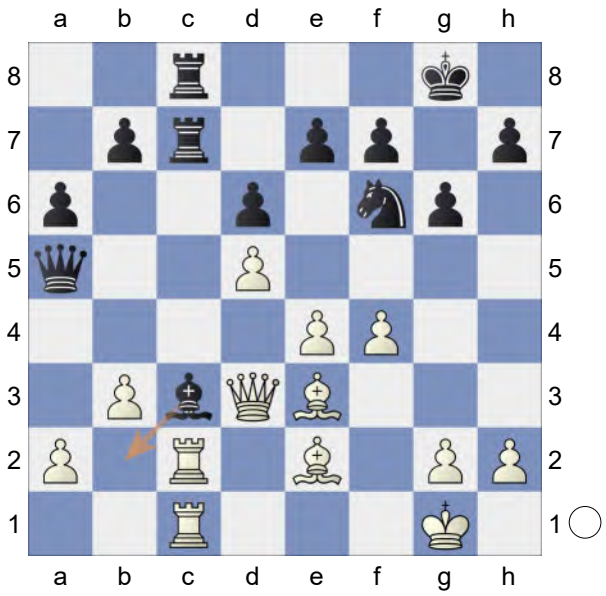
[18.exd5± 0.60/18 Nd7 19.f4]

18...Nd7= 19.Rc1 Bc3! 20.Qd3 Qa5

(Diagram)

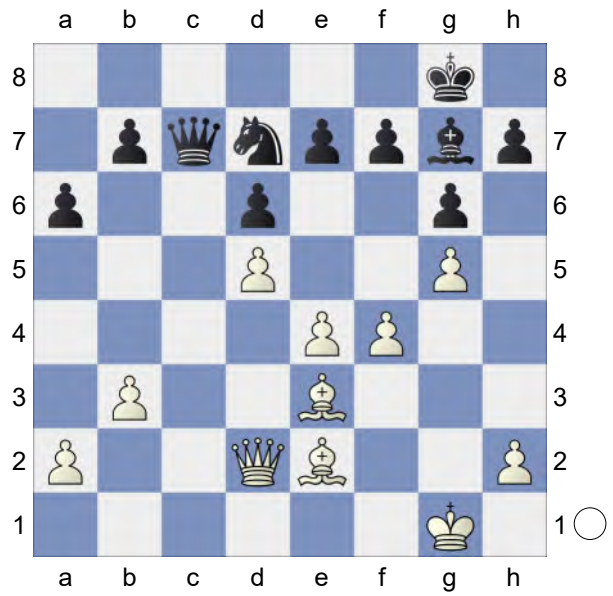


21.Rc2 Ne5 22.Qd1 Rc7 23.f4 Nd7 24.Qd3 Rec8 25.Rfc1 Nf6

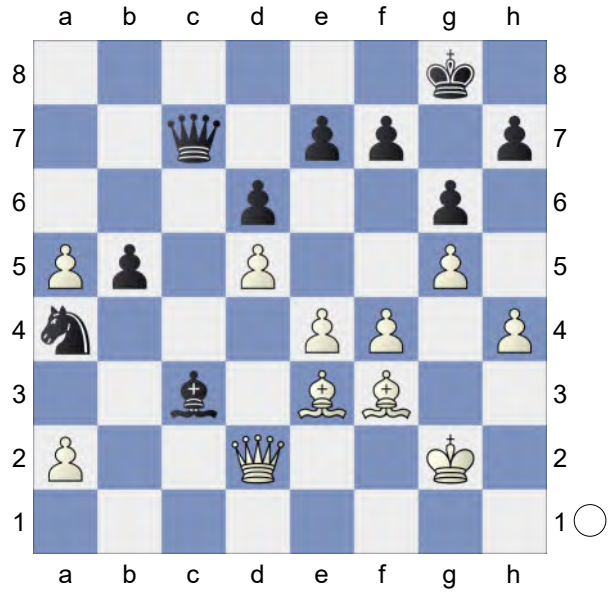


26.g4 Bb2 0.37/22 **27.Rxc7± Rxc7 28.Rxc7 Qxc7 29.g5 Nd7 30.Qd2** Against Bc1 **30...Bg7**

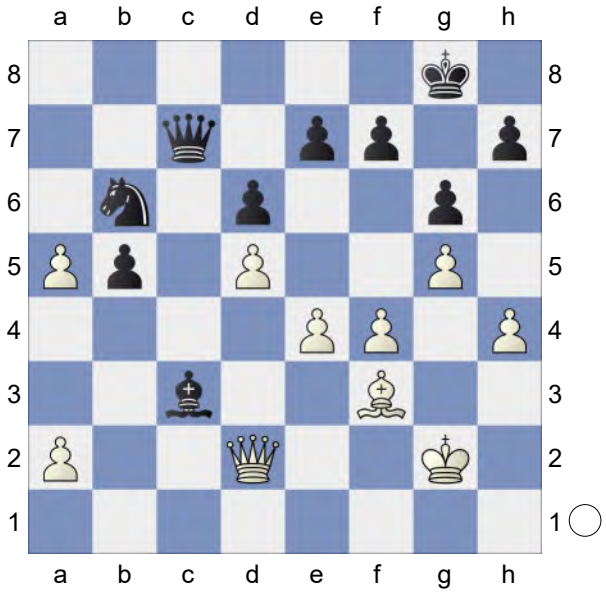
(Diagram)



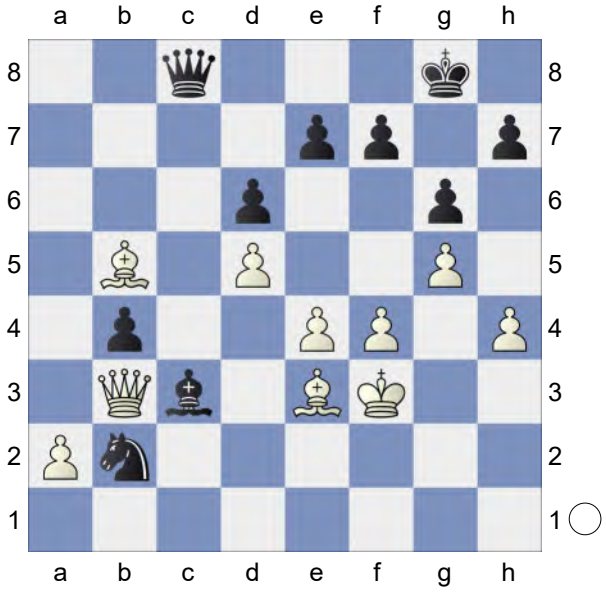
31.Kg2 Nc5 32.Bf3 a5 0.96/20
[32...h6± 0.64/17]
33.h4 0.44/20
[33.Qc2!± 0.96/20]
33...b5 1.28/19
[Better is 33...a4± 0.44/20]
34.b4 -0.01/19
[34.Qc1± 1.28/19]
34...Na4 0.50/21
[34...axb4= -0.01/19 35.Qxb4 Nd3 36.Qxb5 Ne1+ 37.Kg3 Nxf3]
35.bxa5 Strongly threatening e5!
35...Bc3



Inhibits e5. **36.Qc2** 0.01/23
[36.Bb6!± 1.12/21 Nxb6 *(36...Qc8 37.Qc1)*

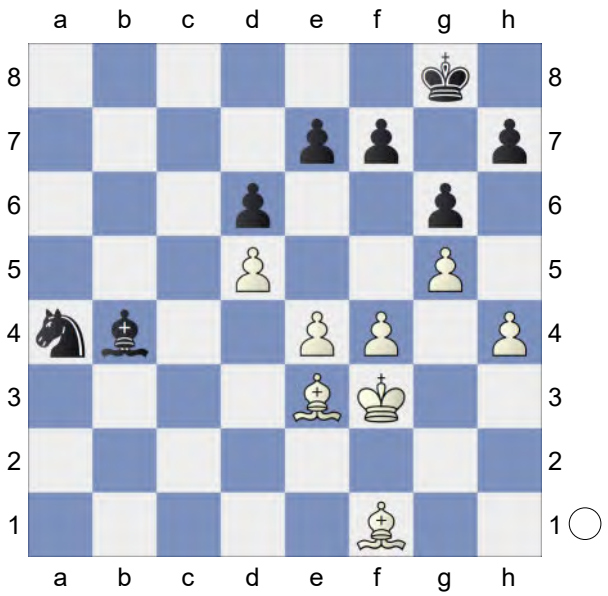


37.axb6!]
36...Qxa5= 37.Be2 b4 38.Kf3 Nb2 39.Qb3↑ White is pushing. **39...Qa8 40.Bb5 Qc8**



41.Bf1 Inhibits Qh3+. **41...Qd7** 0.58/22
[41...h5= -0.17/21 42.gxh6 Kh7]
42.a3± White is slightly better. **42...Qa4 43.Qxa4 Nxa4 44.axb4 Bxb4**

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise) . Loss on time!?

0-1

143 **B55**

□ **Danin,Alexandre** **2543**

■ **Edouard,Romain** **2640**

EU-ch 18th Minsk (9) 08.06.2017

[Edouard,Romain]

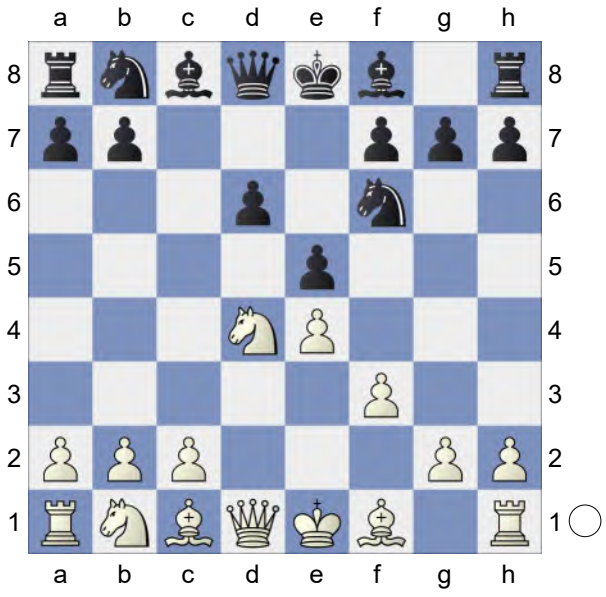
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 Edouard,R **1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N**

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

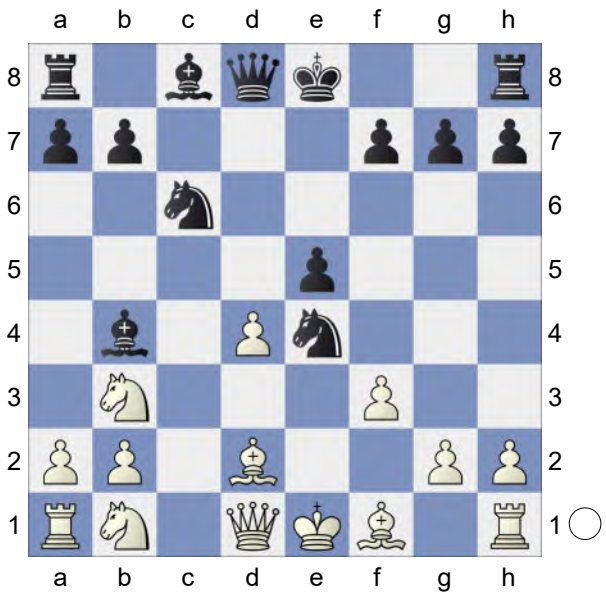


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.cxd4 Bb4+

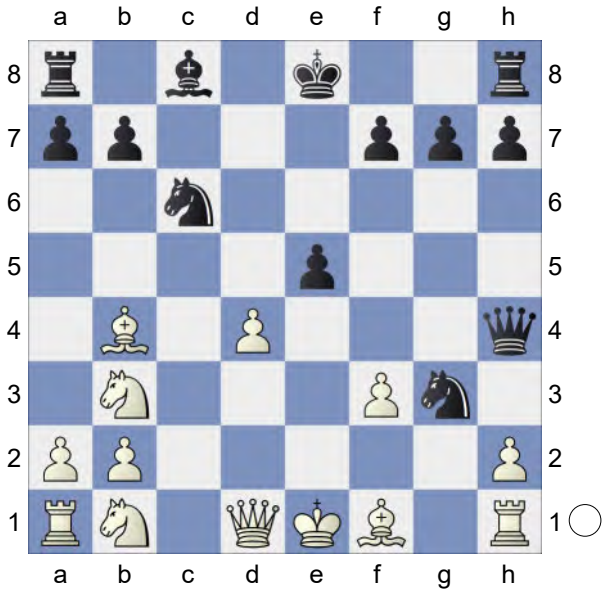
[9...Nxd4 10.Nc3±]

10.Bd2 Nxe4

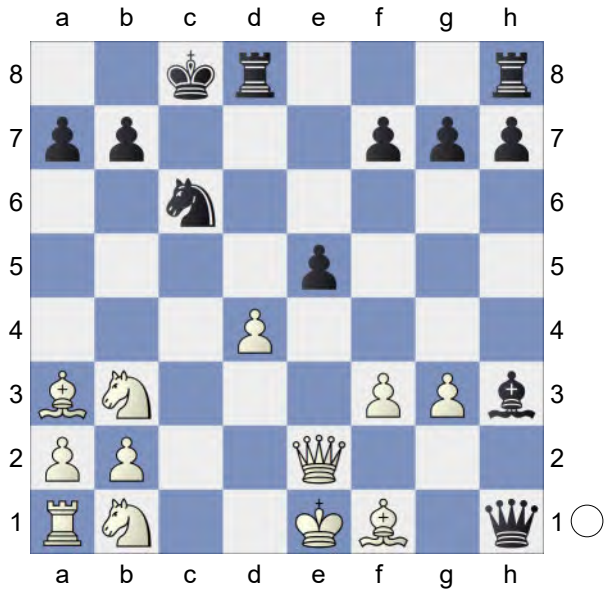
(Diagram)



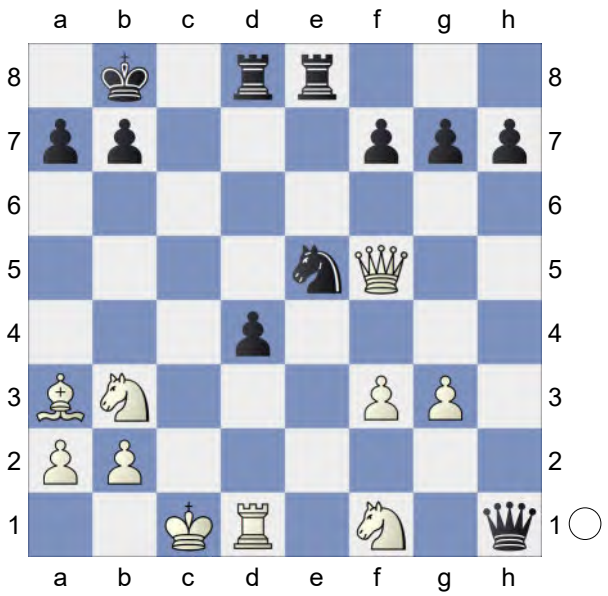
11.Bxb4 Qh4+! 12.g3 Nxg3



13.hxg3 Qxh1
[13...Qxg3+]
14.Ba3 0.09/18
[14.Bc5!± 0.42/20
is more appropriate.]
14...Bh3= 15.Qe2 N1d2 is the strong threat.
[15.N1d2+- 0-0-0! *(15...Bxf1* 0.67/18 15...0-0-0 0.03 *16.Nxf1 0-0-0 17.d5* Threatens to win with Qd3. *e4!* Prevents Qd3. *18.f4+- h5!* Prevents Qg4+.*)* 16.Qc2 Bxf1 *(16...exd4 17.0-0-0* should lead to a drawn h+f ending. *Bxf1!? 18.Qf5+ Kb8* followed by ...b5 also gives good drawing chances, a h+f ending being the most probable outcome. White missed the invisible win *19.Rxf1)* 17.0-0-0 Qh5! 18.Rxf1 exd4 19.Kb1 Rhe8]
15...0-0-0!?

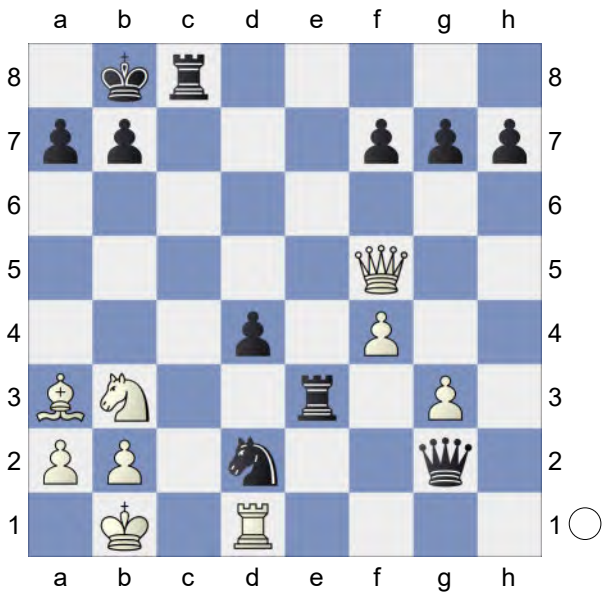


A very interesting deviation from the main line 15...♕b6. Black wants to play ...♗e5 and White will have to watch out for ...♕h4. Then if Black can organise his pieces in the centre in decent fashion, he will be completely fine. **16.N1d2 Bxf1**
[16...exd4!? 17.0-0-0 Bxf1 18.Rxf1 Rhe8=]
17.Nxf1 -0.66/20 A really weird move - the only idea being to prevent ...♕h4 in the less subtle way.
[17.Qxf1 Qxf1+ 18.Kxf1]
[17.Qxf1= -0.01/22 Qh2 18.Qf2 Qh1+ 19.Qf1 *(19.Ke2 Qh6=)* 19...Qxf1+ 20.Kxf1]
17...exd4∓ 18.0-0-0 aiming for Nh2.
18...Rhe8 19.Qd3
[19.Qf2]
19...Kb8 20.Qf5 Ne5



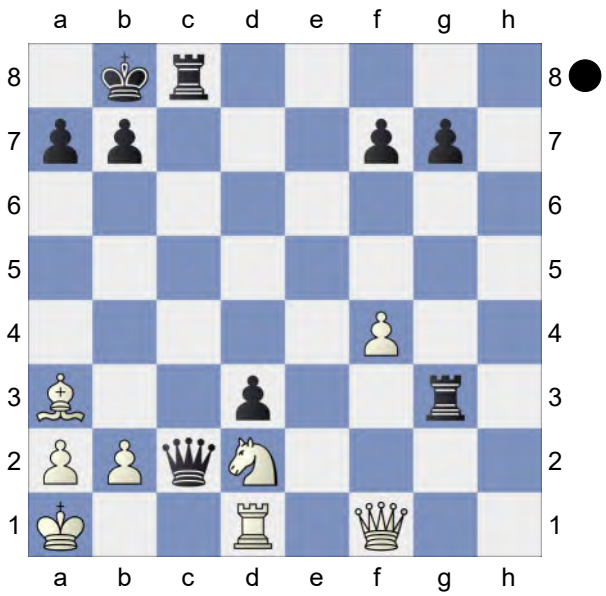
21.Nfd2 Qg2
[21...Rc8+?! 22.Nc5 Qg2 23.Qe4=]
22.f4 -1.57/23
[⌓22.Nc5 -0.74/19]
22...Rc8+ -0.70/22
[22...Nf3 White must now prevent ... Nxd2. 23.Qd3-+ *(23.Nxf3 Qxf3!+-)* 23...Re3 24.Qf1+- *(24.Qf5?* -6.46/21 24.Qf1 -1.65 *Nxd2 25.Nxd2+- Qe2!?* Prevents Nc4. *)* 24...Qxg3]
[22...Nf3∓ -1.57/23 Strongly threatening ...Nxd2. 23.Qg4 Nxd2 24.Nxd2 Qc6+ 25.Kb1 d3]
23.Kb1 Nf3 24.Qd3 -0.86/21
[Don't play 24.Bd6+ Ka8 25.Nxf3 Qxf3∓]
[24.Bc5!= -0.20/21]
24...Re3!∓ 25.Qf5 Threatening mate with Bd6+. **25...Nxd2+!?→**

(Diagram)

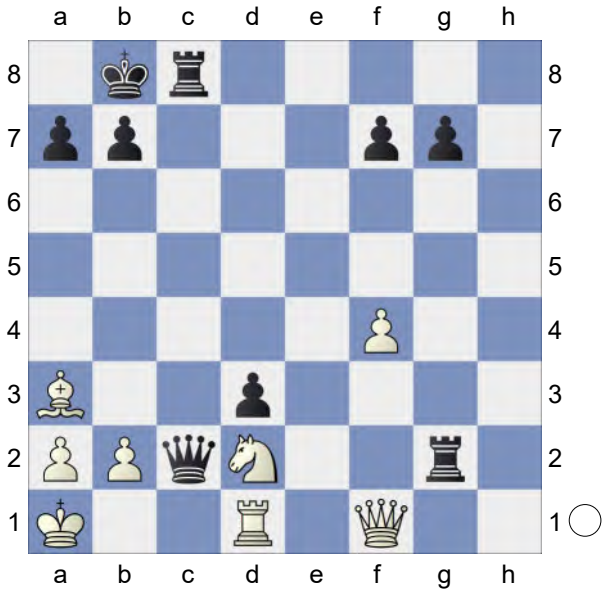


Black has strong attack. **26.Nxd2** Bd6+ would kill now. **26...Qc6** Against Bd6+
[26...Qe2? 11.32/24 26...Qc6 -0.82]
[26...Qxd2?? 27.Bd6+]
27.Qxh7 d3 (-> ...Qc1+!)
[Much weaker is 27...Rxg3?! 28.Qe4=]
28.Qh1
[28.Ka1? Qc1+!! 29.Nb1 Qxd1-+]
28...Rxg3 0.01/22
[28...Qc2+∓ -0.82/20 29.Ka1 Rxg3]
29.Qf1 -1.46/21
[29.Qxc6= 0.01/22 remains equal. Rxc6 30.Ne4]
29...Qc2+ 30.Ka1

(Diagram)

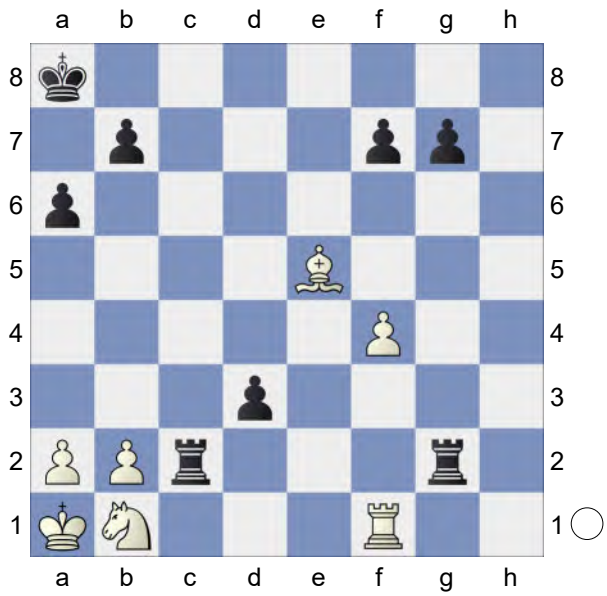


Rg2!!

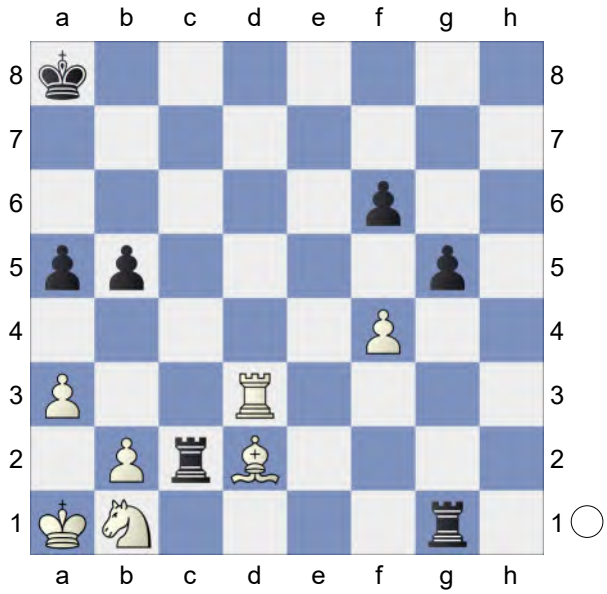


31.Nb1 Qe2 32.Bd6+ Ka8 33.Be5 a6 -0.91/22
[Black should play 33...g5!-+ -1.74/18 Hoping for ...gxf4. 34.Qh1 g4]
34.Re1 Qxf1 A dumb move played with a few seconds on the clock. **35.Rxf1 Rcc2** -0.43/21
[35...f6∓ -0.83/18 36.Bc3 b6]

(Diagram)

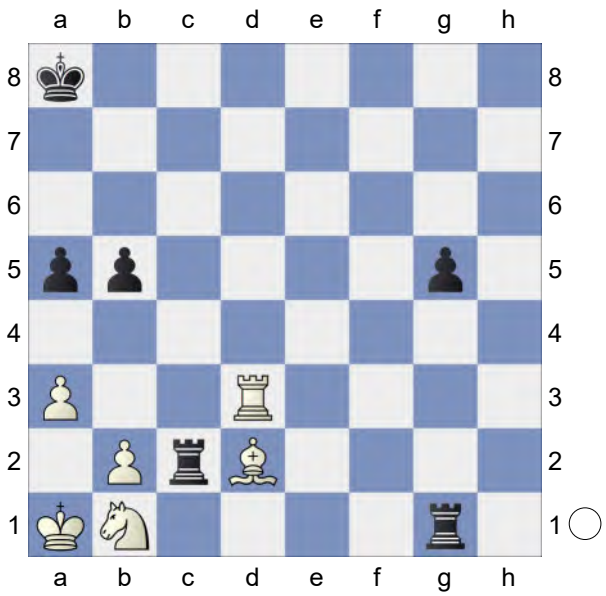


36.Rd1!∓ f6 37.Bc3 b5 -0.01/21
[Better is 37...Rg3∓ -0.98/20 With the idea ...Rf2. 38.Nd2 b6]
38.a3!= a5 39.Rxd3 Rg1 And now ... Rcc1 would win. **40.Bd2** Inhibits Rcc1.
[But not 40.Bxa5? Rcc1 41.Rd8+ Kb7 42.Rd7+ Ka6-+]
40...g5 1.23/20
[40...a4= -0.01/22 keeps the balance.]

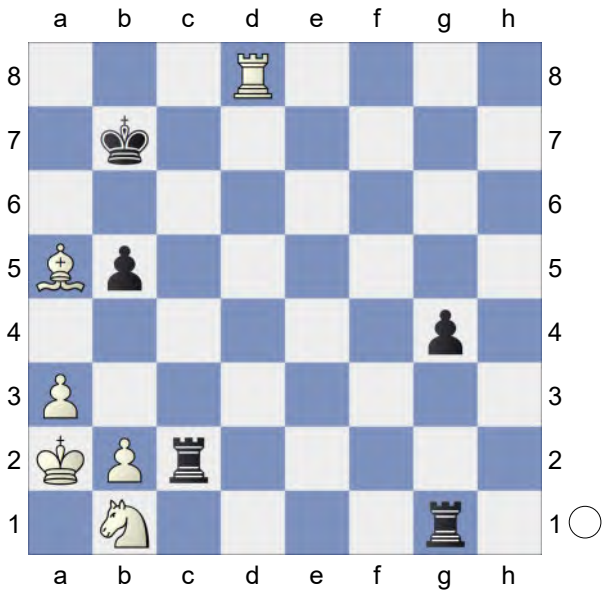


41.fxg5!± fxg5

(Diagram)

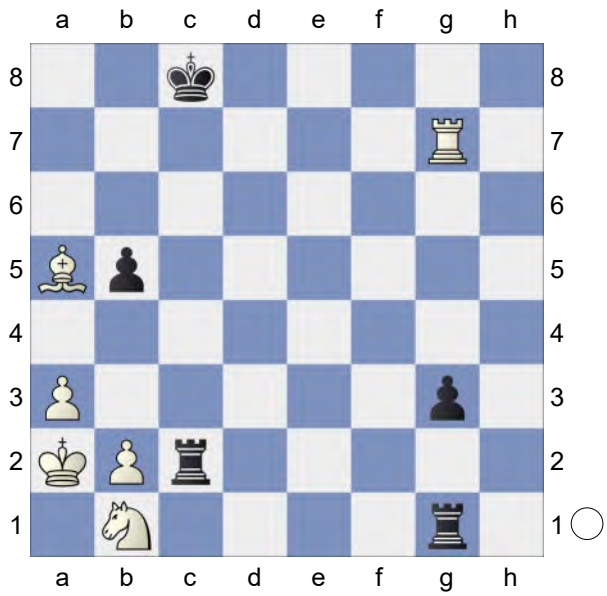


42.Ka2! Kb7 2.30/21
[42...a4± 1.01/19]
43.Bxa5+- g4 44.Rd7+ Kc8 45.Rd8+ Kb7

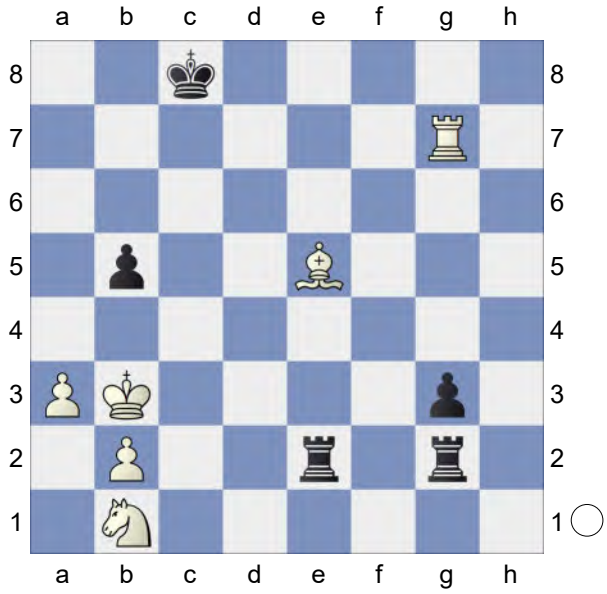


46.Rd7+? -0.01/19
[White must play 46.Nd2!+- 2.04/21]
46...Kc8!= 47.Rg7 g3 1.62/24
[47...Rgg2± 1.18/25 was called for. 48.Bc3 g3]

(Diagram)

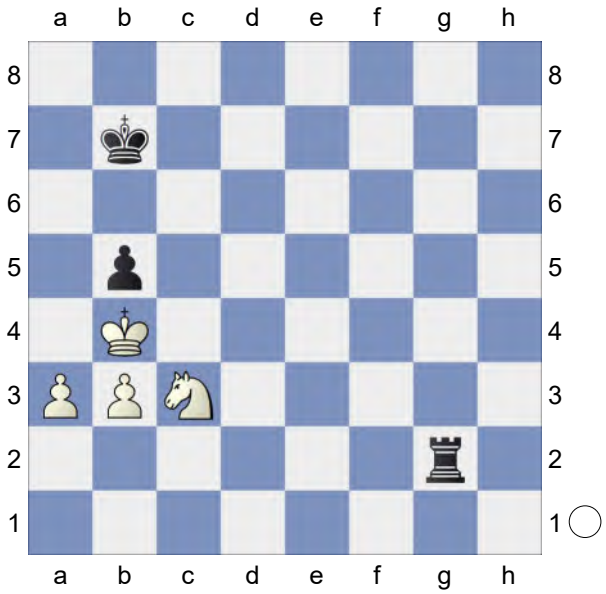


48.Kb3! 1.18/22 **Rgg2± 49.Bc3 Rcf2? 50.Be5 Re2**

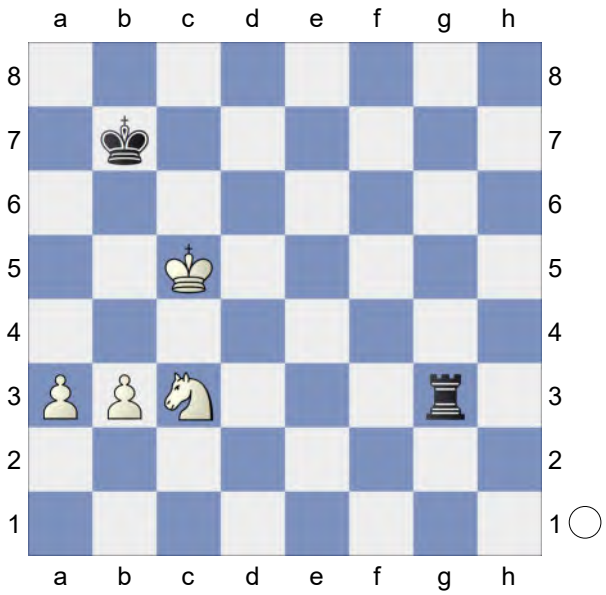


51.Rxg3 -0.01/28 **Rxg3+=**
Remove Defender. The position is equal.
52.Bxg3 Re3+ 53.Nc3 Rxg3
Endgame KR-KN **54.Kb4 Rg2??**
A terrible hallucination. **55.b3 Kb7**

(Diagram)



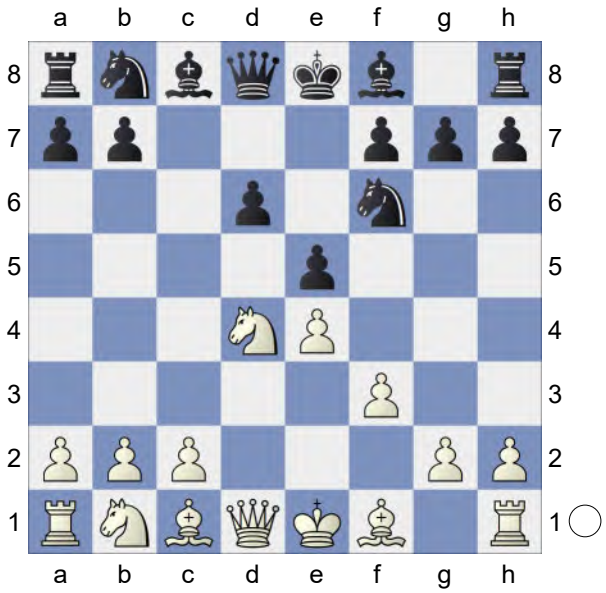
56.Kxb5 Rg3 57.Kc4 Rg4+ 58.Kc5 Rg5+ 59.Kd4 Rg4+ 60.Kc5 Rg3



Never resign too early!
Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise) .
Loss on time!? A last cheap trick.
1-0

144 **B55**
□ **Li,Shilong** **2539**
■ **Wang,Yaoyao** **2434**
CHN-chT 2nd Chiva (13) 07.11.2006
[Krasenkow,M/Primel,D]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5

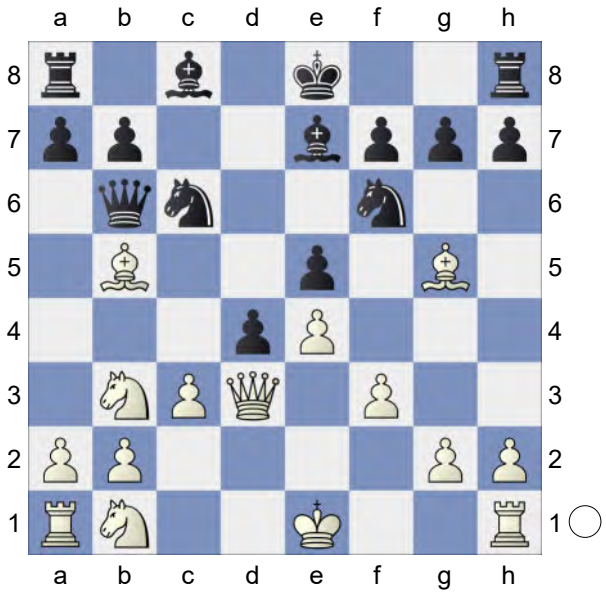


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.Bb5 Qb6
[9...h6]
10.Qd3
[10.Qe2⩲ Be7 *(10...Be6 11.cxd4 exd4 12.N1d2 a6 13.Bc4 Be7 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.Nc4 Qb5 16.e5 d3 17.Qxd3 Nxe5 18.Nxe5 Qxe5+ 19.Qe3 Bb4+ 20.Kf1 Qxe3 21.Bxe3 Rc8 22.Rc1 Rxc1+ 23.Nxc1 Ke7 24.Nd3 Bd6 25.Ke2 Rc8 26.h3 e5 27.Rc1)* 11.Bh4 *(11.cxd4 exd4 12.N1d2 0-0)* ⩱11...Nh5 *(11...0-0 12.Bf2 Rd8)* 12.Bxe7 Kxe7 13.g3 Rd8 Krasenkow 14.N1d2 ½-½ Grischuk,A (2719)-Radjabov,T (2751) Elista FIDE GP 2008 (13) dxc3 15.bxc3 Be6 16.Bc4 Nf6 17.Rb1 Rac8 *(17...Bh3)* 18.Bxe6 fxe6

19.Nc4 Qc7 20.0-0 b6]
[10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.cxd4 Ba6
A) 12.dxe5 Nd7 13.Qd4 *(13.Qd2 Nxe5 14.Be3 Qc7 15.Kf2 Bd6 16.g3 0-0 17.Qa5 Qxa5 18.Nxa5 f5 19.Kg2 fxe4 20.fxe4 Ng4 21.Re1 Bb4)* 13...Qxd4 14.Nxd4 Nxe5 15.Kd2 *(15.Nc3 h6 16.Bh4 Nd3+ 17.Kd2 Nxb2 18.Kc2 Nc4 19.Rhe1 Rb8 20.Nb3 Bb4± ½-½ Primel,D-Bianchi,G (2177) Plancoet 2011 21.Bf2 0-0 22.Bxa7≅ Na3+ 23.Kb2 Bxc3+ 24.Kxa3 Ra8)* 15...h6 16.Bh4 ½-½ Xu,J (2655)-Ye,J (2671) Tan Chin Nam Cup 7th 2001 (3) g5 Plus populaire depuis quelques années 17.Bg3 Bg7 18.Na3 *(18.Kc2 Nc4 19.e5)* 18...0-0-0 19.Kc3 Nxf3 20.gxf3 Rxd4;
B) 12.Na3 Rd8 Gelfand,B (2738)-Giri,A (2730) London 2012 ½-½ *(12...Bb4+ 13.Bd2 Bxa3 14.bxa3 0-0 15.Ba5 Qb5 16.a4 Qxa4 17.dxe5 Nxe4 18.fxe4 Qxe4+ 19.Kf2 Qxe5 20.Qf3 Qb2+ 21.Bd2≅)* 13.Rc1 L'alternative *(13.Bd2 exd4 14.Ba5 Bb4+* 1-0 Wojtaszek,R (2726)-Nijboer,F (2584) Tata Steel-B 73rd 2011 (5) *15.Bxb4N Qxb4+ 16.Qd2* Kotronias "Mar Del Plata vol II" *Qb6* La grande ligne qui est plus solide *17.Rc1 Nd7 18.Nc4 Bxc4 19.Rxc4 c5)* 13...exd4 14.Nc4 Qb5 *(14...Bxc4 15.Rxc4 d3 16.Qd2)* 15.e5 Qd5 16.exf6 Bxc4 17.Kf2 Qxg5 18.Rxc4 Qe3+ 19.Kf1]

10...Be7

[10...Be6 11.cxd4 exd4 12.N1d2 *(12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Qxd4 Bxb3 14.Qxb6 axb6)* 12...Bb4 13.0-0 0-0 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Bxc6 Bxd2 16.Nxd2 bxc6 17.b3 Kh8 18.f4 Rad8 19.Rf3 Rg8 20.Raf1 Qa5 21.f5 Bc8]
[10...Nd7 11.N1d2 *(11.Bxc6!* Un meilleur ordre de coups que dans la partie *bxc6 12.cxd4 Ba6 13.Qd2 exd4 14.Qxd4 Qb5; 11.cxd4 Nb4* ½-½ (18) Naumann,A (2541)-Chevelevitch,E (2456) Bad Woerishofen 2008 *12.Qe2 a6 13.Bxd7+ Bxd7 14.Nc3 Rc8)* 11...dxc3 12.bxc3 a6 13.Bxc6 Qxc6 14.Nc4 f6]



11.cxd4 0-0

[11...exd4 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Qxd4 c5 14.Qa4+ Bd7 15.Qa5 c4 16.Qxb6 axb6 17.Nd4 b5 18.Nc2 b4 19.a3]

12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.dxe5 Ng4

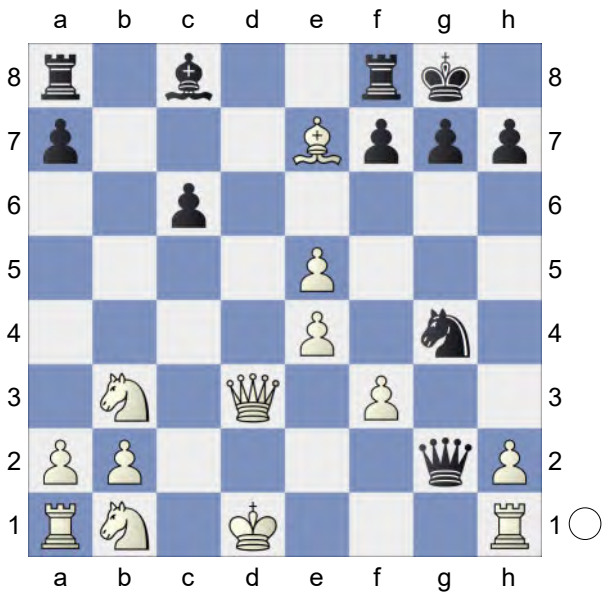
[13...Ba6 14.Qd4-+]

14.Bxe7

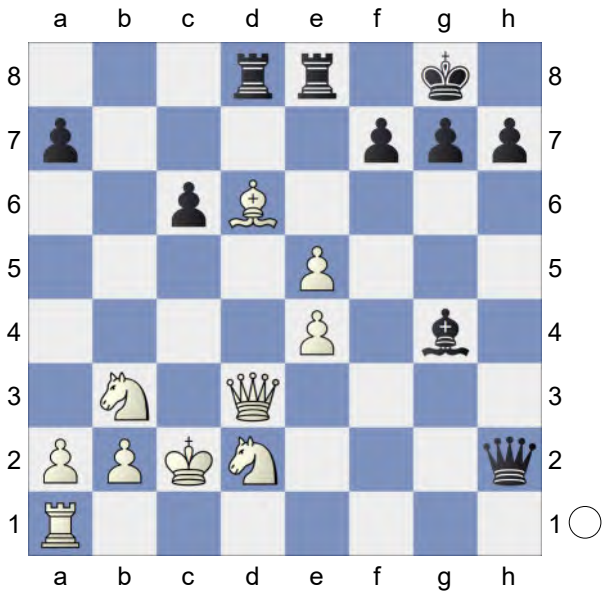
[14.fxg4 Bxg5]

14...Qf2+ 15.Kd1 Qxg2

(Diagram)



16.fxg4 Bxg4+ 17.Kc1 Qxh1+ 18.Kc2 Qxh2+ 19.N1d2 Rfe8 20.Bd6?! Rad8



21.Qf1

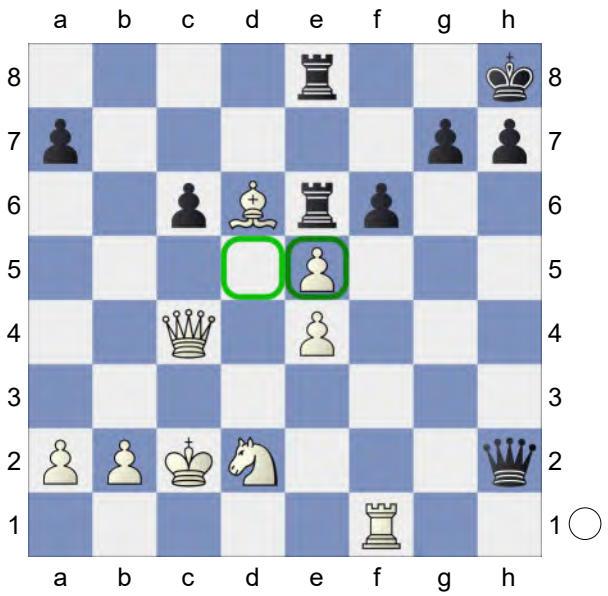
[21.Nc5]

21...Be6 22.Nd4! f6□

[22...h5 23.Qg1]

23.Nxe6 Rxe6⇄ 24.Qc4 Rde8 25.Rf1 Kh8

(Diagram)



26.Qxc6?! Trop lent **26...fxe5 27.Qd7↻**

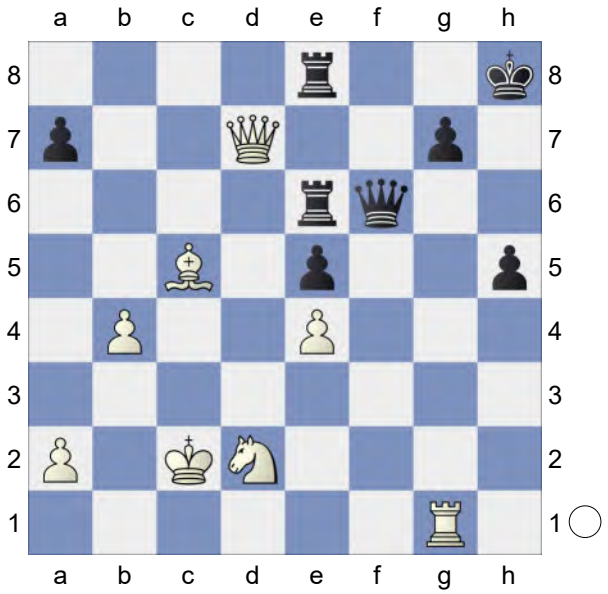
Les Blancs ont encore des bonnes compensations mais si les Noirs arrivent à terminer le développement et jouer ♗g7, le centre Noir sera très fort

27...Qh6 28.b4 Qg6 29.Bc5 h5∓ 30.Rg1

[30.a4]

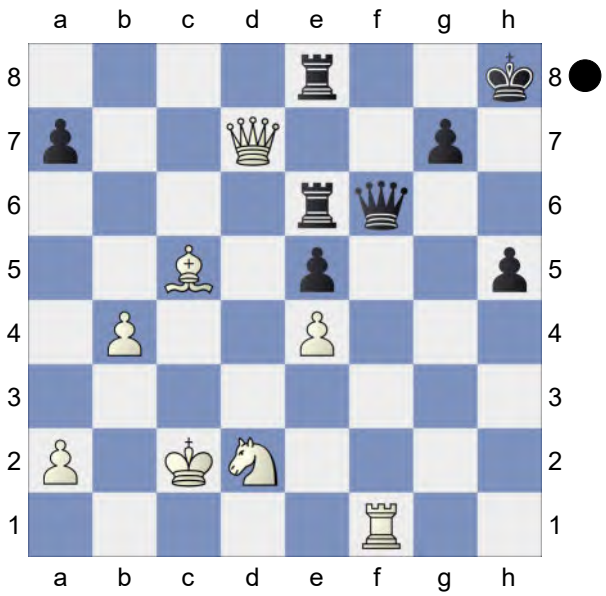
[30.Rh1]

30...Qf6



31.Rf1 Qg6 32.Rg1 Qf6 33.Rf1

(Diagram)



0-1

145 **B55**
Mastrovasilis,Dimitrios **2537**
Vyval,Volodymyr **2269**
EU-ch Rapid Skopje (11) 08.12.2024
[Kitty Kat]

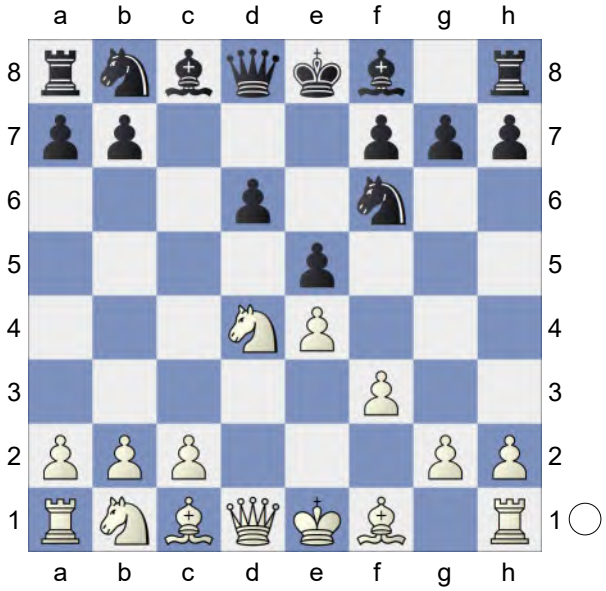
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

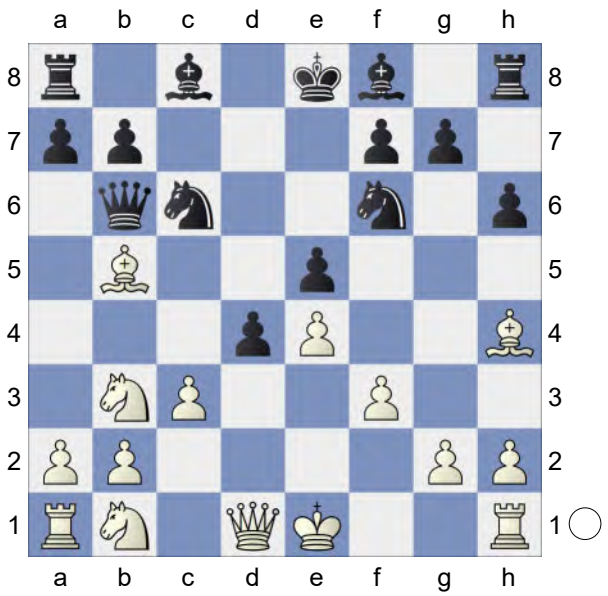
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

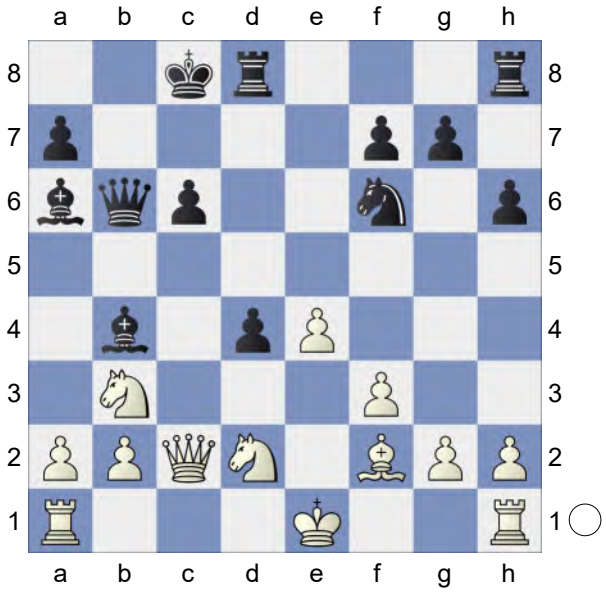


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4! 8.c3 Nc6 9.Bb5 The position is equal.9.cxd4 gains popularity.9.cxd4 wird beliebter. **9...h6 10.Bh4 Qb6**

(Diagram)

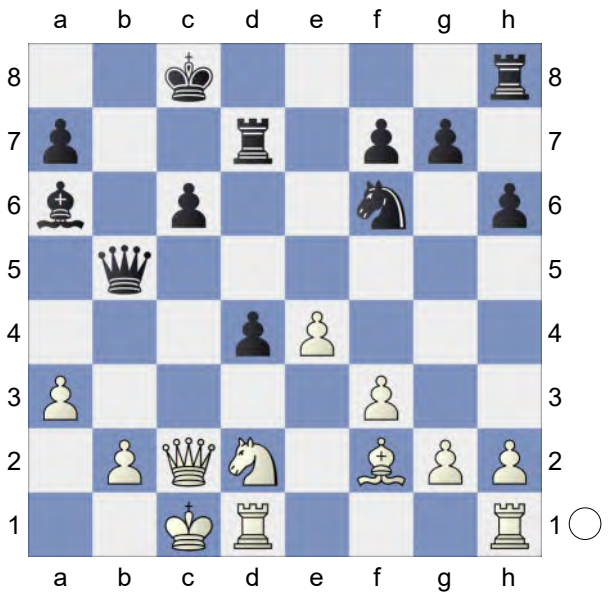


11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.cxd4
[But not 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.cxd4 Ba6∓]
12...Ba6! Threatening ...Nh5. **13.Bf2** -0.73/22
[13.Bg3!= -0.11/20 keeps the balance.]
13...0-0-0N 0.49/19
[13...Rd8! 14.N1d2! exd4 15.Qc2 -1.08/21 *(⌓15.Rc1* -0.72/21) 15...Bb4 -0.77/20 *(⌓15...Qb5* -1.08/21 *16.0-0-0 c5)* 16.Rc1 -1.29/20 (Better is *16.a3* -0.77/20 *Qb5 17.Nc1)* 16...Bb5? 0.33/22 *(16...c5∓* -1.29/20 Strongly threatening ...Qb5. *17.a3 Qb5)* 17.a3± Ba5 18.Qc5 0.40/21 (White should try *18.Nc5!±* 0.93/21 Black must now prevent b4. *Bxd2+ 19.Qxd2)* 18...Bxd2+ 1.50/23 *(18...Nd7!±* 0.40/21 *19.Qxd4 0-0)* 19.Kxd2± Ba4 20.Nxd4 Qxb2+ ½-½ Morozevich,A (2676)-Fedoseev,V (2667) Moscow Nutcracker rapid 2016 (1.1)]
[Black should play 13...Rd8!∓ -0.73/22 14.Qc2 *(14.Nc3 exd4 15.Ne2 c5∓)* 14...exd4 15.Bxd4 Bb4+ 16.N1d2 Rxd4 17.Nxd4 Qxd4 18.Qxc6+ Ke7 19.Qxa6 Qxd2+ 20.Kf1 Rd8]
14.Qc2 0.01/20
[14.Nc3± 0.49/19 was preferrable.]
14...Bb4+? 1.57/20
[14...exd4= 0.01/20 15.a3 Nh5]
15.N1d2 0.50/20
[Only move: 15.Nc3!± 1.57/20 Qc7 16.0-0-0]
15...exd4±

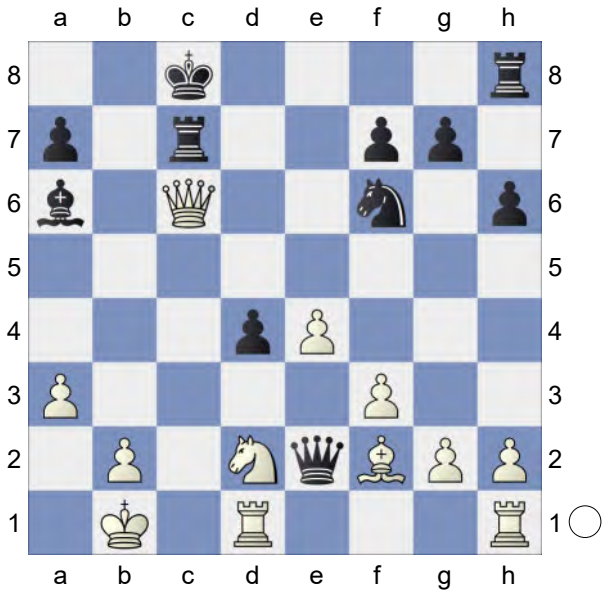


16.a3! Bxd2+ 0.87/22
[16...Qb5± 0.34/21 17.0-0-0 d3!]
17.Nxd2 0.35/20
[17.Kxd2± 0.87/22 And now Kc1 would win. Nd7 18.Kc1]
17...Qb5 1.01/20
[17...Rhe8!± 0.35/20]
18.0-0-0± White now steadily converts the win. **18...Rd7** 1.97/20
[18...d3± 0.99/18 was worth a try. 19.Qc3 Kb8]

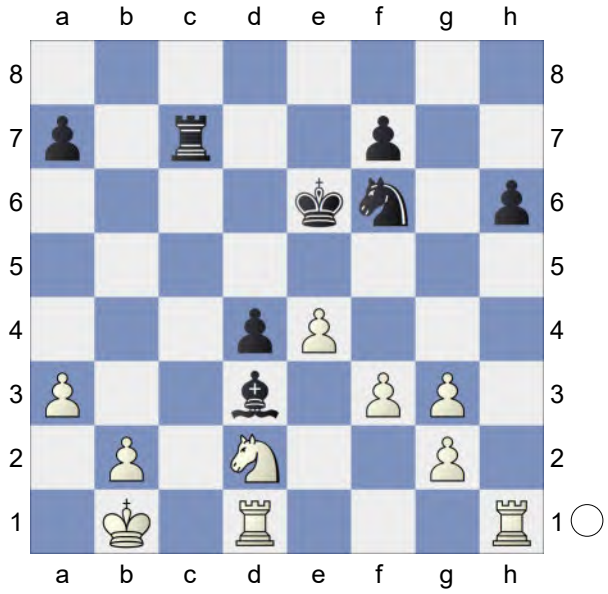
(Diagram)



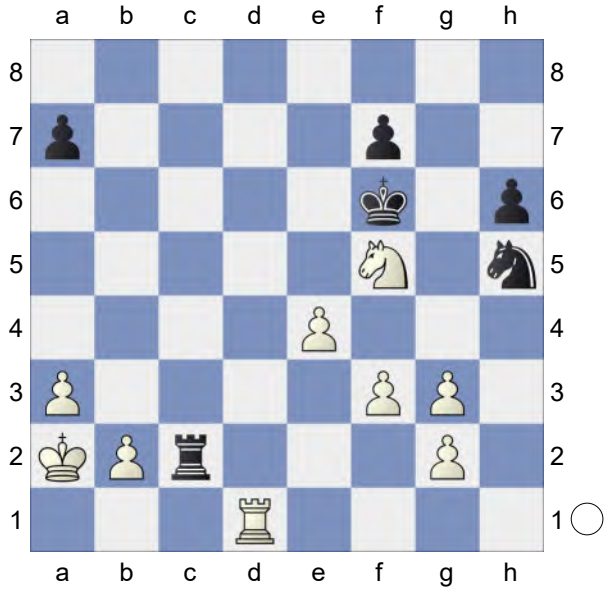
19.Kb1 1.45/18
[19.Nb3!+- 1.97/20]
19...Qe2 2.73/21
[19...Re8± 1.45/18 20.Ka2 Nh5]
20.Qxc6++- Rc7? 4.67/21
[20...Kd8 2.62/23 21.Bh4 Qd3+ 22.Ka2 Re8 23.Bxf6+ gxf6 24.Qxf6+ Ree7 25.Qh8+ Re8 26.Qf6+ Ree7 27.Qh8+ Re8 28.Qf6+]



21.Qa8+ Kd7 22.Qxh8 White is clearly winning. **22...Qxf2 23.Qxg7 Ke6** 7.01/21
[⌓23...Ke7 4.79/22 24.e5 Ne8 25.Qxh6 Bb7]
24.Qg3 Qxg3 25.hxg3 Bd3+

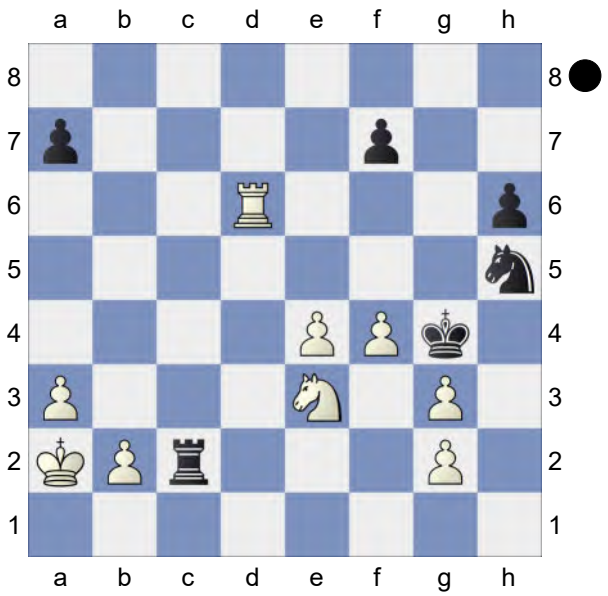


26.Ka2 Bc2 27.Nb3 Bxd1 28.Rxd1 KRN-KRN **28...Nh5 29.Nxd4+ Kf6 30.Nf5 Rc2**



31.Rd6+ Kg5 32.f4+ Kg4 33.Ne3+

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.54
1-0

146 **B55**
□ **Kluegel,Jens Uwe** **2535**
■ **Rhode,Hermann** **2395**
Per-Erik Ekblom Memorial 9699 1996
[Kluegel for Chess Mail]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 A rare variation, but with a long tradition in Switzerland. In Zurich 1959 Swiss master Dieter Keller won with this variation against GM Donner (NLD). Former CC World Champion Sanakoev was confronted with this variation in a game with Sarink in the final of the Xth Olympiad and commented it as follows : "This way White is secured from any surprise, but the hope to get an edge in the opening shall be postponed until the next game." Really? **5...e5N**

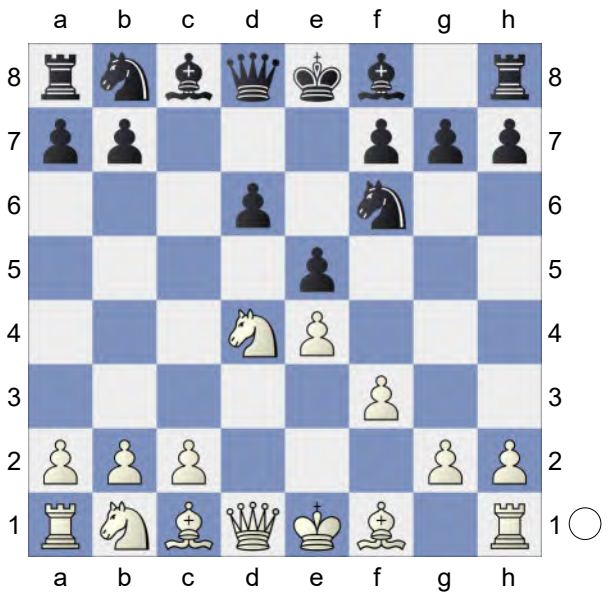
[5...e6 The main line. It is strange that Fischer didn't like this line and preferred]

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

(Diagram)



6.Bb5+ Nbd7

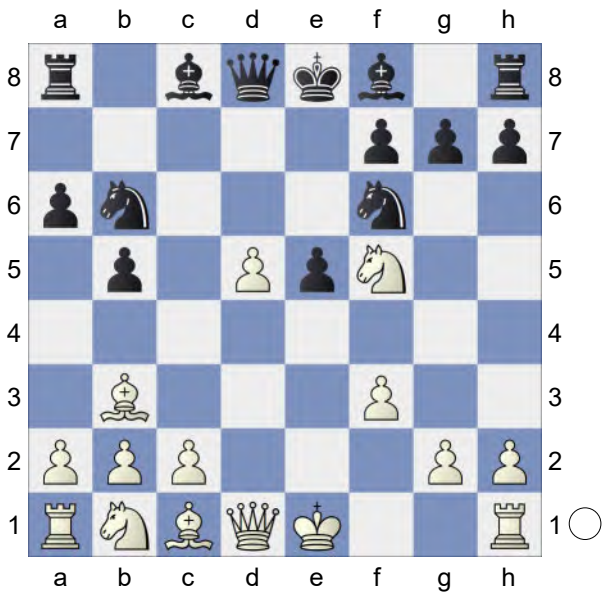
[6...Bd7 was tried by Ljubojevic against Salov in the Sicilian Tango Tournament in Buenos Aires, 1994: 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.Nf5 d5 9.Bg5! dxe4 10.Bxf6 Qxd1+ 11.Kxd1 gxf6 12.fxe4 and White seems to have the better endgame. Of course no problem for Salov, 1-0 in 44.]

7.Nf5 d5 8.exd5 a6 9.Ba4 b5 10.Bb3 Nb6

[10...Nc5 was recommended in NIC36 as playable but I have still some doubt that this is true.]

[10...a5 keeps more tension. 11.d6 a4 12.Bd5 Ra6]

(Diagram)



11.Ne3 Bb7 This is the standard move order in this line. **12.a4** -0.05/17 'N' and this was my preparation. Of course the whole line looks very drawish, so Sanakoev might be right. But on the other hand White has some good chances to exploit his pawn majority on queenside in the endgame. So the whole line is not without poison.

[12.Nc3 0.26/18 might be stronger.]

12...bxa4

[Resist 12...Nfxd5 13.axb5 Qh4+ 14.g3 Qb4+ 15.c3 Qxb5 16.Nxd5 Bxd5 17.Bxd5 Nxd5 18.Qe2±]

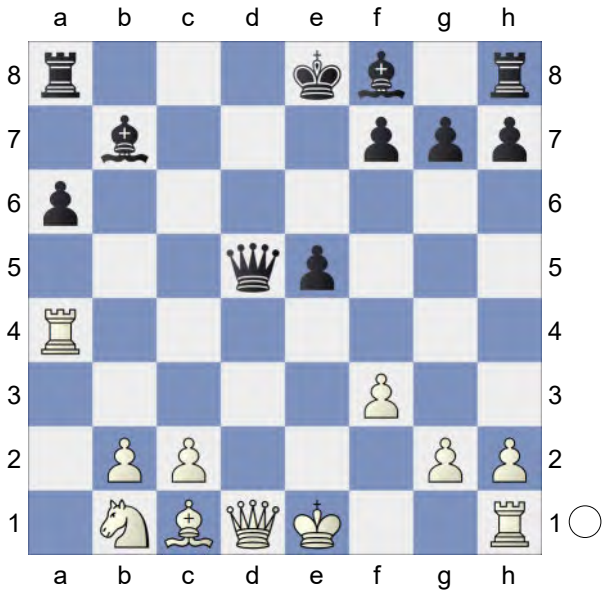
[12...Bb4+ is interesting. 13.Bd2 Nfxd5 14.Nxd5 Bxd5 15.axb5 Bxb3 16.cxb3 axb5 17.Rxa8 Nxa8 18.0-0 Bc5+]

13.Bxa4+ The position is equal.

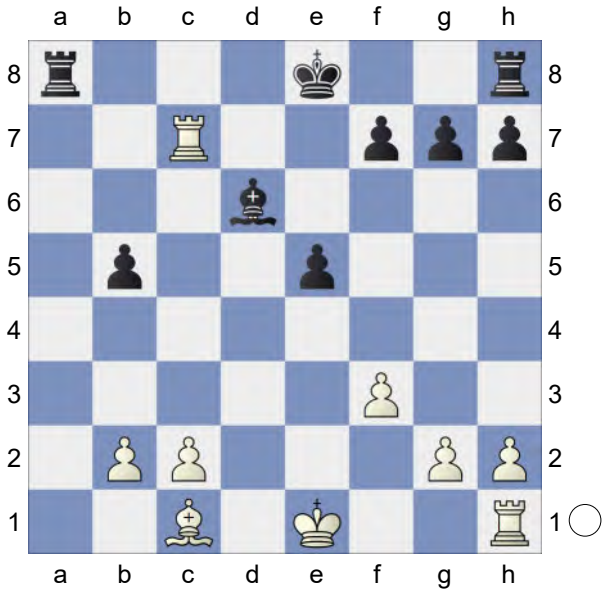
[13.Ba2 feels hotter. Nfxd5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Bxd5 Bxd5 16.Rxa4 Qd7 17.Nc3]

13...Nxa4 14.Rxa4 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 Qxd5

[15...Bxd5 On I wanted to play against the weak pawn on a6 : 16.Qe2 -0.31/18 etc. *(16.Be3=* 0.06/19 *)*]



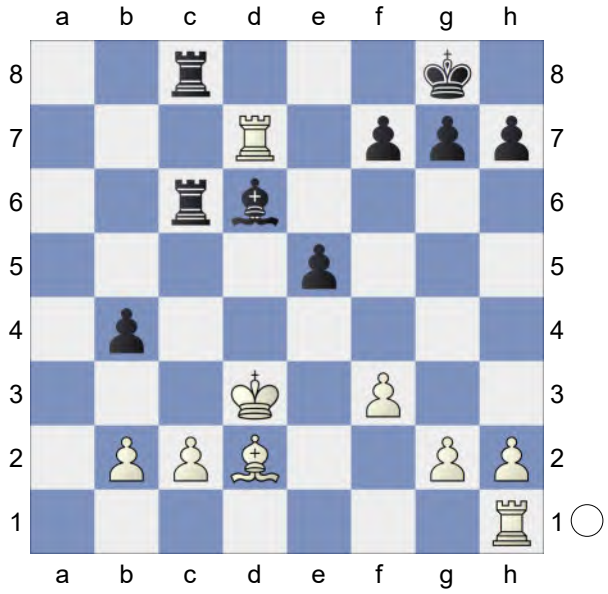
16.Qxd5 Bxd5 17.Nc3 Bc6 18.Rc4 Bb5 19.Rc7 Bd6 20.Nxb5 axb5



21.Rb7 White has achie ved something. the rook is on the seventh rank and he can avoid castling, "winning a tempo". **21...b4**

[21...Rb8 seems to be the better choice, trying to chase or exchange the white rook.]

22.Ke2 Rc8 23.Kd3 I once learned that in the endgame the King is a very strong piece. **23...0-0** My opponent has forgotten this rule. I suppose he simply followed the recommendation of his computer! **24.Rd7 Rc6 25.Bd2 Rfc8**



26.Ra1 The white ga me is playing itself. The next steps involve the building of a passed pawn on the queenside. **26...Bc5** Black could have tried to activate his kingside pawns to get counterplay. Now he is losing time.

[26...f5 0.54/16 26...Bf8 0.21]

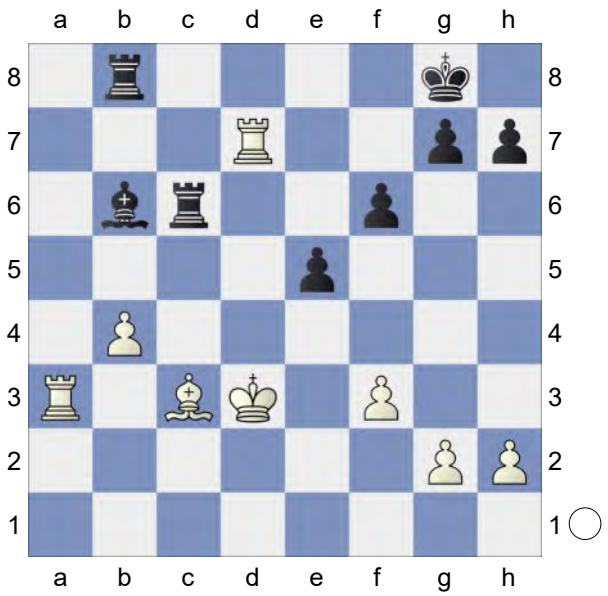
27.c3 Against Bd4 **27...bxc3 28.Bxc3**

[28.bxc3? Of course not as proposed my opponent as a conditional move. Also a computer idea? You may check your chess engines!]

28...f6 Now the pawns on the kingside are much more difficult to rnove. **29.b4** '!' **29...Bb6 30.Ra3 Rb8** 0.66/18

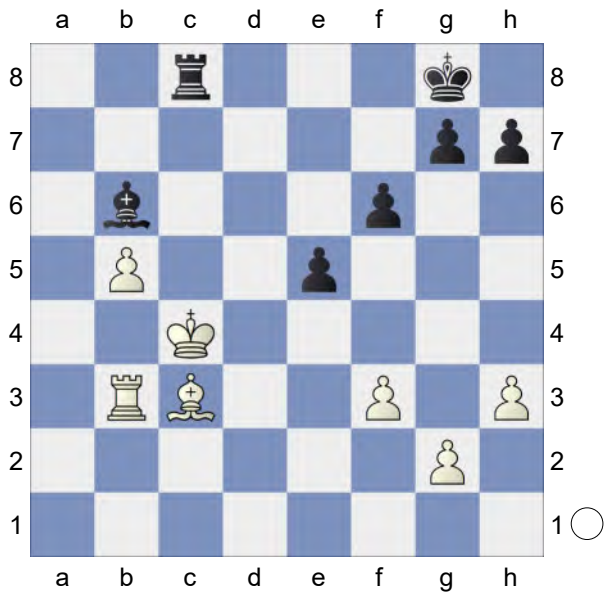
[30...h5= 0.29/18 was preferrable.]

(Diagram)

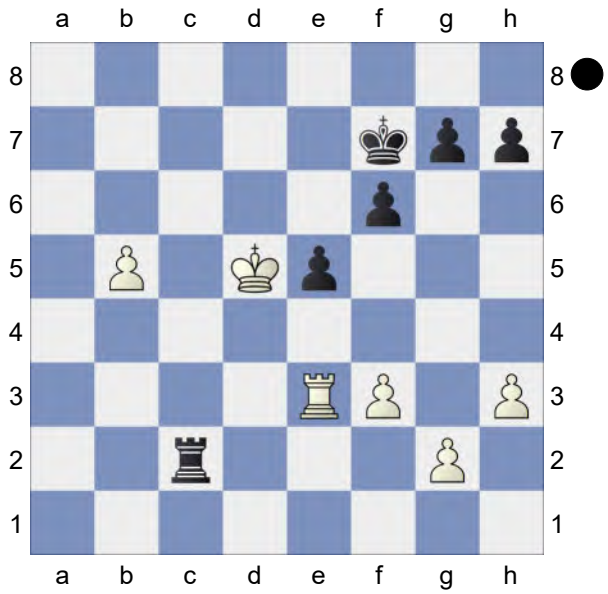


31.b5 0.29/21 '!'
[31.g4± 0.66/18]
31...Rc5= 32.Rb3 Rcc8 Black does have a plan. The king is still far away. No counterplay in sight. **33.h3** 0.13/18 White has time to put his pawns on light squares.
[33.g4± 0.45/18 should be considered.]
33...Rd8 Now I'm ready to exchange rooks. **34.Rxd8+ Rxd8+±** Endgame KRB-KRB **35.Kc4** The king is approaching his most important "servant". **35...Rc8+** 1.00/26
[35...Kf7± 0.38/23]

(Diagram)

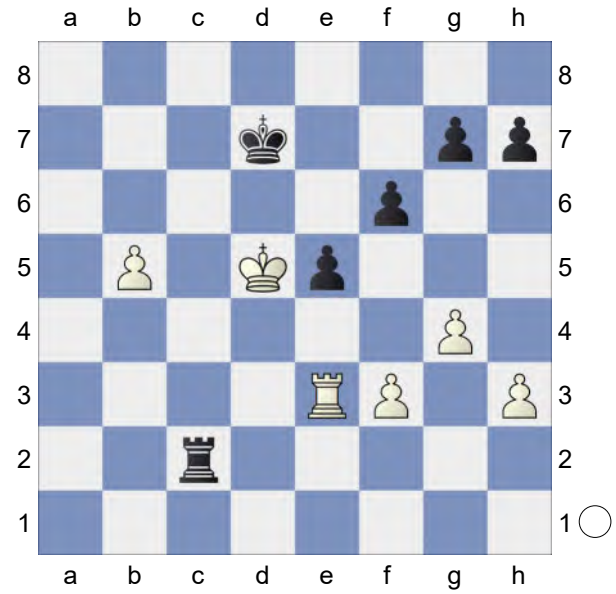


36.Kd5± Kf7 37.Bd2 Rc2 38.Be3 This had to be calculated accurately, but the passed pawn is deciding. **38...Bxe3 39.Rxe3**

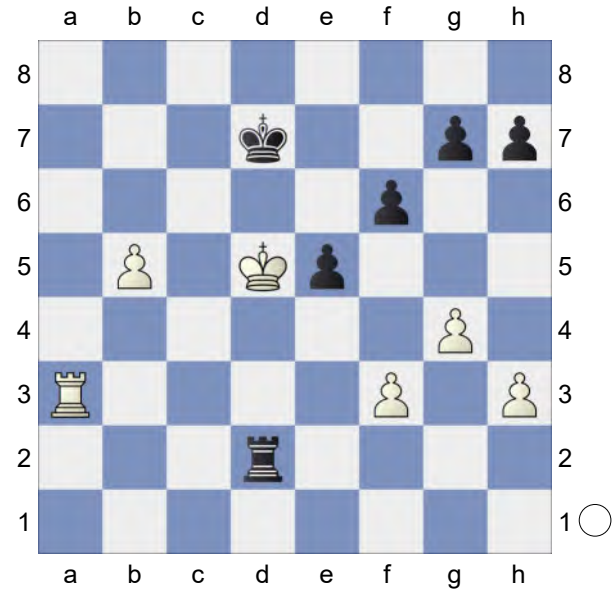


b6 is the strong threat. KR-KR **39...Ke7**
[39...Rxg2? 40.b6 Rb2 Inhibits Rb3. 41.Kc6 Threatens to win with Rc3. Rc2+ 2.80/26 *(41...Ke6± 1.31/25* might work better.*)* 42.Kb7 aiming for Ra3. Ke6 2.36/23 *(⌓42...Rb2 1.68/23 43.Kc7 Rc2+ 44.Kb8 Rb2)* 43.Ra3 1.35/24 *(43.Rb3+- 2.36/23)*]

40.g4 Kd7



41.Ra3 Rd2+



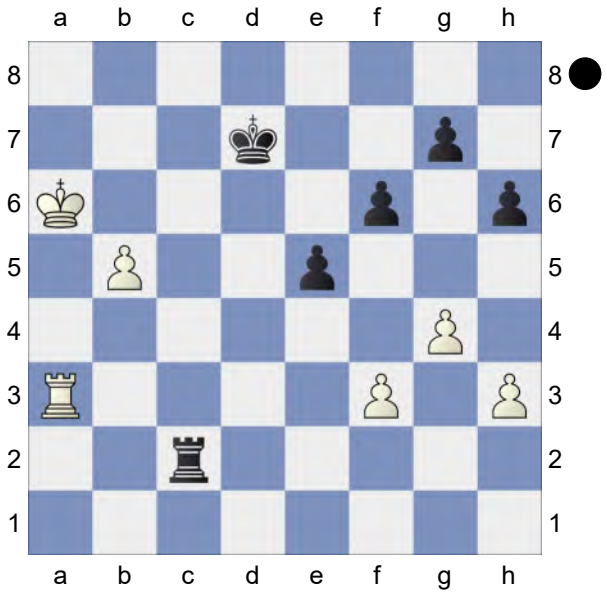
42.Kc5! Rc2+ 43.Kb6 Black must now prevent Ka6. **43...h6?** 4.12/23

[43...Rb2 2.12/22 44.Ra7+ Kd6]

44.Ka6

[Less strong is 44.Ra7+ Kd8 45.Rxg7 Rc3±]

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.15 (very precise)

1-0

147 **B56**

□ **Sengupta,Deep** **2534**

■ **Narayanan,Sunilduth Lyna** **2637**

Moscow Aeroflot op-A (3) 21.02.2020

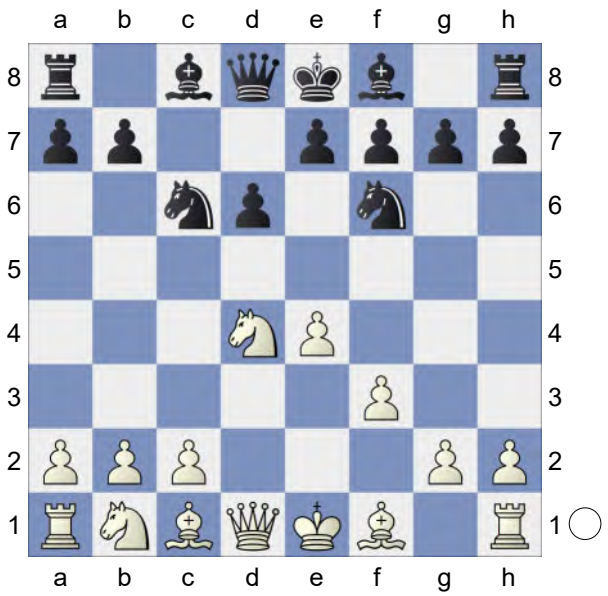
[Narayanan,Sunilduth Lyna]

(100min+30sec)/40+(50min+30sec)/20+(15min+

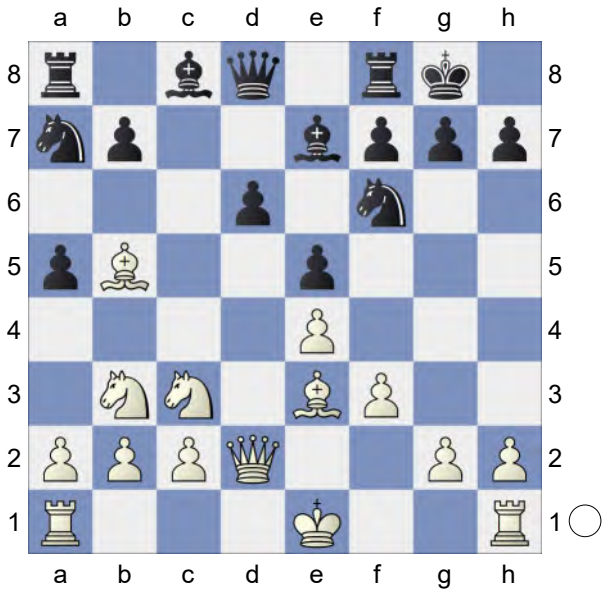
This game was played in the third round of the same Aeroflot Open.I was up against my compatriot Grandmaster Deep Sengupta. **1.e4** 0 **c5** 5:12 **2.Nf3** 0 **d6** 5 **3.d4** 0 **cxd4** 5 **4.Nxd4** 0 **Nf6** 9 **5.f3** 0 **Nc6** 6

[5...e5 6.Nb3 Be6 *(6...d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Bxd5)* 7.c4 Nbd7 8.Be3]

(Diagram)



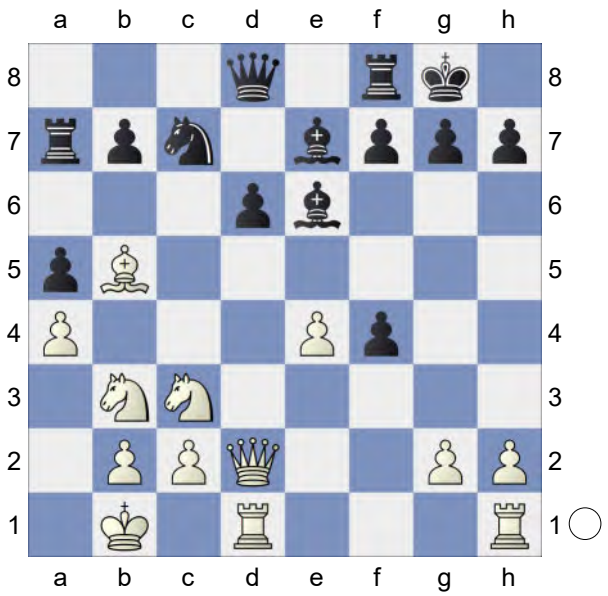
6.Nc3 0
[6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 d5]
6...e5 48 **7.Nb3!?** 4 This move indeed surprised me a bit since my opponent hadn't played it before. **7...Be7** 2:02 **8.Be3** 19 **0-0** 8:21 **9.Qd2** 21 **a5** 9 **10.Bb5** 5 **Na7** 14



11.Bxa7 6
[11.Bd3 Be6 12.Rd1 Nc8]
11...Rxa7 4:04 **12.a4** 7
[12.0-0-0 a4 13.Qf2 *(13.Bxa4 Nxe4)*]

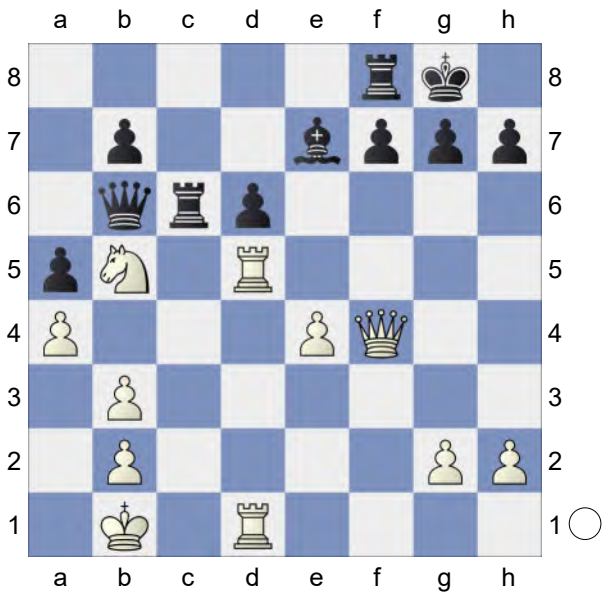
12...Be6 25 **13.0-0-0** 1:35 My opponent was still in his book whereas I was already out, and the position doesn't seem good for Black to a stranger. **13...Ne8!?N** 25:47 An OTB novelty. I understood that 13.... ♗e6 might have been the move my opponent checked, and I tried to deviate a bit. Objectively I think the move played by me is not strong, just the practical aspects make it interesting.
[13...Qb6 14.Kb1 Raa8 *(14...Rd8 15.f4; 14...Ne8 15.Qd3 Nc7 16.Nd2)* 15.g4 ½-½ (71) Inarkiev,E (2693)-Alekseenko,K (2650) Konya TUR 2019 Ne8 is the main move 16.Qd3 Nc7 17.Nd2 Nxb5 18.Nxb5 Qc5 19.c4]
[13...Ra8 14.Kb1]
14.Kb1 3:31 **Nc7** 18
[14...Qb6 15.Qd3 Nc7 16.Nd2 Qc5 *(16...Rd8 17.Nc4 Qc5 18.Ne3)* 17.Nf1 Nxb5 18.Nxb5 Ra6 *(18...Bc4 19.Qe3)* 19.Ne3]
15.f4 3:01 The most natural move, keeping the queen on an active square.
15...exf4 16
[15...Nxb5 16.Nxb5 Ra6 *(16...Ra8 17.f5 Bc4 18.Nxd6 Qc7 19.Nxc4 Qxc4 20.Qd7)* 17.fxe5 dxe5 18.Qxd8 Rxd8 *(18...Bxd8 19.Nc5)* 19.Rxd8+ Bxd8 20.Nc5 Rc6 21.Rd1 Be7 22.Nxe6]

(Diagram)



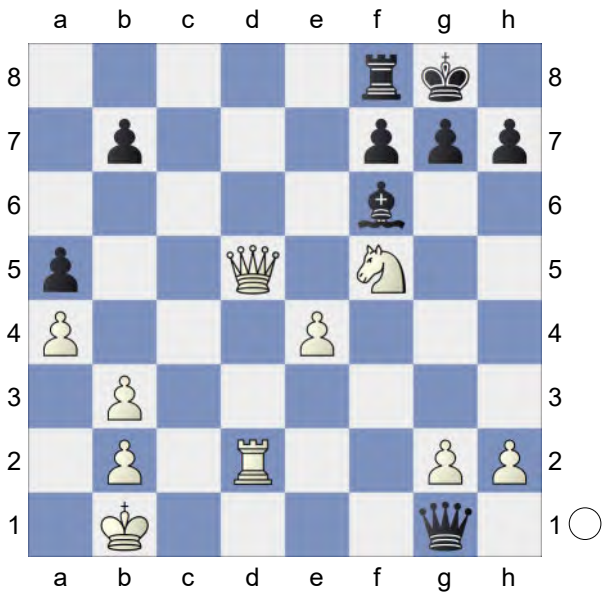
16.Qxf4 1:20 **Bxb3** 7
[16...Qb8 17.Nd4 Bf6 18.Qe3 *(18.Qxd6 Rd8 19.Qb6 Na8)* 18...Be5 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Bc4 Kh8 21.Rhf1 Ra8 22.Nb5 Nxb5 23.Bxb5 Qc7 24.Qb3]
[16...Nxb5 17.Nxb5 Ra6 18.Nc5 Rc6 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Qg4 Qd7 21.Rhf1]
17.cxb3 37:29 **Nxb5** 10:39
[17...Ra8 18.Bc4 Bf6 19.Rhf1 Ne8 *(19...Qe7 20.Qxd6)* 20.g4]
18.Nxb5? 2:23 A strange purposeless move. This kind of move usually does no harm, but it neither improves the position and could be a vital loss of tempo, especially in this kind of imbalanced pawn structure. **18...Ra6** 10:40 My idea is pretty much obvious, to place the pawns on the dark squares to supplement my light-squared bishop and restrict his bishop. **19.Rd5** 3:55 **Rc6** 5:20 **20.Rhd1** 6:21 **Qb6!?** 3:40

(Diagram)



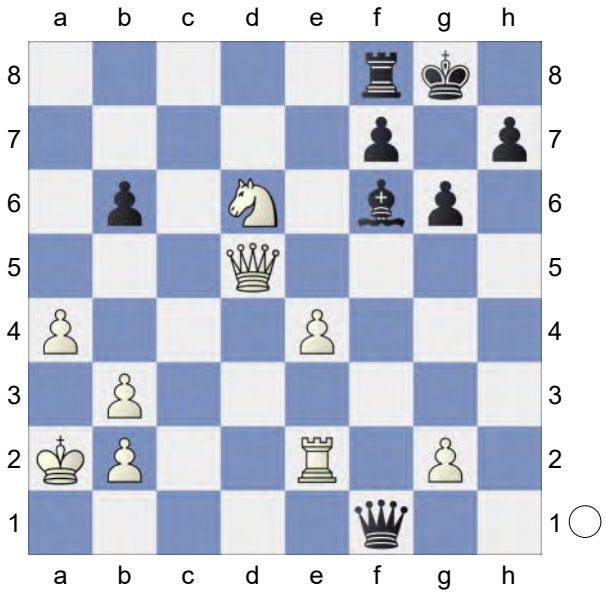
21.Nd4 11:27 **Rc5** 1:20 **22.Nf5** 3:24 **Bf6** 1:33 **23.Qxd6** 8:23 **Rxd5!?** 7:23
[23...Qxb3 24.Qxf8+ Kxf8 25.Rd8+ Bxd8 26.Rxd8#]
[23...Rc6 24.Qg3 Rc3 *(24...Qb4 25.e5)* 25.bxc3 Qxb3+ 26.Kc1 Bg5+ *(26...Bxc3 27.R1d3; 26...Rc8 27.Rd8+)* 27.R1d2 Rc8 *(27...Bxd2+ 28.Kxd2)* 28.R5d3]
24.Qxd5? 6:19 A terrible positional error. With this exchange, Black succeeds in getting an ideal situation of a good vs a bad bishop. **24...Qf2** 6
[24...Rd8 25.Nd6]
25.Rd2 2:23 **Qg1+!** 3:23

(Diagram)



The simplest way to transform the advantage. In the endgames with rooks and bishops, the weaknesses in White's position will count more! **26.Ka2** 2:19 **Qxh2** 5 **27.Qxa5** 9 **Qf4** 30 **28.Qd5** 3:02 **g6** 29 **29.Nd6** 8 **b6** 1:42 **30.Re2** 1 **Qf1!** 12 Trying to create a passer and target the weak structure on the queenside at the same time.

[30...Qg4 31.Rf2±]



31.Rc2 2:00 **Bg7** 1:35

[31...Qf4 32.Rc8]

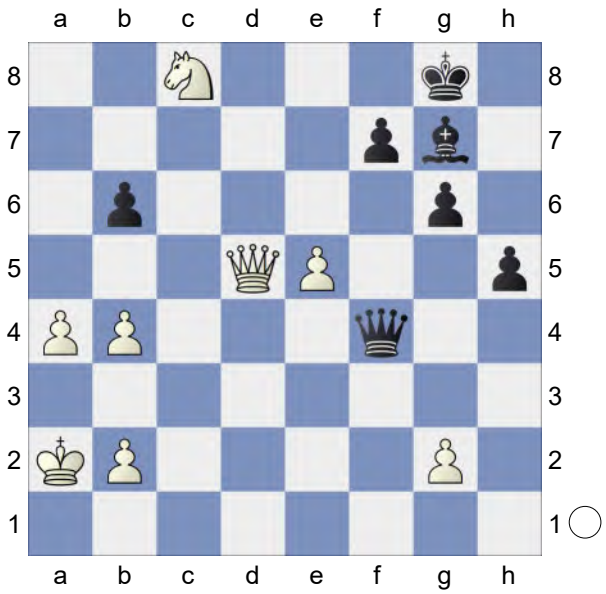
32.e5 5:18 **h5∓** 4:05 **33.Rc8** 2:03

[33.Rc7! h4 34.Rb7 Qf2 35.Nc4]

33...Rxc8 10 **34.Nxc8** 5:30 **Qf2** 7 **35.b4** 2

[35.Nd6!? with the idea of transposing to the endgame is interesting: h4 36.Ne4 Qf4 and the position is a good test for understanding since if White could preserve both the bishops and coordinate his rooks, he would be better. But it takes time, and in the meantime Black can try to exchange the bishop or attack the weakness in White's position. For instance 37.Qd8+ Kh7 *(37...Bf8 38.Nf6+ Kg7= 39.Qxb6)* 38.Ng5+ Kh6 39.Nxf7+]

35...Qf4 7



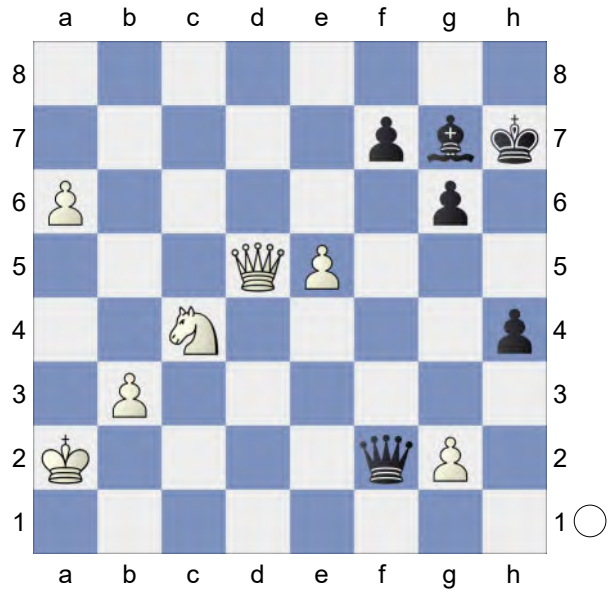
36.Nxb6 6

[36.Ne7+ Kh7 37.Nc6 h4 38.a5 bxa5 39.bxa5 Bh6 *(39...Qa4+ 40.Kb1)* 40.Ka3]

36...Qxb4 1:07 **37.a5** 26 **h4** 50 **38.Nc4** 13 **Kh7** 3:07

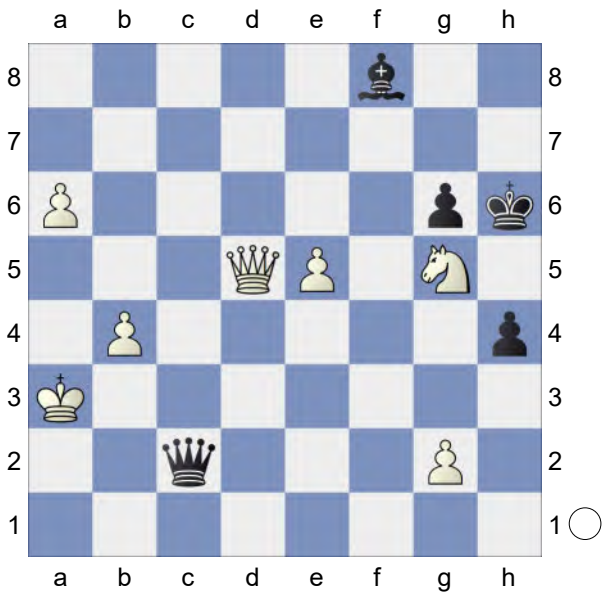
[38...Qa4+ and the game continues on a concrete path with ideas like Rd6 in the air. 39.Kb1 Kh7 40.Nb6 Qb4 41.Kc2]

39.b3 1:43 **Qe1** 3:14 **40.a6** 0
[40.Qxf7 Qe2+ 41.Ka3 Qxg2 42.e6 Qd5 43.Qd7 Qc5+ 44.Ka4± h3!? would have been logical trying to push pawns forward and open the diagonals and files. 45.e7 h2 46.Qh3+ Qh5! 47.Qxh5+ gxh5 48.e8Q h1Q 49.a6]
40...Qf2+ 0

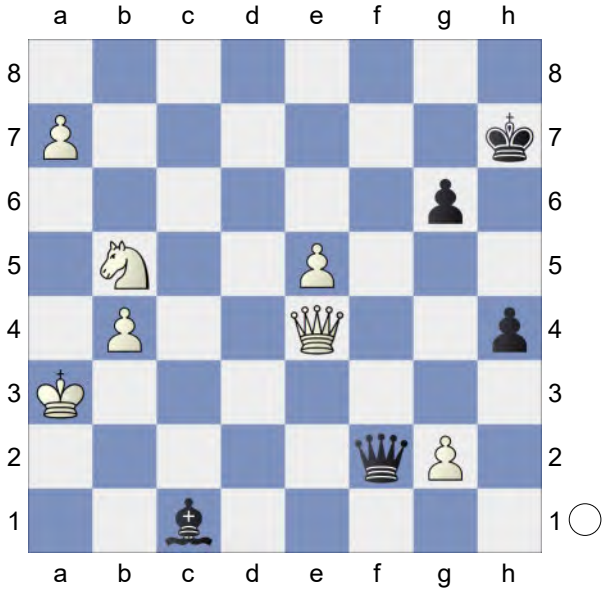


41.Ka3 4:14 **Bf8+** 2:08 **42.b4** 2 **Kh8** 5:06 **43.Nd6** 2
[43.Ka4]
43...Qc2 1:17 **44.Nxf7+** 4 **Kh7** 6 **45.Ng5+** 2 **Kh6** 1:09

(Diagram)

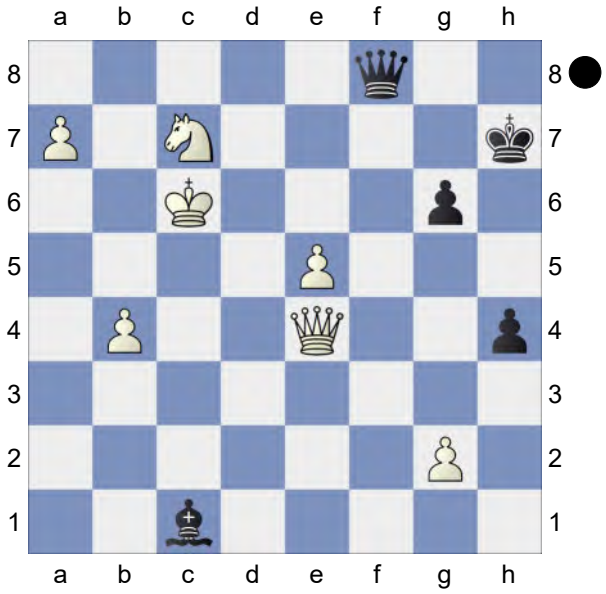


46.Nf7+ 1 **Kh7** 7 **47.Nd6** 16 **Bg7** 11 And here my opponent resigned since he can't really stop my idea of ... ♖d1+ on the next move, transposing to a winning pawn endgame. **48.Qe4 Qf2 49.Nb5** would also be clearly better for Black. **49...Bh6** seemed to me the only reasonable defence which doesn't make any great concession concerning White's position. **50.a7!?** was the alternative I saw. **50...Bc1+**



51.Kb3 Qb2+= is probably just equal but since I thought my opponent was

risking much in the long term, I decided to continue looking for chances. **52.Kc4 Qa2+ 53.Kc5 Qf2+ 54.Kc6 Qf8 55.Nc7**

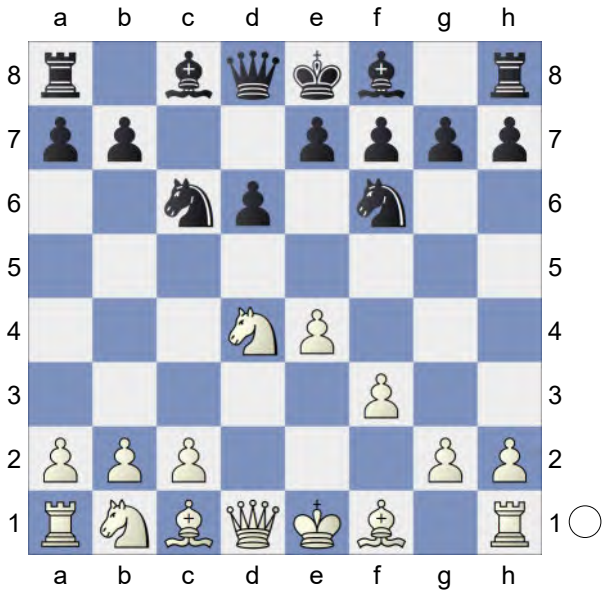


0-1

148 **B55**
□ **Erenburg,Sergey** **2533**
■ **Ilincic,Zlatko** **2520**
Budapest FS09 GM (5) 08.09.2004
[Erenburg,Sergey]

1.e4 Erenburg Erenburg Erenburg **1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6**

(Diagram)



6.c4 Qb6 Black has the following alternatives:

[6...e6 1-0 Yandemirov,V-Lerner,K/St Petersburg 1996/CBM 56 ext/[Shipov] (46)]

[6...Nxd4!? 7.Qxd4 g6 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.Be3 Be6 10.Be2 0-0 11.Qd2 Rc8⇄ Malakhov,V-Banikas,H/ESP/1996/0:1/60/]

7.Nc2 g6 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.Rb1 protecting the b2 pawn, thus making possible ♗e3. Other possibilities are:

[9.Qd3!? Ne5 10.Qe3 Qc7 11.b3 a6 12.Bd2 0-0 13.Rc1 e6 14.f4 Ned7 15.Be2 b6 16.0-0± Jagupov,I-Timoshenko,G/St.Petersburg/1996/0:1/44/]

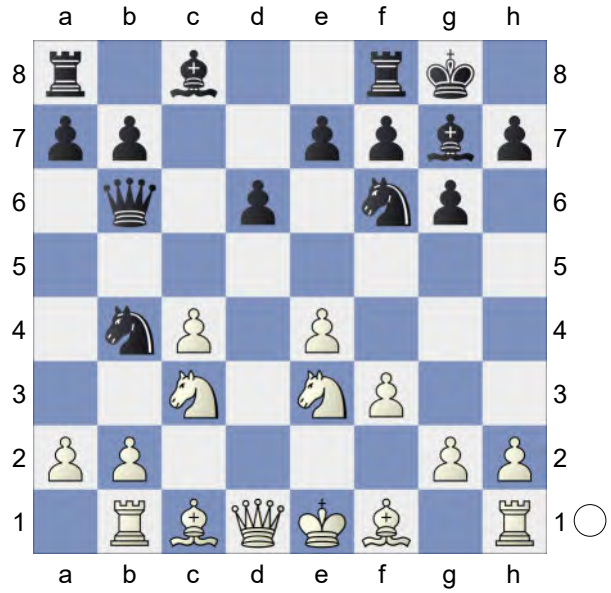
[9.Bd3 0-0 10.Rb1 e6 11.Be3 Qc7 12.0-0 a6 13.Be2 b6 14.Qd2 Rd8 15.Rfd1 Rb8 16.Bf1 Bb7 17.Qf2 Ba8 18.Rbc1± 1-0 McShane,L-Pelletier,Y/ACP Blitz Prelim1, playchess.com INT 2004 (68)]

9...Nb4 disturbing white's plans. **10.Ne3** Probably, white doesn't get anything special after

[10.Nxb4 Qxb4 11.Be3 0-0 12.Qd2 Be6 13.Be2 Rfc8 14.b3 Qa5 15.Rc1

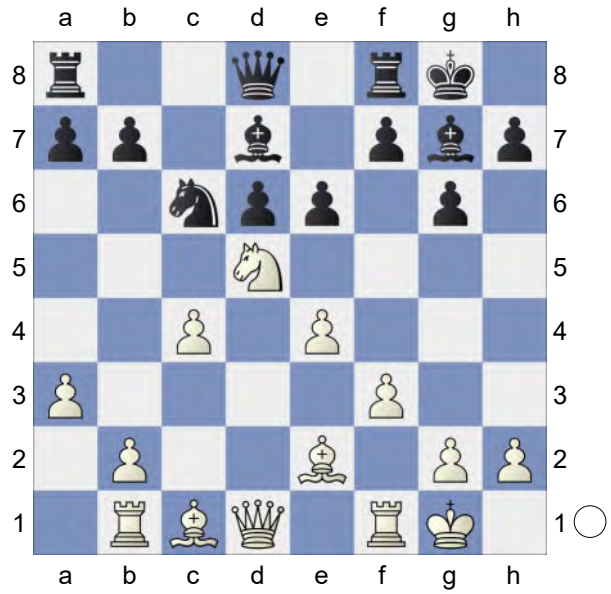
Nd7 ½-½ Zvjaginsev,V-Shchekachev, A/St Petersburg 1998/CBM 67 (15)]

10...0-0



11.Be2 Bd7 12.a3N More principle is [12.0-0 Nc6 13.Kh1 Rac8 14.Ned5 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 Qd8 16.Be3 b6 17.Qd2 f5 18.exf5 Bxf5 19.Rbd1 Ne5 20.b3 Rf7 21.Bd4± ½-½ Vajda, S-Hunt,H/Bled 2002/EXT 2003 (49)]

12...Nc6 13.Ned5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Qd8 15.0-0 e6



16.Ne3 White's main idea is to prevent from black counterplay, it means to prevent the breakthroughs b7-b5 and d6-d5. **16...Nd4 17.b3** preparing to develop the dark-squared bishop on long diagonal.

[17.b4 deserves attention.]

[Worse is 17.Nc2? Ba4 18.Bd3 Bb3∓ *(18...d5∓)*]

17...Qb6 18.Kh1 Ba4!? It seems like black is going to win a pawn, but...

[18...f5 was interesting alternative.]

19.Qe1! The only move, which prevents from black an advantage, and gives white chances for an edge.

[19.Bb2 Bxb3! 20.Qd2 Ba2 21.Rbd1 Nb3∓]

[19.c5 dxc5 20.Nc4 Qb5-+ *(20...Bxb3 21.Qxd4 Bxc4-+)*]

[19.Qd3 Nxb3 20.Bb2

A) 20...Nd4 21.c5 Qxc5 *(21...dxc5 22.Bxd4 c4 23.Nxc4 Qxd4 24.Rxb7∓)* 22.Rfc1 Bb5 23.Qxb5 Nxb5 24.Rxc5 Nxa3 25.Bxa3 dxc5 26.Bxc5 Rfc8∓;

B) 20...Bxb2 21.Rxb2 Nc5 22.Rxb6 Nxd3 23.Rxd6 Nc5∓]

19...Nxb3? Objectively, bad move... But, first, it is extremely difficult during the game to refute it. Also, such moves make the chess very interesting game!

[19...Bxb3 loses immediately: 20.Bd1 a5 21.Bxb3 Nxb3 22.a4+- with following ♕d1.]

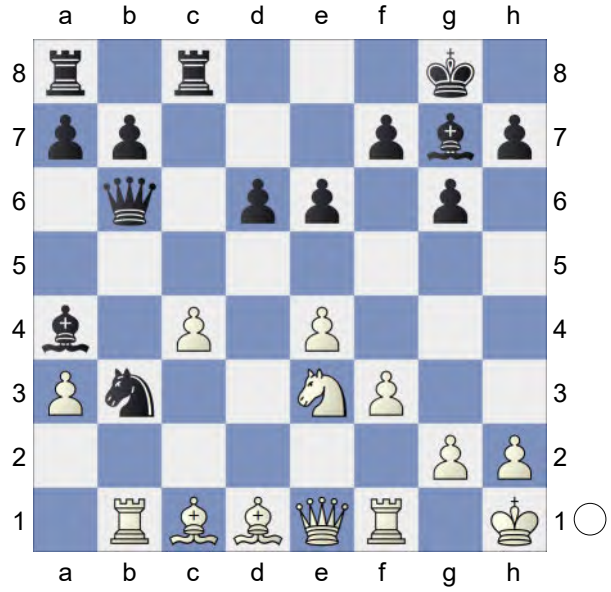
[It wasn't too late to give up on idea to win the pawn: 19...Bd7]

20.Bd1! White has six pieces on the first rank! **20...Rfc8** Other moves don't prevent big advantage from white:

[20...a5 21.Bc2 Bd4 22.Nd1 Qc6 23.Rxb3 *(23.Bxb3 Bxb3 24.Rxb3 Qxc4 25.Rb1 Qc2 26.Be3±)* 23...Bxb3 24.Bxb3±]

[20...Bd4 21.Bxb3! Bxb3 22.Nc2 Bg7 *(22...Bxc2 23.Rxb6 Bxb6*

24.Qc3+-) 23.Rf2! protecting the knight. *(23.Be3 Bxc2 24.Bxb6 Bxb1 25.Qxb1 axb6 26.Qxb6±)* 23...d5 *(23...Bc3 24.Qxc3 Qxf2 25.Bh6 e5 26.Qxb3+-)* 24.c5+-]



21.Bxb3!

[21.f4 comes to consideration as well.]

21...Bxb3 22.Qd2! Stronger than

[22.Bb2 Ba2 23.Bxg7 Qxb1 *(23...Bxb1 24.Bh6→)* 24.Qd2 Qb3 25.Bf6 Bb1 26.Nd5 Qd3 27.Ne7+ Kf8 28.Qh6+ Ke8 29.Rg1 like in the game, but black's rook is located on c6, and not on c8, that plays in black's hands.]

[22.Qe2? is met by Bxc4!-+]

22...Rc6!

[Black could include the a6-a5, a3-a4 moves: 22...a5 23.a4 Rc6 24.Qd3 *(24.Bb2* Erenburg: ' ⩀!' '⩀!' '⩀!' *Ba2 25.Bxg7 Bxb1 26.Bf6→)* 24...Bxc4 25.Nxc4 Qa6 -see 23.a4 variation.]

23.Bb2! The only way to get advantage is to sacrifice the exchange! All the attempts to win the b3 bishops are failed:

[23.a4 a5 24.Ba3 *(24.Qd3 Bxc4 25.Nxc4 Qa6 26.Nb2 Rb6 27.Qd1 Rc8⩱; ⩀24.Bb2!)* 24...Rac8 25.Rfc1 *(25.Qd3 Bxc4 26.Nxc4 Qa6 27.Nb2 Qxd3 28.Nxd3 Rc3 29.Rfc1 R8c6∓)* 25...Bd4 26.Qd3 Bxe3 27.Rxb3 Qxb3 28.Qxb3 Bxc1 29.Bxc1 Rxc4 30.Be3 Rc1+ 31.Bg1 Rf1∓]

[23.Qd3 Bxc4 24.Nxc4 Qa6 25.Nb2 Rb6⩱ and white's pieces are paralized.]

23...Ba2 24.Bxg7 Bxb1 25.Bf6→ threatening with ♘d5 and ♕h6. **25...Qb3**

[Black doesn't survive after 25...Kf8

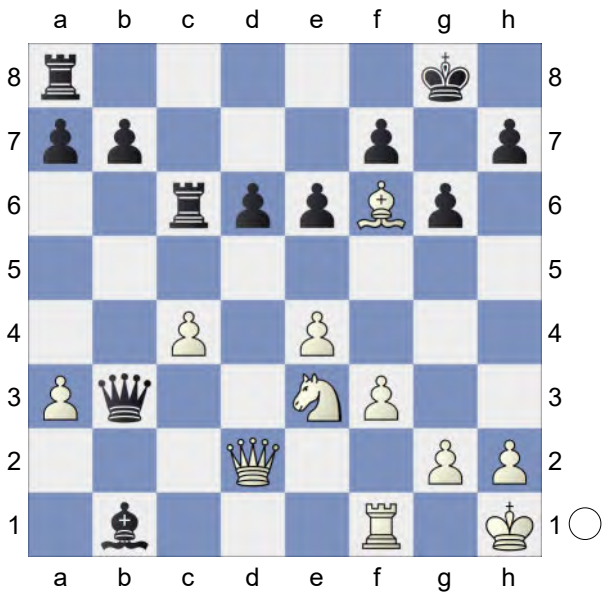
A) 26.Nd1 Rxc4 27.Qh6+ *(27.Nc3 Rxc3 28.Bxc3±)* 27...Ke8 28.Qxh7 Rc1 29.Qg8+ Kd7 30.Qxf7+ *(30.Qxa8 Rc8-+)* 30...Kc6 31.Qxe6 Qc5⩱;

B) 26.Nd5! exd5 27.exd5! opening the "e" file. Rxc4

B1) 28.Re1 Be4 29.Qh6+ (Worse is *29.fxe4 Ke8 30.Qh6 Kd7 31.Qxh7 Rf8∓)* 29...Ke8 30.Qxh7 Qe3 31.Qg8+ Kd7 32.Qxf7+ Kc8 33.Qe6+ *(33.Bh4 Rc1)* 33...Kc7 34.Qe7+ Kb6 35.Qxd6+ Kb5 36.Bh4 Qd2 37.fxe4 Rc1⩱;

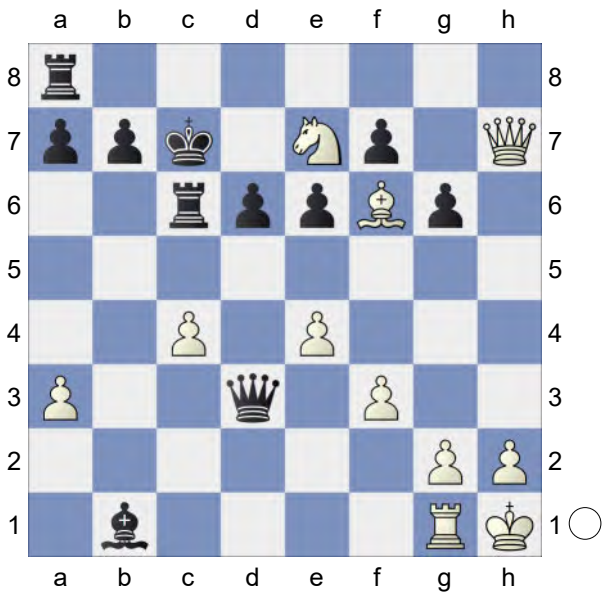
B2) 28.Qh6+ This simple move is stronger, than 28...Ke8 29.Qxh7+- and black is hopeless against white's attack. Qf2 30.Qg8+ Kd7 31.Qxf7+ Kc8 32.Qe8+ Kc7 33.Qe7+ Kc8 *(33...Kb6 34.Rxb1+)* 34.Qd8#]

(Diagram)



26.Nd5! Qd3 27.Ne7+ Kf8 28.Qh6+ White has three pieces in attack on black's monarch, while, black's ones are absolutely discoordinated... These factors promise white successful result of attack. **28...Ke8 29.Rg1!** In such positions it is recommendable to keep the pieces protected, that will prevent from opponent to get some tactical chances... **29...Kd7 30.Qxh7 Kc7**

[30...Rxc4 31.Qxf7+-]



31.Qxf7+- White gets material advantage, while his attack is absolutely isn't over. It makes black position hopeless. **31...Kb6 32.Qxe6?!**

[Even stronger was 32.Bd4+! Qxd4 *(32...Ka6 33.Nxc6 bxc6 34.Qc7+-)* 33.Rxb1++-]

32...Rxc4 33.Nd5+ Ka5 34.Nb4! getting big material advantage. **34...Qe2** Other moves don't change anything:

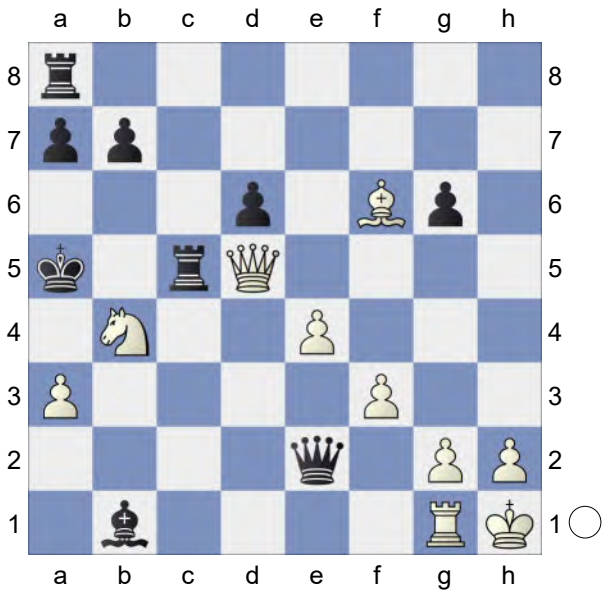
[34...Rxb4 35.axb4+ Kxb4 36.e5+-]

[34...Qb3 35.Qd5+ Ka4 *(35...Kb6 36.Bd4++-)* 36.Qxb7+-]

35.Qd5+ Rc5

[After 35...Ka4 white is mating in the following way:

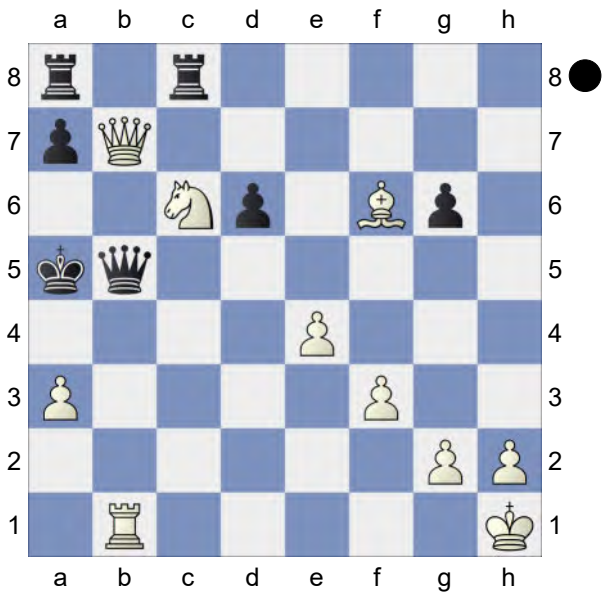
36.Qxb7 Rac8 37.Qa6+ Kb3 38.Rxb1+ Qb2 39.Rxb2#]



36.Qxb7 Rcc8 37.Rxb1 Qb5 38.Nc6+ mating.

[38.Nc6+ Qxc6 39.Bc3+ Qxc3 40.Qb5#]

(Diagram)



1-0

149 **B55**
□ **Rodriguez Vila,Andres** **2532**
■ **Shirov,Alexei** **2698**
Buenos Aires Masters (6) 01.06.2012
[Collins, Sam]

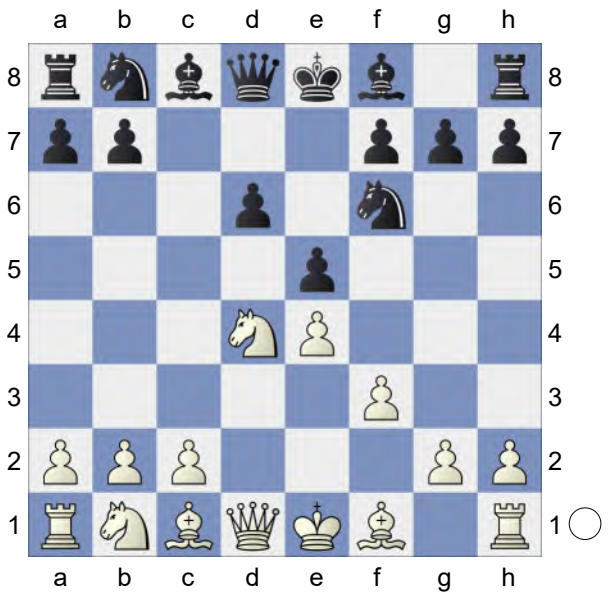
This is a textbook Alexei Shirov game - a good early novelty with a sacrifice, followed up by energetic play and a convincing win. This is a textbook Alexei Shirov game - a good early novelty with a sacrifice, followed up by energetic play and a convincing win.
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
Van Delft: 'FIGHTING FOR THE INITIATIVE Some unbalanced positions require a hard fight for the initiative, since neutral play would allow your opponent to get what he wants. Shirov is the perfect man to show how this works.'
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Van Delft: 'With this Anti-Sicilian move White is hoping to set up a Maroczy Bind with c4, thus claiming a space advantage. Dynamic play is called for from Black in order to counteract that plan.' **5...e5N**

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

(Diagram)



6.Bb5+

[The most common move, 6.Nb3 , is covered in the Archives. , is covered in the Archives.]

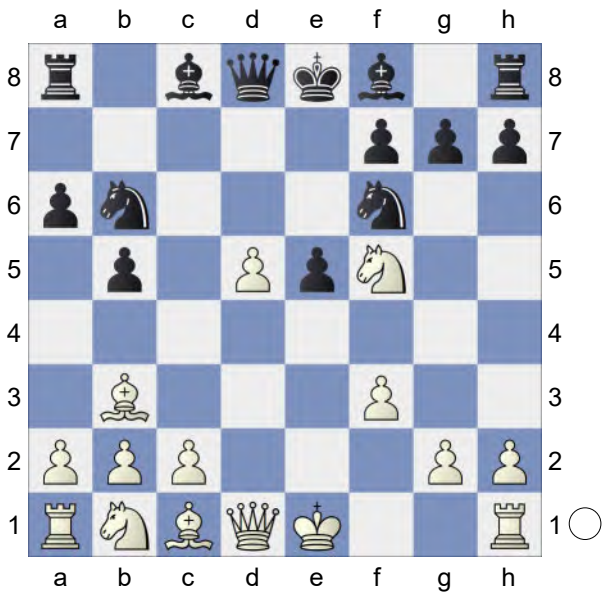
6...Nbd7 Clearly Black does not want to trade light-squared bishops at this juncture. Instead, he aims to gain time on the b5-bishop. Clearly Black does not want to trade light-squared bishops at this juncture. Instead, he aims to gain time on the b5-bishop. **7.Nf5 d5!** The key idea. The key idea. Van Delft: 'A well-known pawn sacrifice, freeing Black's game.' **8.exd5 a6 9.Ba4**

[9.Bxd7+ Qxd7 10.Ne3 b5 gives Black excellent play for the pawn.]

9...b5 10.Bb3 Nb6

[Black has sound alternatives here like 10...Nc5 but Shirov's line was in good shape anyway, and looks even better following his 13th move. but Shirov's line was in good shape anyway, and looks even better following his 13th move.]

[10...a5 is interesting. 11.d6 a4 12.Bd5 Ra5]



11.Ne3 -0.14/19

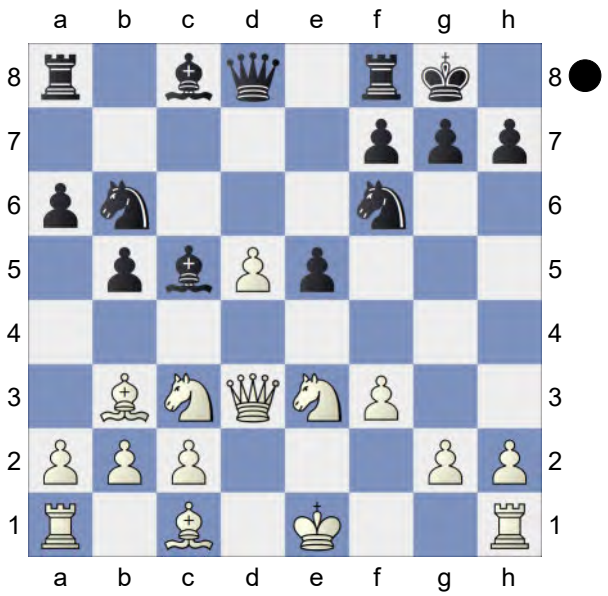
[⌓11.Qd3 0.20/18]

11...Bc5= Van Delft: 'White can hold onto the pawn for the moment, but the weakness of the a7-g1 diagonal is felt.'. Black has compensation. **12.Nc3 0-0 13.Qd3** -0.64/23 The only good thing about White's position is his extra pawn on d5. The only question is how many concessions Black will have to make to regain it. The only good thing about White's position is his extra pawn on d5. The only question is how many concessions Black will have to make to regain it. Van Delft: 'Diagramm

[13.0-0 Bf5 14.Kh1! Bg6 gives Black decent play for the pawn, but it was still White's safest option.]

[Better is 13.0-0= -0.04/21]

(Diagram)



Question 1 Would you play: A) 13...a5 to hunt down the white B; B) 13...b4 to eliminate a defender of the d5-pawn; C) 13...Bb7 to increase the pressure against d5.' **13...a5!** A good novelty by Shirov. A good novelty by Shirov. Van Delft: 'A novelty, and a strong one at that, 5 points.'. &Nero is more active.

[13...b4 has also scored well for Black: has also scored well for Black: 14.Na4 *(14.Ne4!?* -1.04/21 14.Na4 -0.62*)* 14...Nxa4 15.Bxa4 Bb7 -0.20/19 *(15...Bd7 16.Bxd7 Qxd7* is good for Black as well, since the white K has trouble finding a good spot, 3 points.*; 15...Bd7∓* -0.68/22 might be stronger. *16.Bxd7 Qxd7)* 16.Bd2= Qc7 17.0-0-0 Rfd8∓ was good for Black in A.Sitnikov (2467) - A.Areshchenko (2644), Evpatoria 2007 (0-1 in 41) was good for Black in A.Sitnikov (2467) - A. Areshchenko (2644), Evpatoria 2007 (0-1 in 41)]

[13...Bb7 0.11/19 13...b4 -0.60 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.fxe4 a5 16.c3 is less convincing, therefore no points.]

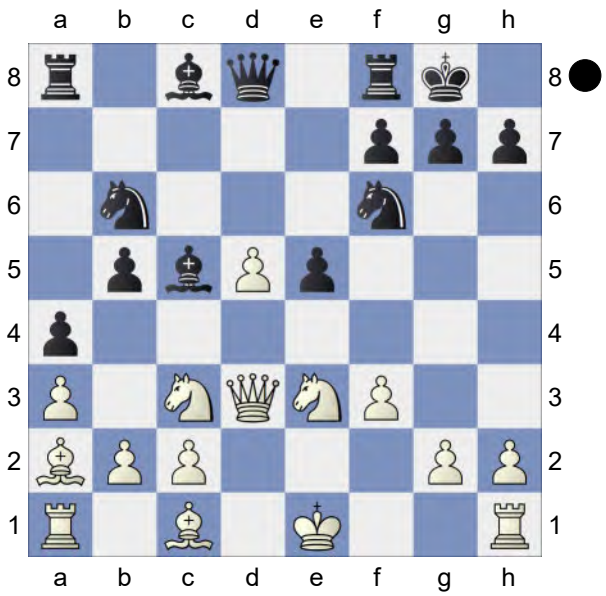
14.a3

[14.Qxb5 Nfd7! leaves the white queen struggling to find a good square. leaves the white queen struggling to find a good square. Van Delft: 'leaves the white Q in trouble, and when it retreats Black instructively wins a piece:'. Threatens to win with ...Ba6. 15.Qc6 *(15.Qd3* -1.37/19 15.Qc6 -0.59 *a4! 16.Bc4 Bxe3! 17.Bxe3* Hoping for 0-0-0. *Qh4+)* 15...Ra7! 16.Nf5 a4! 17.Bxa4 Nxa4 18.Nxa4 Qa5+ 19.Bd2 -1.04/21 *(19.Nc3∓* -0.69/20 *Nb8 20.Nh6+ gxh6 21.Qb5)* 19...Qxa4∓ 20.Qxa4 Rxa4 leads to a very unclear endgame where the four (!) connected passed pawns are kept in check for the moment. leads to a very unclear endgame where the four (!) connected passed pawns are kept in check for the moment.]

[14.Nxb5 -1.67/20 14.Qxb5 -0.29 a4 15.Bc4 Re8 with the idea of e4 also leaves many white pieces hanging.]

[14.Nxb5 a4 15.Bc4 Ba6∓]

14...a4 15.Ba2 Van Delft: 'Diagramm

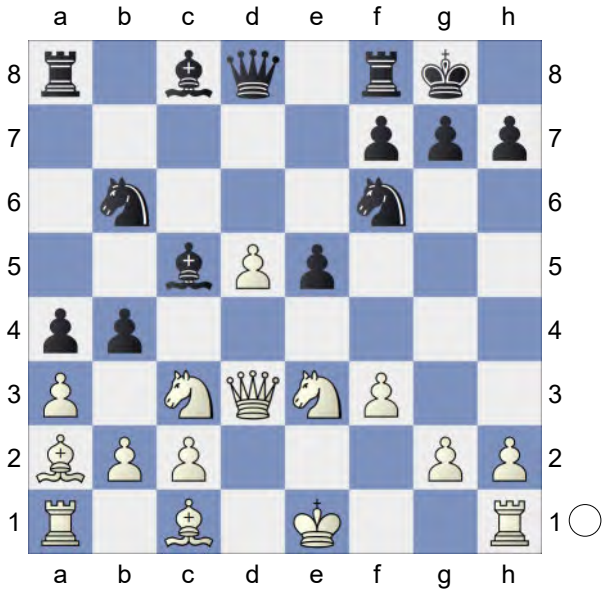


Question 2 Would you play: A) 15...Ba6

to have a second B beaming into White's position; B) 15...b4 to first open the a6-f1 diagonal; C) 15...Bd4 to surround the d5-pawn.' **15...b4**

[15...Ba6! And now ...b4 would win. 16.Qd2 -0.98/18 *(16.Nxb5?* -2.04/20 16.Qf5 -0.41 *Re8!* followed by e4 is again deadly.*; 16.Qf5∓* -0.53/20 is more appropriate.*)* 16...b4∓ 17.axb4 Bxb4 would have prevented White from castling and was even stronger, 5 points.]

[15...Bd4 -0.01/20 15...Ba6 -0.51 16.Ne2 loses time, therefore no points.]

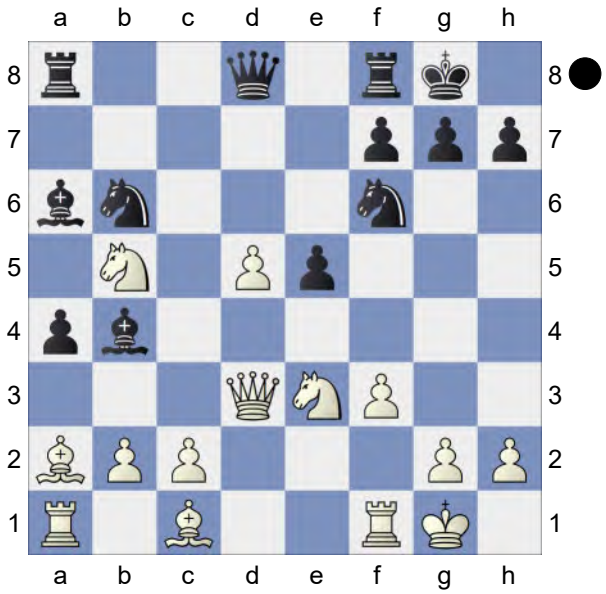


Van Delft: 'Black keeps his queenside initiative going, 3 points.' **16.axb4 Bxb4 17.0-0** -0.08/20 Van Delft: 'White's K is at least now safe.'

[17.Qb5∓ -0.45/18 Be7 18.Qd3]

17...Ba6 18.Nb5 Van Delft: 'Diagramm

(Diagram)



Question 3 Would you play: A) 18...Rb8 to line up against the pinned white N; B) 18...Bc5 to pin the other N as well; C) 18...Qd7 to attack Nb5 directly.' **18...Bc5!** Play has been more or less forced since move 14. Black has alternatives instead of 18...Bc5 but I like the idea of pinning both knights. Play has been more or less forced since move 14. Black has alternatives instead of 18...Bc5 but I like the idea of pinning both knights. Van Delft: 'Reinstalling the B on the vital a7-g1 diagonal, 5 points.'

[After 18...Rb8 0.18/20 18...Qe8 -0.29 19.c4 Nbxd5! 20.Nxd5 Nxd5 Black wins back the pawn while retaining a mild initiative, 3 points.]

[With 18...Qd7 19.c4 Bxb5 20.cxb5 Ra5 Black can also win back the pawn (2 points), but then the position is about equal.]

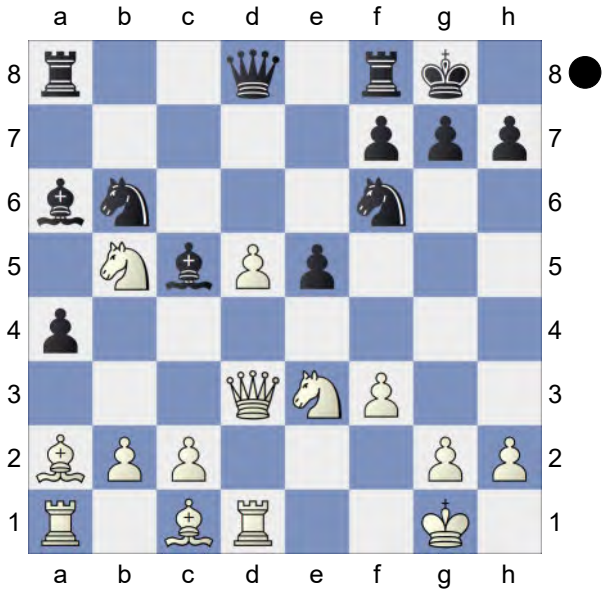
[18...Qd7!? 19.c4 Rac8=]

19.Rd1? -1.69/23 A predictable mistake in a difficult position. A predictable mistake in a difficult position. Van Delft: 'Diagramm

[Getting out of at least one of the pins with Getting out of at least one of the

pins with Van Delft: 'Unpinning the N with' 19.Kh1 was more advisable. Black retains compensation but nothing overwhelming, for instance was more advisable. Black retains compensation but nothing overwhelming, for instance Van Delft: 'would have been correct, when the position is roughly balanced.' Qd7 20.c4 Rac8 21.Rd1 *(21.d6!?)* 21...Rfe8 0.38/19 with sufficient play. *(21...Bxb5= 0.01/19 22.cxb5 e4 23.fxe4 Rfe8)*]

[19.Kh1= -0.03/21 and White is okay.]



A serious mistake, allowing Black to seize the initiative. Question 4 Would you play: A) 19...a3 to provoke further weaknesses on the queenside; B) 19...e4 to open up the centre immediately; C) 19...Re8 to prepare the advance of the e-pawn.'. This move loses the game for White. **19...e4!-+** Van Delft: '!' Van Delft: 'There's no need to wait as Black's initiative is gaining momentum, 5 points.'

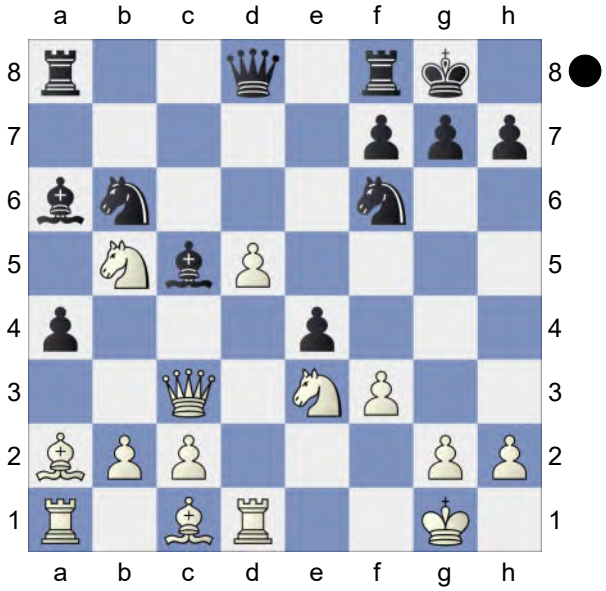
[19...a3 -0.92/18 19...e4 -1.43 is also strong, but after 20.bxa3 -1.33/20 Black should return to the *(⌓20.b4* -0.92/18 *Bd4 21.c3 Bxb5 22.Qxb5 Bxc3 23.Rb1)* 20...e4! idea, 3 points.]

[19...Re8 isn't bad either (2 points), but White can keep fighting with 20.Qc3 Rc8 21.Qa5]

20.Qc3 -1.98/20

[Van Delft: 'After' 20.fxe4 Ng4! and White loses material, for instance and White loses material, for instance Van Delft: '!' Van Delft: 'Black wins a piece because of the threat both of taking twice on e3 and Qh4.'. White must now prevent ...Qh4. 21.Qc3 Bxe3+ 22.Bxe3 Strongly threatening Bc5! Rc8 23.Bxb6 Qxb6+ 24.Qd4 Qxb5∓]

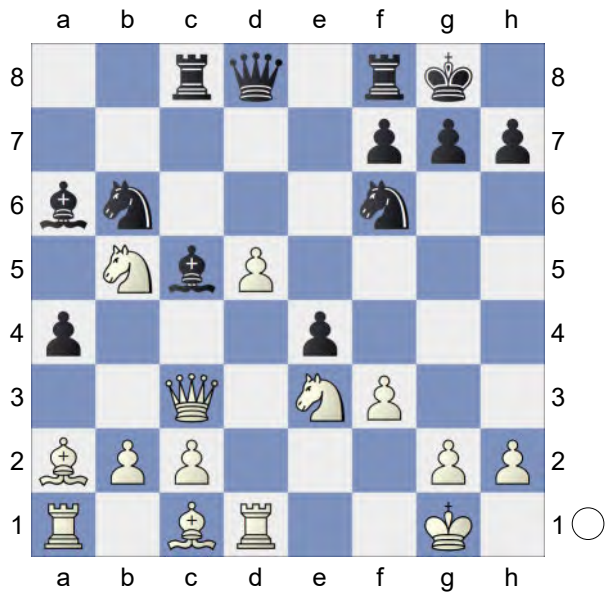
[20.fxe4∓ -1.43/23 Ng4 21.Qc3 Bxe3+ 22.Bxe3 Nxe3 23.Qxe3 Bxb5 24.Rd4]



20...Rc8!

[20...Bxe3+ 21.Bxe3 Bxb5 22.Qb4=]

(Diagram)

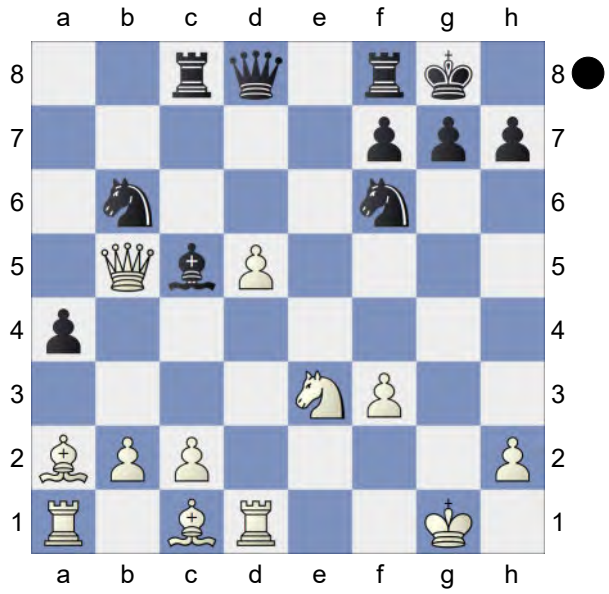


21.Qa5

[21.Nd4 exf3 22.gxf3 Nbxd5 23.Nxd5 Nxd5 24.Bxd5 Qxd5-+ and the black bishops dominate.]

21...Bxb5 22.Qxb5 exf3 23.gxf3

Van Delft: 'Diagramm

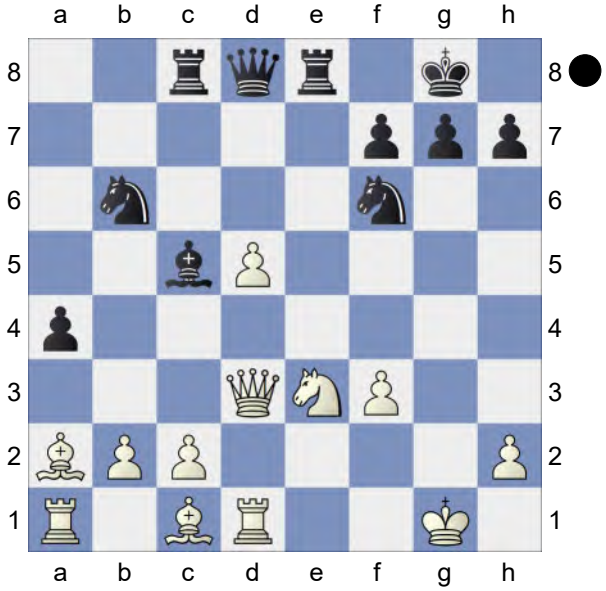


Question 5 Would you play: A) 23...Nfxd5 to open the way for the Q to the kingside; B) 23...Qe7 to increase the pressure against e3; C) 23...Re8 to increase the pressure against e3.'

23...Nfxd5∓ -1.57/23 White's position is in tatters, and he no longer even has an extra pawn to show for it. White's position is in tatters, and he no longer even has an extra pawn to show for it. Van Delft: 'Not the optimal move (2 points), but who can blame Shirov in this very complex position?'

[23...Qe7! basically picks up a piece (5 points), since after 24.Qd3 -4.98/23 *(⌓24.Qe2 -3.17/19 Rfe8 25.c4)* 24...Nbxd5! 25.Bxd5 Nxd5 26.Qxd5 aiming for Rd3. Rfd8 the R on d1 is gone.]

[23...Re8 -1.78/20 23...Qe7 -3.27 24.Qd3

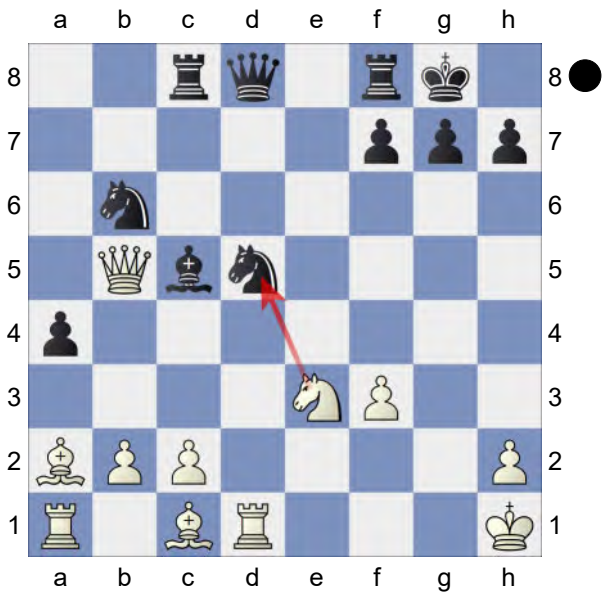


Nh5! -2.47/20 also gives Black a powerful attack, 3 points. *(⌓24...Nfxd5! -1.89/23 25.Bxd5 Nxd5 26.Qxd5 Qb6)*]

[23...Qe7-+ -3.36/23 has better winning chances. 24.Qe2 Rfe8]

24.Kh1

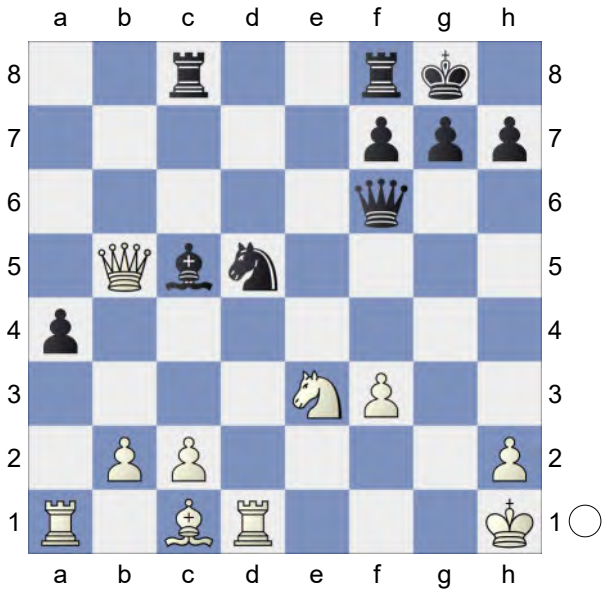
(Diagram)



Qf6! Van Delft: '!' Van Delft: 'Unpinning the N.' **25.Bxd5**

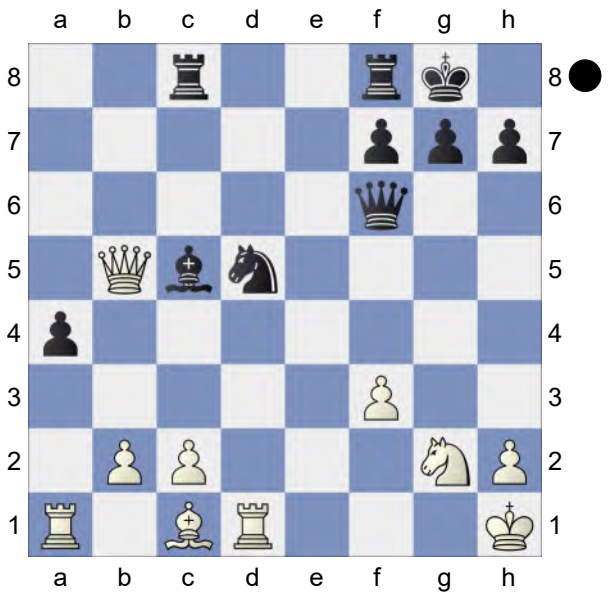
[Keeping the bishop pair with the immediate 25.Ng2 looks more stubborn.]

25...Nxd5



26.Ng2 Van Delft: 'Diagramm

(Diagram)



Question 6 Would you play: A) 26...Nb4 to take aim at new targets; B) 26...Rfd8 to bring the final piece into play; C) 26...Qxf3 to eliminate another defender of White's K.' **26...Rfd8** Van Delft: '!' Van Delft: 'Shirov shows brilliant tactical vision, 5 points.'

[26...Qxf3 -0.81/23 26...Rfd8 -1.85 27.Rf1 Qh3 28.Rxa4 allows White to more or less organize his position, therefore no points.]

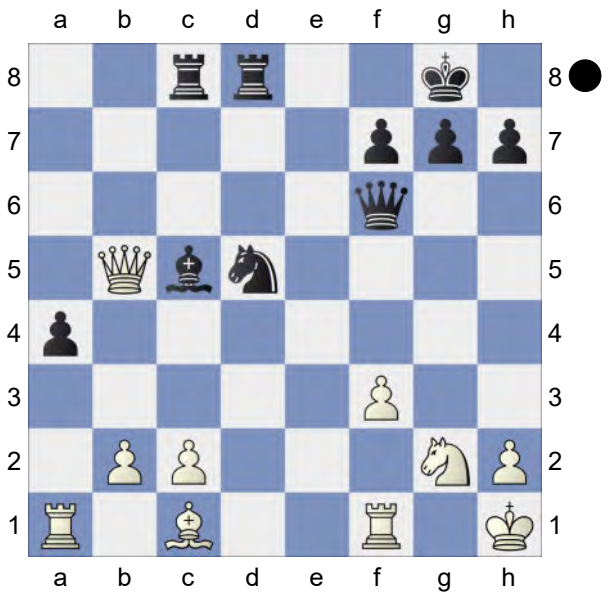
[26...Nb4 27.c3 doesn't lead anywhere, so no points.]

[Worse is 26...Qxf3 27.Rf1 Qh5 28.Rxa4∓]

27.Rf1 Van Delft: 'Diagramm

[27.Rxa4? -8.87/24 27.Qf1 -1.87 Nc3! was Shirov's idea, winning the house because of the weak white back rank.]

(Diagram)



Question 7 Would you play: A) 27...a3 to make use of the pin along the long diagonal; B) 27...Nb4 to attack c2 after all; C) 27...Nb6 to keep everything defended.' **27...a3→** Van Delft: '!' Van Delft: 'Increasing the pressure on all sides of the board, 5 points.'. Black is out for blood.

[27...Nb6 of course works as well (2 points), but there's no need to defend.]

[27...Nb4 -1.22/23 27...a3 -2.06 28.Rxa4 *(*Now after *28.c3* -1.93/21 28.Rxa4 -1.15 Black has *Nd3)* 28...Nxc2 29.Rf4 allows White to fight back, therefore no points.]

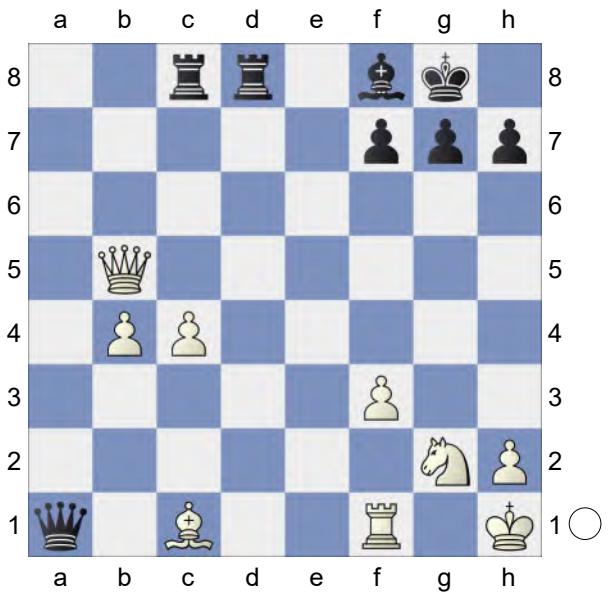
28.c4 Nb4 Van Delft: 'Now this move fits well.' **29.bxa3** -3.89/22

[29.Rxa3 Nd3 wins material.]

[29.Rxa3 -2.57/26 is a better defense. Nd3 30.b4]

29...Qxa1-+ 30.axb4 Bf8

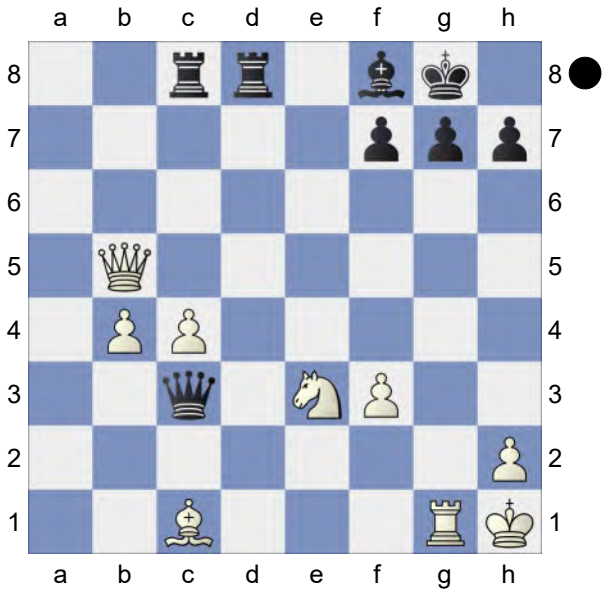
(Diagram)



Van Delft: 'White has no compensation for the exchange since his pieces aren't coordinated.' **31.Ne3 Qc3**

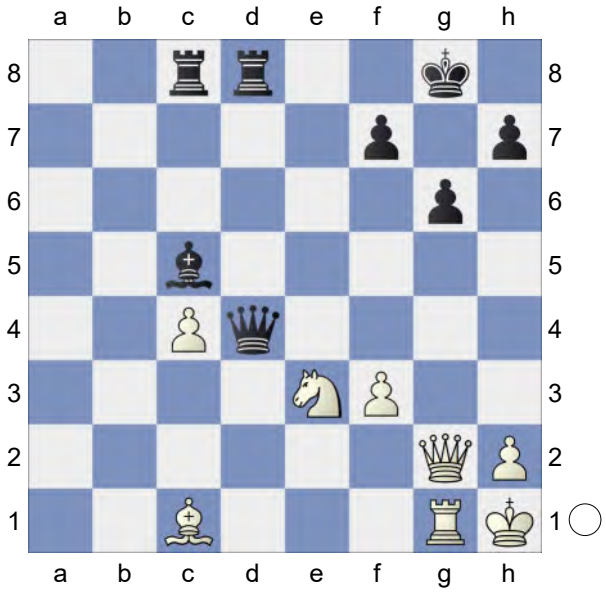
[But not 31...Rb8? 32.Qg5-+]

32.Rg1 Van Delft: 'Diagramm



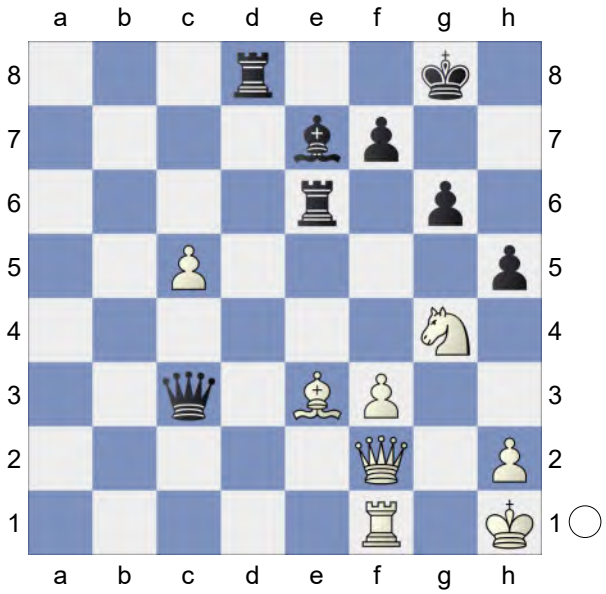
Question 8 Would you play: A) 32...Bxb4 to take back the pawn while bringing the B out; B) 32...Qxb4 to take back the pawn while keeping g7 defended; C) 32...g6 to close the g-file before taking the pawn.' **32...g6** Van Delft: '!' Van Delft: 'The right way to kill White's counterplay, 5 points.'

[32...Qxb4? -1.53/21 32...g6 -4.18 should be avoided, since 33.Nf5! gives White serious counterplay, therefore no points.]
[32...Bxb4 is possible though (3 points), since 33.Nf5 -#2/6 fails to *(33.Qf5-+ -4.37/22 g6 34.Qg4)* 33...Qxf3+]
33.Qg5 Against Bh6
[33.Nd5? -8.84/20 33.Qg5 -3.93 fails to Qxf3+]
33...Bxb4 34.Qg4 Qd4 35.Qg2 Bc5

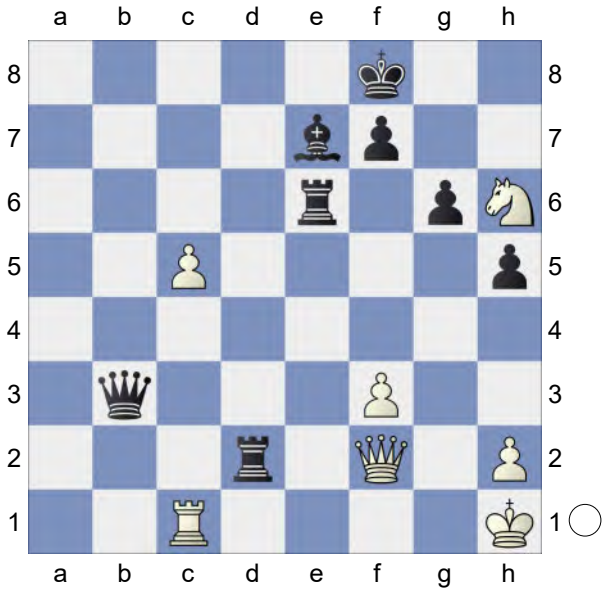


36.Rf1 Rc6 37.Ng4 Be7 38.Be3
[38.Nh6+ Kf8 doesn't worry Black.]
38...Qc3 39.c5 Re6 Black is clearly winning. **40.Qf2** -7.55/20
[⌓40.Bh6 -4.43/20]
40...h5

(Diagram)



Van Delft: 'The time control has been reached.' **41.Rc1 Qb3 42.Nh6+ Kf8 43.Bd2 Rxd2**

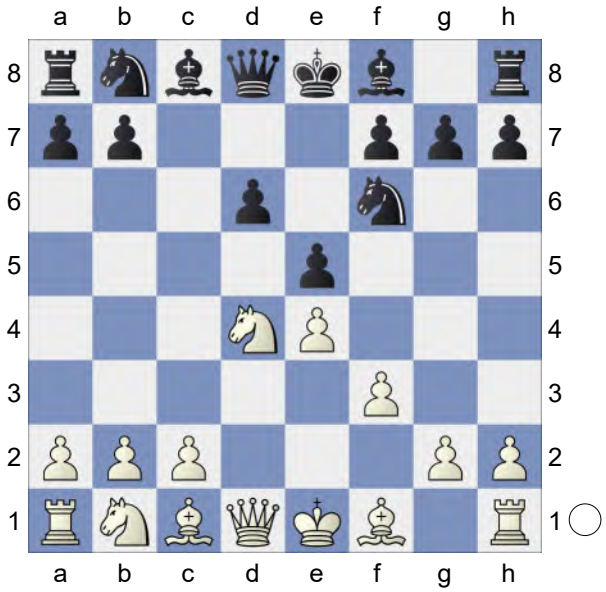


6.Bb5 needs a lot of repair work from White's perspective. 6.Bb5 needs a lot of repair work from White's perspective. Van Delft: '!' Van Delft: 'Followed by taking on f3. Conclusion: Shirov understands the art of playing very sharply and tactically, without making any positional concessions. He's produced many modern classics in this manner.'.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.50/ Black=0.12 (very precise)
0-1

150 **B55**
□ **Rodriguez Vila,Andres** **2523**
■ **Zukerfeld,Andres** **2237**
American Continental 03rd (1) 06.08.05
[Gofshtein,Leonid D]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 Gofshtein,L **1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3** A rare move. White intends to play c4 for the Marozi system.
. **5...e5N** black drives the knight away and prepares the central breakthrough with d5.
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Bb5+ after 6. Nb5 black can sacrifice a pawn for good compensation.
[6.Nb5 d5 7.exd5 a6 8.N5c3 Bc5⩱]
6...Nbd7 6...Bd7 deserves serious attention as the following games in practice demonstrate.
[6...Bd7!? 7.Bxd7+ Nbxd7 8.Nf5 d5!= 9.exd5 Nb6 10.0-0 *(10.Bg5 Qd7 11.Bxf6?! Qxf5 12.Bh4 Rc8 13.c3 Bc5 14.Bf2 Bxf2+ 15.Kxf2 0-0↑* 0-1 Rantalainen,S-Berglund,R/corr 1992/MegaCorr3 (21)*; 10.Qe2 Qxd5 11.Nc3 Qe6 12.Qb5+ Nfd7 13.Ne3 Bc5∓* 0-1 Yonathan,Y-Tseitlin,M/Tel Aviv 1990/EXT 97 (26)*)* 10...Qxd5 11.Qe1 Qe6 12.f4

(12.Ng3 Bc5+ 13.Kh1 0-0 14.Nd2 Nbd5 15.Nde4 Rac8 16.c4 Nf4∓ 0-1 Rios,R-Evrard,H/corr 1955/ MegaCorr3 (32). (32)) 12...e4 13.Qa5? Weiß versucht seine Eröffnung zu rechtfertigen, gerät dabei aber nur noch stärker in den Strudel *(13.Nd4 Bc5 14.Be3 Qd7∓)* 13...Qd5 14.Qxd5 Nfxd5 15.b3? *(15.Re1 0-0-0 16.Rxe4 g6 17.Ng3 f5 18.Re2 Bd6∓)* 15...g6 16.Bb2 *(16.Ne3 Bc5 17.Kf2 Nxf4-+)* 16...gxf5 17.Bxh8 Bc5+ 18.Kh1 f6 19.c4 Ne3 0-1 Duman,A-Georgiev,K/ Istanbul 2003/CBM 096/[Mueller, Karsten] (19)]

7.Nf5 in the case of 7. Nb3 black is able to reach a good position

[7.Nb3 d5 8.exd5 a6]

7...d5!? an intresting pawn sacrafice giving black good counterplay as well as freeing black's minor pieces. another idea is immediatly 7...a6, also providing black with counterplay.

[7...a6!? 8.Bxd7+ *(8.Ba4 d5 9.exd5 b5 10.Bb3 Nb6)* 8...Qxd7 9.Bg5 d5 10.Bxf6 gxf6⇄]

8.exd5 a6 9.Ba4 black recieves a good position after the exchange on d7.

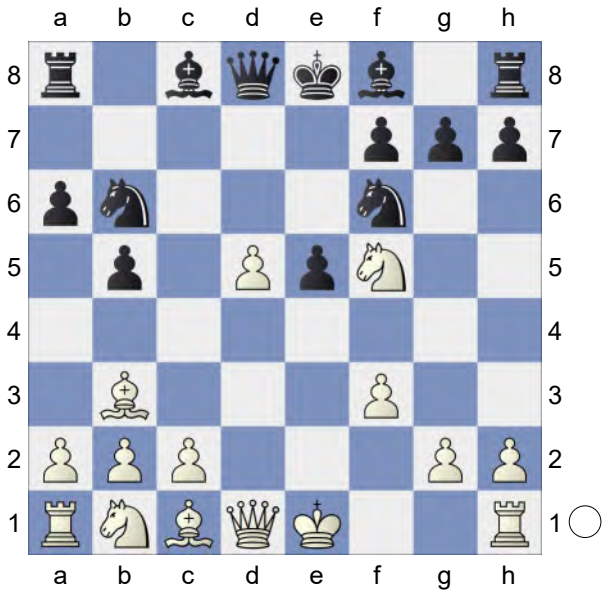
[9.Bxd7+ Qxd7 10.Ne3 b5 11.0-0 *(11.a4 Bb7 12.axb5 axb5 13.Rxa8+ Bxa8⇄* Delithanasis,D-Mainka,R/Ano Liosia op 1995/½-½ (61)*)* 11...Bb7 12.Nc3 b4 13.Ne4 Nxd5⇄ Bezgodov,A-Vaulin,A/Moscow/1995/0, 5/17/ (18)]

9...b5

[9...Qa5+? 10.Nc3 b5 11.Bb3 Nc5 12.Qe2±]

10.Bb3 Nb6

[10...a5 keeps more tension. 11.d6 a4 12.Bd5 Ra6]



11.Ne3 '⇄' Rechlis,G. **11...Bb7 12.Nc3 Bc5** after a series of natural moves its is visible black recieved good compensation for the pawn. **13.Qd3** White has an edge.as the following game demonstrates 13. Nf5 gives black good play.

[13.Nf5 Foguelman,A-Reshevsky,S/ Buenos Aires/1960/0:1/39/ g6 *(13...0-0* 0.56/19 13...g6 0.01 *14.Bg5!)*

A) 14.Be3!= 0.07/18 Bb4 *(14...Nfd7 15.Bxc5)* 15.Nh6;

B) 14.Ng7+ -0.70/20 14...Kf8∓ 15.Bh6 Kg8 16.Qd2 b4! 17.Ne2 -1.22/20 *(17.Na4!=* -0.01/19 *Nxa4 18.Bxa4)* 17...a5↑ -0.70/17 *(17...Nfxd5∓* -1.22/20 *18.c4 Nf4 19.Qxd8+ Rxd8 20.Nxf4 exf4)*]

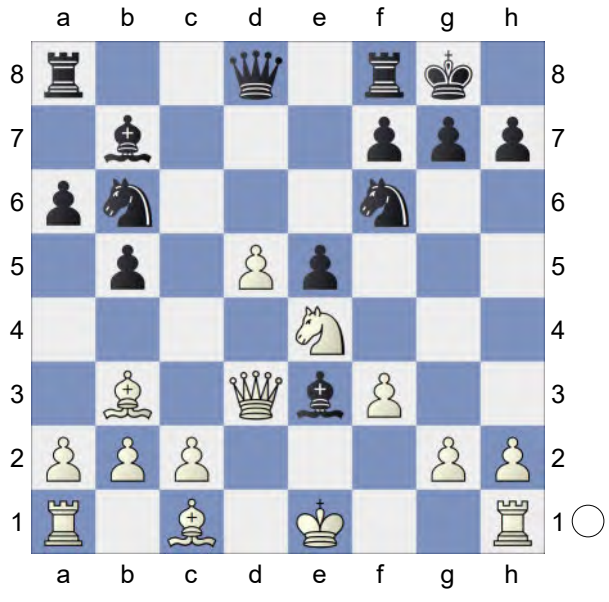
13...0-0 14.Ne4 Rc8 better for black would have been a diffrent variation.

[14...Nxe4!? 15.fxe4 a5!? And now ...a4 would win.

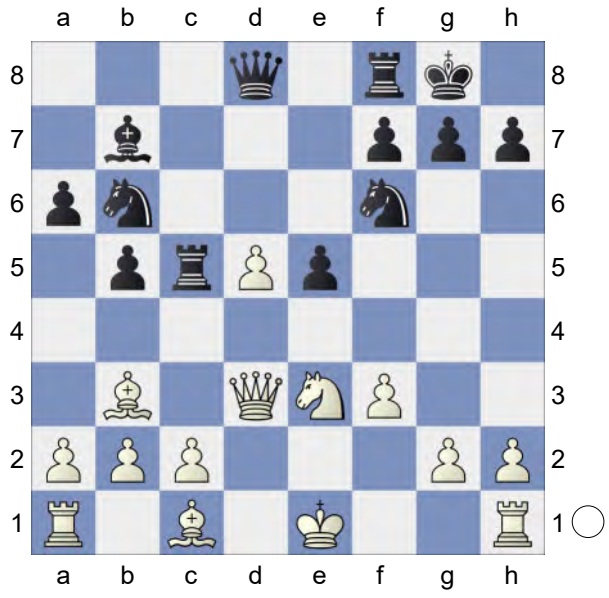
A) 16.Qxb5! -2.73/20 16.a3 0.09 Qh4+⯐ -1.48/18 *(16...Bb4+-+* -2.73/20 *17.c3 Ba6)*;

B) 16.a3 a4!? 0.58/17 *(16...Bxe3?!* 1.01/20 16...Qg5 0.09

17.Bxe3± 1-0 Liiva,R-Krupenski,Y/Tallinn 1999/EXT 2000 (34); *16...Qg5=* 0.23/18 *)* 17.Ba2± b4⩱;
C) 16.c3 a4 0.22/19 *(⌓16...b4* -0.25/17 *)* 17.Bd1 -0.39/18 *(17.Bc2=* 0.22/19 *)* 17...f5! 18.Nxf5 Rxf5 19.exf5 e4⩱]
[14...Bxe3! 1.02/22 14...Nxe4 0.22

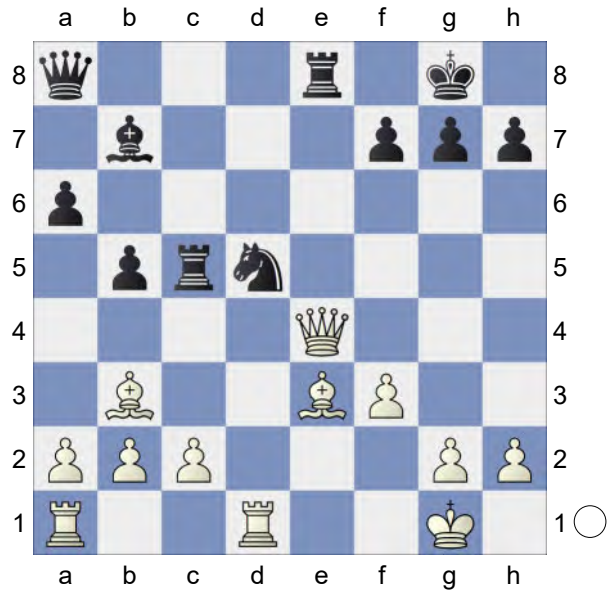


15.Nxf6+! Qxf6 16.Bxe3 Rad8⩱]
15.Nxc5 Rxc5

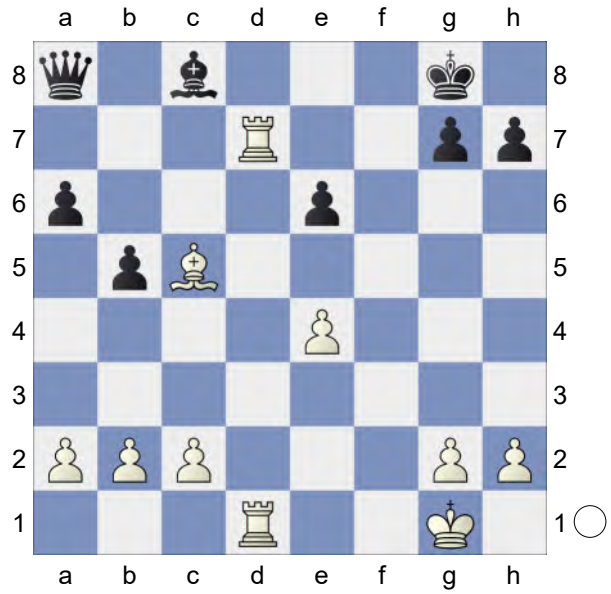


16.0-0 better for white would have been 16.d6 as the following game demonstrates.
[16.Bd2 Nbxd5 17.0-0-0 Hoping for Bb4! Qc7⇄]
[16.d6!? Nbd5 0.67/20 *(16...Nc4=* 0.00/20 *)* 17.Nxd5!± Nxd5 18.Bd2 Qh4+ 1.02/18 *(18...a5±* 0.32/20 *)* 19.g3± Qf6 20.0-0-0± 0.77/16 1-0 Liiva,R-Tyomkin,D/Holon 1995/EXT 97 (29) *(⌓20.a3* 1.10/19 *)*]
16...Nbxd5
[16...Nfxd5 17.Nxd5 Nxd5 18.Rd1 Black should prevent Be3. Qc7 19.c3 Inhibits Nb4. e4 0.81/20 *(19...a5=* 0.08/19 keeps the balance.*)* 20.fxe4± Nf6 21.Qd6± 0.37/19 1-0 Rodriguez,A-Cubas,J/Buenos Aires 2003/CBM 097 ext (32) *(*Better is *21.Be3±* 0.74/22 *)*]
17.Rd1 Qa8 0.57/19 it seems 17... Qc7 was a better choice for black.
[17...Qb6 0.34/17 17...Qc7 -0.21 18.Nxd5 Nxd5 *(18...Rxd5+ 19.Be3 Rxd3 20.Bxb6 Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1±)* 19.Be3 Nxe3 20.Qxe3 Qc7 Inhibits Rd7. 21.Rd2± -0.13/20 *(⌓21.a4* 0.24/18 *)* 21...e4 0.59/20 *(21...Bc8* 0.31/20 21...a5 -0.09 *22.Rad1 h6; 21...a5=* -0.13/20 *22.a4 bxa4 23.Rxa4 Bc8)* 22.fxe4 0.14/19 *(22.Rad1!±* 0.59/20 *Rh5 23.g3)* 22...Re5= 23.Rd4± ½-½ Rodriguez,A-Herrera,I/Linares 1997/CBM 058/[Rechlis,G] (34)]
[17...Qc7!? 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.c3 Bxb3 20.axb3 Rd5⇄ Inhibits Qd6. ½-½ Gvetadze,S-Matnadze,A/Tbilisi 2001/EXT 2004 (51)]
[17...Qc7= -0.23/20]
18.Nxd5± **Nxd5** also after 18.Bxd5 white has a better game.
[18...Bxd5 19.Be3 Bc4 20.Qc3 Rd5 21.Bxc4 bxc4 22.Qxc4]
19.Be3 e4 1.21/19 black tries to complicate things, for in normal circumstances white has a clear

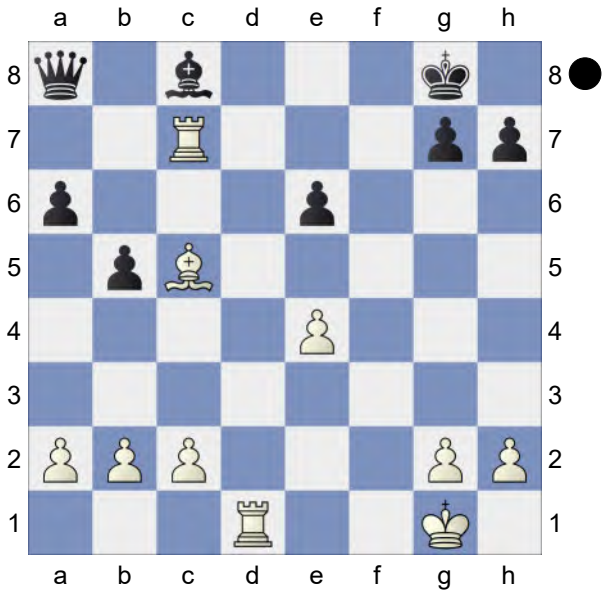
advantage. **20.Qxe4± Re8** 2.57/24



Black cannot hold the game after this.
21.Bxc5 white siezs the oppertunity to exchange a queen for two rooks and generate a winning position with highly active pieces dominating the battle.
[21.Qxe8+ Qxe8 22.Bxc5+-]
21...Rxe4 22.fxe4 Nc7 7.24/24
[22...Qc8 2.39/20 23.Bd6 *(23.Bxd5 Qxc5+ 24.Kh1 Bc8±)* 23...Nf6]
23.Rd7+- White is clearly winning.
23...Ne6 24.Bxe6 fxe6 25.Rad1 Bc8



26.Rc7



Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.54black resigns for he cannot prevent the rook on the d-file from deliviring a desicive attack by invading the 7th or 8th rank.
1-0

151 **B55**
□ **Varga,Zoltan** **2518**
■ **Tratar,Marko** **2450**
Mitropa Cup 19th (4) 04.04.1999
[Rodriguez Cespedes,Amador]

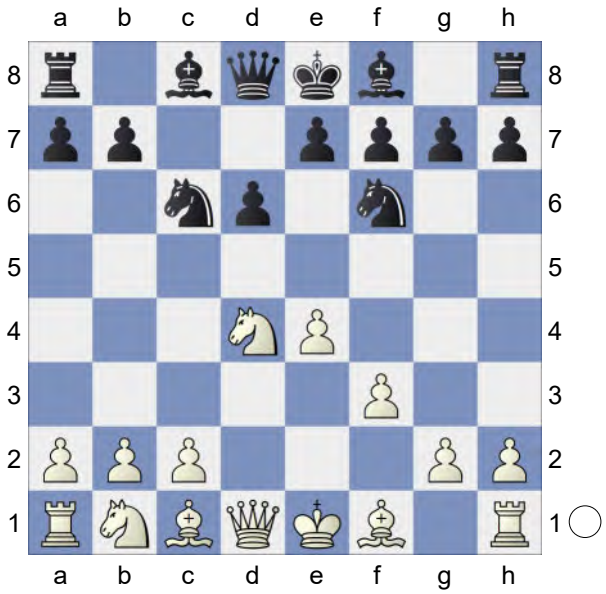
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 Rodriguez,Am Rodriguez,Am Rodriguez,Am **1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N**
If Black wants to avoid the complications after 5...e5 followed by the pawn sac ...d6-d5, then the text is a safe option.
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4*

Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2 Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

(Diagram)



6.c4 e5?! 0.47/20 After this White has nice positional prospects. I believe all the known alternatives are better.

[6...e6]

[6...g6]

[6...Qb6]

[6...e6= 0.01/19]

7.Nc2± Be7

[7...Nxe4 0.94/18 7...Nh5 0.49 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2 Qxe4 10.Nc3 Qg6 11.Ne3 Be7 12.Bd3 f5 13.Kc2 0-0 14.Kb1 Bg5 15.g3 Bxe3 16.Bxe3 Be6 17.b3± 1-0 Bonch Osmolovsky,M-Abramov,L/Moscow 1949/MCD (45)]

[7...Nh5 8.Be3 f5 9.Nc3 Nf6 10.Be2?! *(10.exf5 Bxf5 11.Bd3)* 10...Be7 11.Qd2?! fxe4 12.fxe4 Be6 13.0-0 0-0 14.h3 a6 0.49/17 *(14...Qe8=* 0.18/19 *)* 15.Rad1 Qe8 16.Qd3 Qg6 17.Bc1 Rad8 0.36/19 *(17...Nd4=* 0.00/19 *)* 18.b3 0.01/19 *(18.Kh2±* 0.36/19 *)* 18...Nd7 0.34/19 *(18...Nd4!=* 0.01/19 is more appropriate.*)* 19.Rxf8+ 0.02/20 *(19.b4±* 0.34/19 *)* 19...Rxf8= 20.Rf1 Nc5 21.Rxf8+ Bxf8 22.Qe3 Bf7 23.Bg4 Ne7 0.45/18 *(23...h5=*

-0.01/19 *24.Bf3 Be7)* 24.Qg5?? -0.86/23 *(24.Nb4±* 0.45/18 keeps the upper hand.*)* 24...Nxe4∓ 25.Qxg6 Bxg6 26.Be6+ Kh8 0-1 Corte,C-Patt Rubinstein,J/Buenos Aires 1947/EXT 98 (26)]

[7...Nxe4? 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2+-]

8.Nc3

[8.Be3 Nh5 9.Qd2 0-0 10.Nc3 f5 11.0-0-0

A) 11...Nf6 12.exf5 Bxf5 13.g4 Be6 14.h4 Qa5 0.89/20 *(14...Qe8±* 0.53/18 *)* 15.h5± Rfc8 1.66/19 *(15...Nd7±* 0.78/19 *)* 16.g5+- Nd7 17.Kb1 Bf8 1.68/17 *(17...Nb6±* 1.35/17 *)* 18.Ne4± 1.14/18 ½-½ Kedrov,V-Saulin,D/Moscow 1996/CBM 55 ext (40) *(18.h6+-* 1.68/17 *)*;

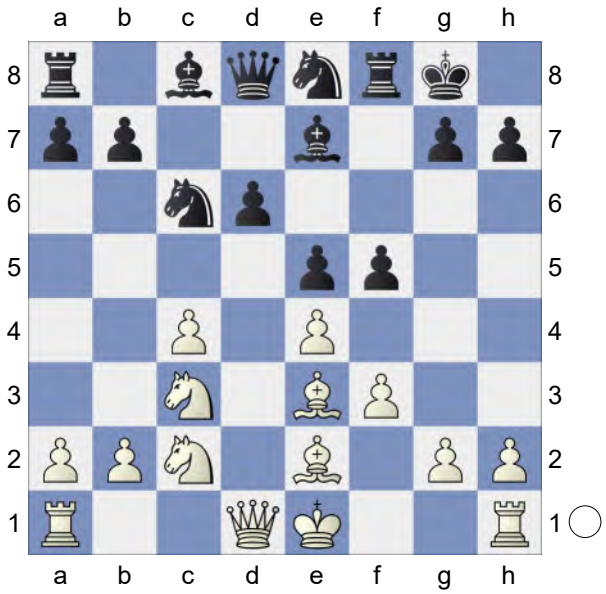
B) 11...g6 12.Nd5 f4 1.07/21 *(12...fxe4±* 0.66/19 feels stronger. *13.fxe4 Nf6)* 13.Nxe7+± Qxe7 14.Bf2 Rd8 15.Nb4 Be6 16.Nd5± ½-½ Mueller,C-Georgiev,K/Regensburg 1996/EXT 97 (26)]

8...0-0 White is slightly better. **9.Be3 Ne8 10.Be2**

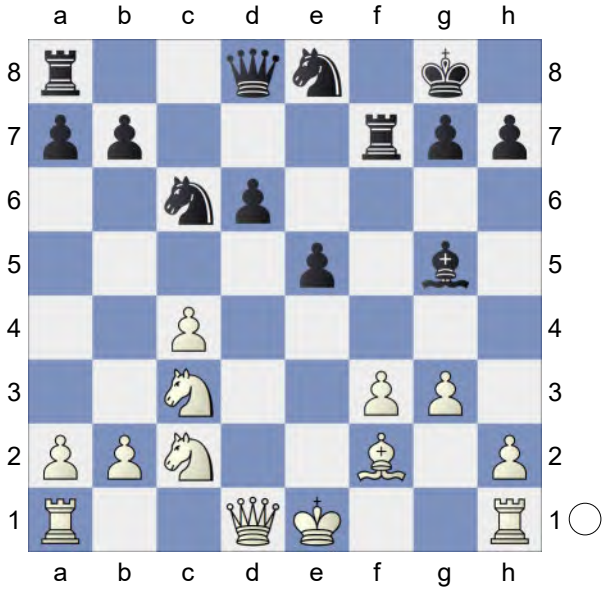
[10.Qd2 h6!? Δ ♗g5]

10...f5

(Diagram)

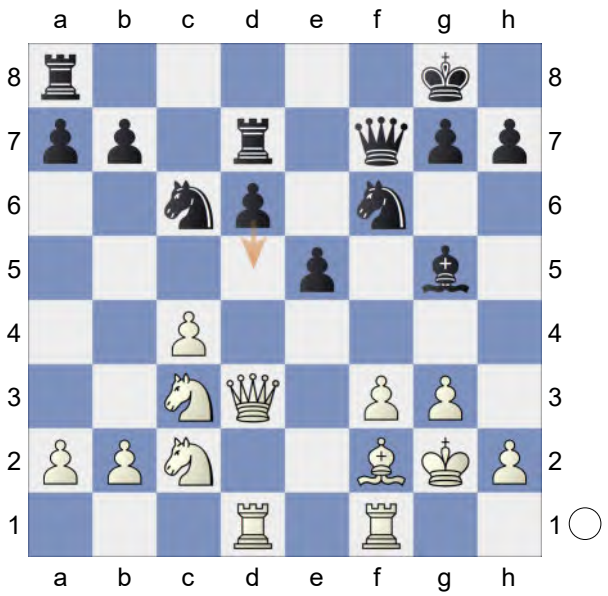


11.exf5! Bxf5 12.Bd3 It is not so important to lose a tempo here, White occupies the central squares. **12...Bh4+ 13.g3 Bg5 14.Bxf5! Rxf5 15.Bf2!? Rf7**



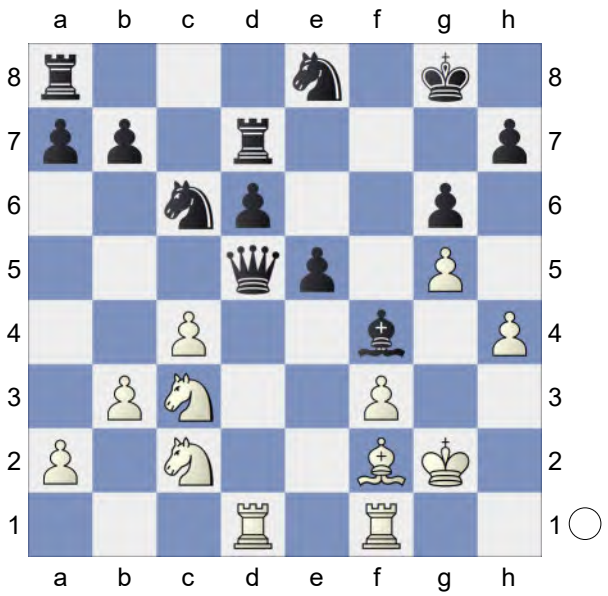
16.0-0 Qf6 17.Kg2 Qg6 18.Qe2 Nf6 19.Rad1 Rd7 20.Qd3 Qf7

(Diagram)

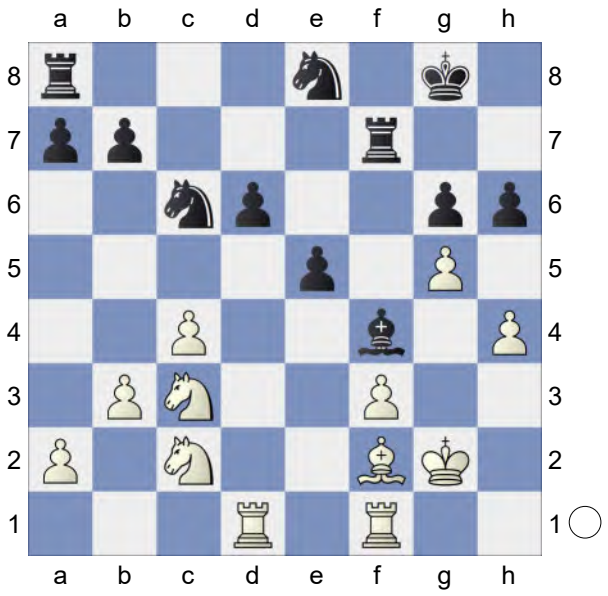


21.b3 0.01/20 White is slowly consolidating his position.
[21.h4± 0.48/20 Bh6 22.Ne3]
21...g6 0.86/21
[21...d5!= 0.01/20 keeps the balance.]
22.h4 Bh6 23.g4 Bf4 24.g5 Ne8 1.12/20
[24...Nh5± 0.40/21]
25.Qd5! Interesting judgement, the White pieces cooperate very well in the ending while the Black bishop on f4 does little to defend the queen side.
25...Qxd5

(Diagram)

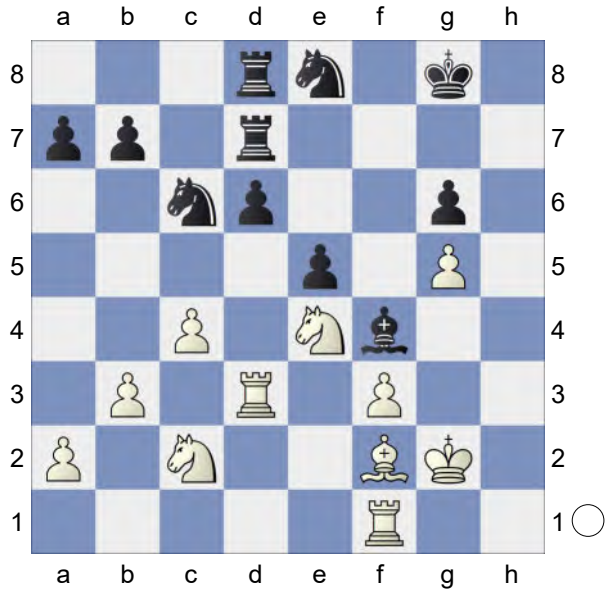


26.Nxd5 Rf7 27.Nc3!? 0.89/20
[⌓27.Nxf4 1.31/19 Rxf4 28.Ne3]
27...h6



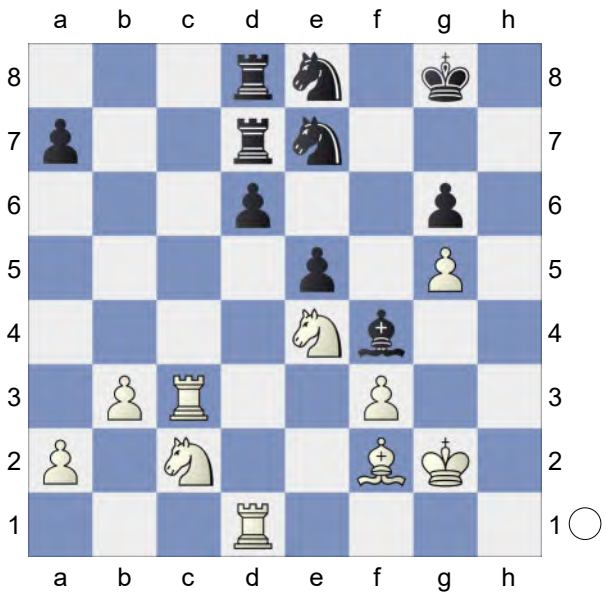
28.Ne4! hxg5 1.18/21
[⌓28...Rd8 0.81/19]
29.hxg5±
[But not 29.Nxd6?! Nxd6 30.Rxd6 e4 31.Rxg6+ Kh7=]
[Don't do 29.Nxg5 Bxg5 30.hxg5 Rf5±]
29...Rd8 30.Rd3 0.51/19
[Better is 30.Rh1± 1.18/21]
30...Rfd7 1.17/21

[30...Rh7± 0.51/19]

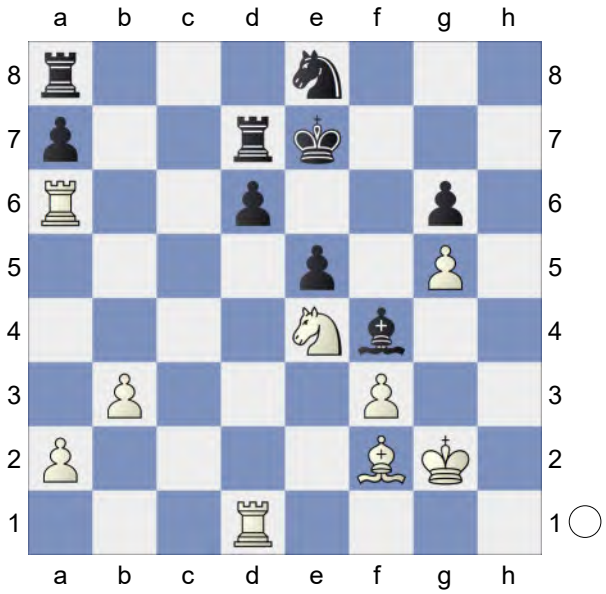


31.Rfd1 b6 32.c5!? 0.61/22 A bit risky but it seems to work.
[32.Be3± 1.20/21]
32...bxc5 33.Nxc5 Rc7 1.98/22 Can be a mistake from the bulletin instead of ♖e7
[33...Rh7± 0.62/23]
34.Ne4? 0.36/19
[34.Ne6+-]
[34.Ne6+- 1.98/22 Rcc8 35.Nxd8 Nxd8 36.Na3]
34...Rcd7 0.82/18
[34...Kf7± 0.36/19 deserves consideration.]
35.Rc3 Ne7

(Diagram)

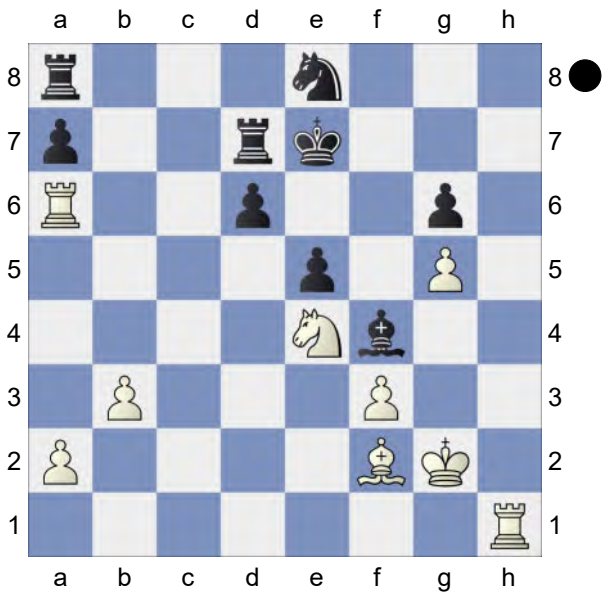


36.Nb4! Nf5 1.26/20
[36...d5 37.Nc5 Rc7 38.Rcd3±]
[Black should try 36...Kf7± 0.69/22]
37.Nd5 Total domination, White has a large positional advantage. **37...Kf7 38.Rc6 Ne7 39.Nxe7** &Bianco is much more active. **39...Kxe7 40.Ra6** 0.82/22
[White should play 40.Be1 1.25/19]
40...Ra8 2.04/22
[40...Rc8± 0.82/22 was called for.]



41.Rh1!

(Diagram)

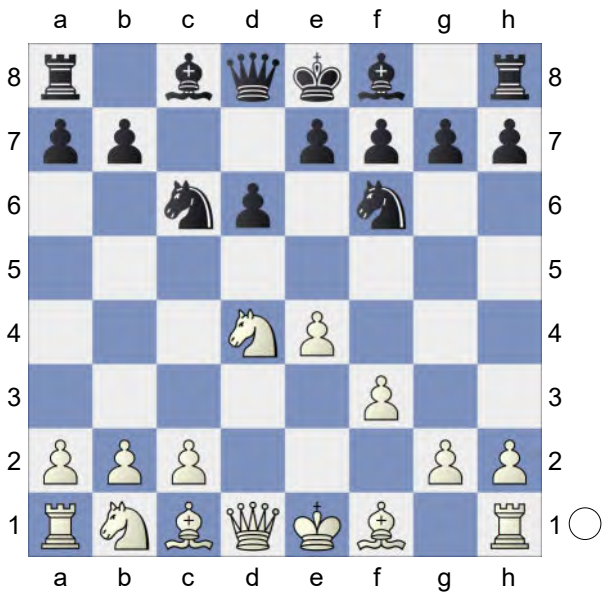


Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.25 (precise)
1-0

152 **B55**
□ **Erenburg,Sergey** **2512**
■ **Lopez Del Alamo,Antonio** **2313**
San Agustin op 08th (7.5) 21.08.2003
[Erenburg,Sergey]

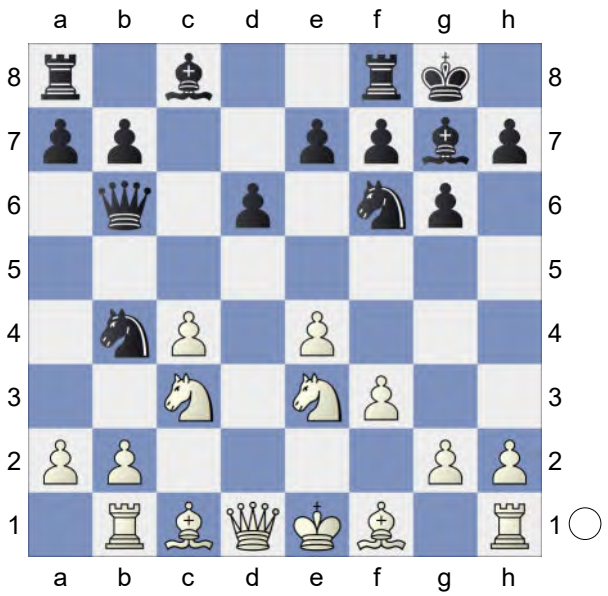
1.e4 Erenburg Erenburg Erenburg Erenburg: 'Erenburg,Sergey Erenburg, Sergey: 'Erenburg'' **1...c5** **2.Nf3** **d6** **3.d4** **cxd4** **4.Nxd4** **Nf6** **5.f3** Probably the most principal continaution. Another theoretical line transforms to Pirc defence: **5...Nc6**

(Diagram)

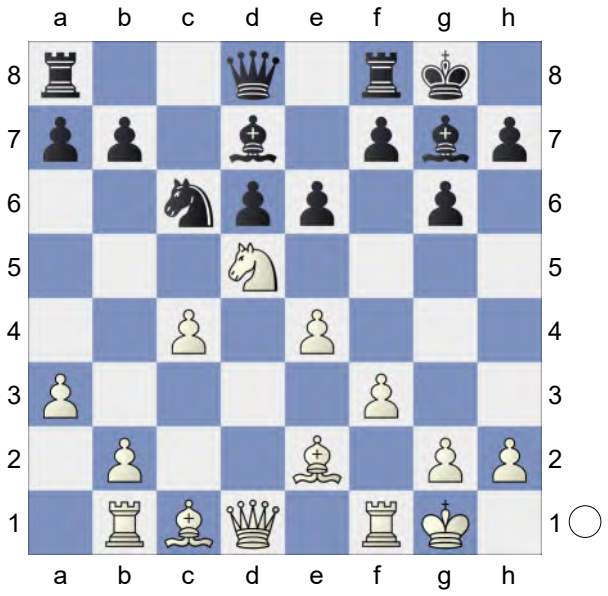


6.c4 **Qb6** Here black has another two following continuations:
[6...e6]
[6...Nxd4 7.Qxd4 g6 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.Be3 Be6 10.Be2 0-0 11.Qd2 Rc8]
7.Nc2 **g6** Other possibilities don't promise black an equality: **8.Nc3** **Bg7** **9.Rb1**
[9.Qd3 Ne5 10.Qe3 Qc7 11.b3 a6 12.Bd2 0-0 13.Rc1 e6 14.f4 Ned7 15.Be2 b6 16.0-0]
[9.Bd3 0-0 10.Rb1 e6 11.Be3 Qc7 12.0-0 a6 13.Be2 b6 14.Qd2 Rd8 15.Rfd1 Rb8 16.Bf1 Bb7 17.Qf2 Ba8 18.Rbc1]
9...Nb4 covering the b5 pawn. Black tried also **10.Ne3**
[10.Nxb4 Qxb4 11.Be3 0-0 12.Qd2 Be6 13.Be2 Rfc8 14.b3 Qa5 15.Rc1 Nd7]
10...0-0

(Diagram)

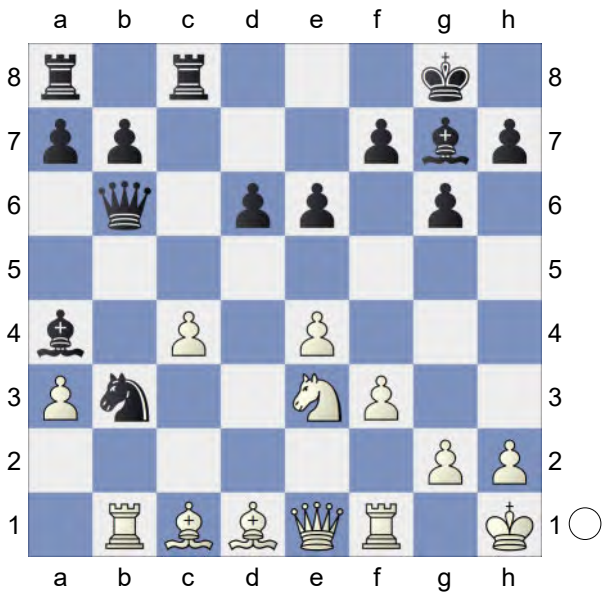


11.Be2 Bd7 12.a3⟳
White's development advantage is amazing, but it's not so easy to prove, that it is enough for a big advantage.
[12.0-0 Nc6 13.Kh1 Rac8 14.Ned5 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 Qd8 16.Be3 b6 17.Qd2 f5 18.exf5 Bxf5 19.Rbd1 Ne5 20.b3 Rf7 21.Bd4]
12...Nc6 13.Ned5 transfering the knight to c4. **13...Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Qd8 15.0-0 e6**



16.Ne3!± Nd4 17.b3
[17.b4]
[17.Nc2 Ba4 18.Bd3 Bb3 *(18...d5)*]
17...Qb6 18.Kh1! Ba4
[18...f5]
19.Qe1
[19.Bb2 Bxb3 20.Qd2 Ba2 21.Rbd1 Nb3]
[19.c5 dxc5 20.Nc4 Qb5 *(20...Bxb3 21.Qxd4 Bxc4)*]
[19.Qd3 Nxb3 20.Bb2
A) 20...Nd4 21.c5 Qxc5 *(21...dxc5 22.Bxd4 c4 23.Nxc4 Qxd4 24.Rxb7)* 22.Rfc1 Bb5 23.Qxb5 Nxb5 24.Rxc5 Nxa3 25.Bxa3 dxc5 26.Bxc5 Rfc8;
B) 20...Bxb2 21.Rxb2 Nc5 22.Rxb6 Nxd3 23.Rxd6 Nc5]
19...Nxb3
[19...Bxb3 20.Bd1 a5 21.Bxb3 Nxb3 22.a4]
[19...Bd7]
20.Bd1! Rfc8
[20...a5 21.Bc2 Bd4 22.Nd1 Qc6 23.Rxb3 *(23.Bxb3 Bxb3 24.Rxb3 Qxc4 25.Rb1 Qc2 26.Be3)* 23...Bxb3 24.Bxb3]
[20...Bd4 21.Bxb3 Bxb3 22.Nc2 Bg7 *(22...Bxc2 23.Rxb6 Bxb6 24.Qc3)* 23.Rf2 *(23.Be3 Bxc2 24.Bxb6 Bxb1 25.Qxb1 axb6 26.Qxb6)* 23...d5 *(23...Bc3 24.Qxc3 Qxf2 25.Bh6 e5 26.Qxb3)* 24.c5]

(Diagram)



21.Bxb3± The most precise decision. Now all the white pieces are extremely active, while black has too many weaknesses. These two main factors promise white good chances.

[21.f4]

21...Bxb3 **22.Qd2!** White doesn't worsen his pawn structure.

[22.Bb2 Ba2 23.Bxg7 Qxb1 *(23...Bxb1 24.Bh6)* 24.Qd2 Qb3 25.Bf6 Bb1 26.Nd5 Qd3 27.Ne7+ Kf8 28.Qh6+ Ke8 29.Rg1]

[22.Qe2 Bxc4]

22...Rc6

[22...a5 23.a4 Rc6 24.Qd3 *(24.Bb2 Ba2 25.Bxg7 Bxb1 26.Bf6)* 24...Bxc4 25.Nxc4 Qa6]

23.Bb2

[23.a4 a5 24.Ba3 *(24.Qd3 Bxc4* -B07 *25.Nxc4 Qa6 26.Nb2 Rb6 27.Qd1 Rc8; 24.Bb2)* 24...Rac8± 1-0 Rozentalis,E-Kempinski,R/4th IECC, Istanbul TUR 2003 (28) 25.Rfc1 comes to consideration as well: *(25.Qd3 Bxc4⩱* 1-0 Oral,T-Vescovi,G/Halle 1995/CBM 48 ext (23) *26.Nxc4* is refused by *Qa6 27.Nb2 Qxd3 28.Nxd3 Rc3 29.Rfc1 R8c6±* 1-0 Ponomariov,R-Zozulia,A/Alushta 1998/EXT 2000 (23)*)* 25...Bd4 26.Qd3 Bxe3 27.Rxb3 Qxb3 28.Qxb3 Bxc1 29.Bxc1 Rxc4 30.Be3⩲ 1-0 Pavasovic,D-Fauland,A/TCh-AUT B, Mitte AUT 2002 (32) Rc1+ 31.Bg1 Rf1]

[23.Qd3 Bxc4 24.Nxc4 Qa6 25.Nb2 Rb6]

23...Ba2 24.Bxg7 Bxb1 25.Bf6 Qb3 trying to weaken white's two connected pawns.

[25...Kf8

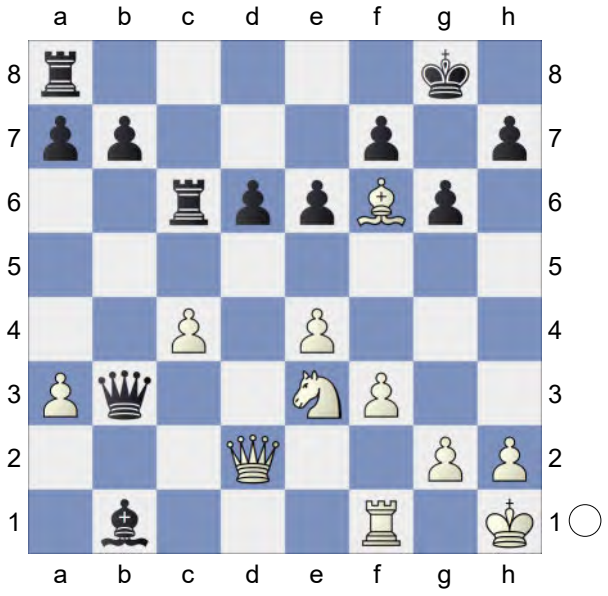
A) 26.Nd1± ½-½ Comp Junior on Alpha-Polgar,J/Budapest 1996/EXT 98 (70) /+- Rxc4+- 27.Qh6+ *(27.Nc3 Rxc3 28.Bxc3)* 27...Ke8 28.Qxh7 Rc1 29.Qg8+ Kd7± 1-0 Sermek,D-Cebalo,M/Maribor 1994/CBM 40/[Blatny,P] (34) 30.Qxf7+ weakens all the dark squares in the black camp. *(30.Qxa8 Rc8)* 30...Kc6? 31.Qxe6+- Qc5;

B) 26.Nd5 exd5 27.exd5± Rxc4 doesn't promise too much:

B1) 28.Re1 Be4!± opening the "f" line for the rook. Possible alternative is 29.Qh6+ *(29.fxe4 Ke8 30.Qh6 Kd7 31.Qxh7 Rf8)* 29...Ke8 30.Qxh7 Qe3 31.Qg8+± Kd7 is refused by 32.Qxf7+ Kc8 33.Qe6+ *(33.Bh4 Rc1)* 33...Kc7 34.Qe7+ Kb6 35.Qxd6+ Kb5 36.Bh4± ½-½ Lautier,J-Polgar,J/Dos Hermanas 1994/CBM 41 (47) Qd2 37.fxe4 Rc1;

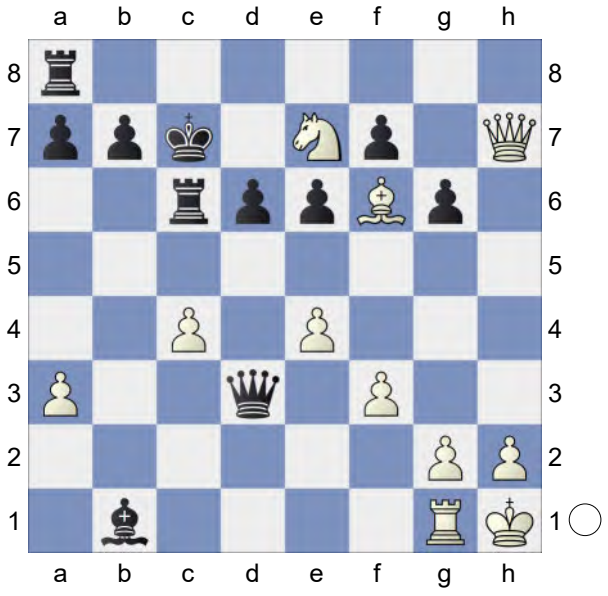
B2) 28.Qh6+ Ke8 29.Qxh7 Qf2 doesn't work, in view of 30.Qg8+! Kd7 31.Qxf7+ Kc8? 32.Qe8+ Kc7 33.Qe7+ Kc8 *(It is too* dangerous to play *33...Kb6*

, due to *34.Rxb1+)* 34.Qd8#!]



26.Nd5 Qd3 27.Ne7+ Kf8 28.Qh6+!+- White is a pawn up, he has two strong connected pawns, that promise white quite an easy realisation. **28...Ke8 29.Rg1 Kd7 30.Qxh7 Kc7**

[In case of 30...Rxc4 31.Qxf7]



31.Qxf7 Kb6 32.Qxe6 Black can't hold the pressure anymore, and, as a result, white's rook is going to invade into the black camp.

[32.Bd4+ Qxd4∞ *(32...Ka6* -main line. *33.Nxc6!? bxc6 34.Qc7!)* 33.Rxb1+]

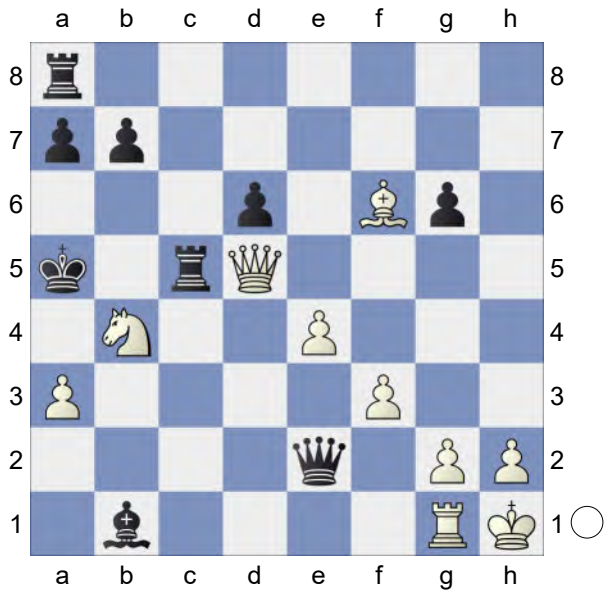
32...Rxc4 33.Nd5+ Ka5 34.Nb4 Qe2

[34...Rxb4 35.axb4+ Kxb4 36.e5 and white's advantage is quite obvious, thanks to a protected passed pawn.]

[In case of 34...Qb3 35.Qd5+ Ka4 *(35...Kb6 36.Bd4+)* 36.Qxb7!± white succeeds to open the game and to start an attack against evil's weaknesses.]

35.Qd5+ Rc5

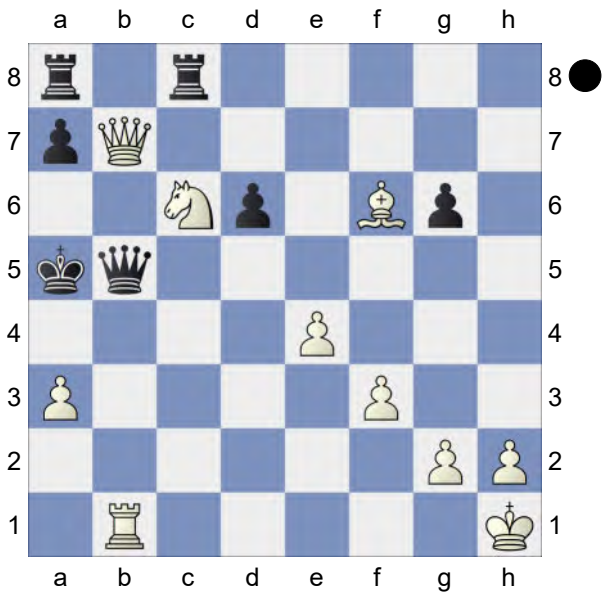
[Again 35...Ka4 provides to big white's edge. 36.Qxb7 Rac8 37.Qa6+± Kb3 38.Rxb1++- Qb2 39.Rxb2#]



36.Qxb7 and white's pawns get "promotion". **36...Rcc8** doesn't change anything: **37.Rxb1 Qb5 38.Nc6+**

[38.Nc6+ Qxc6+- organizing the passed pawn "h". 39.Bc3+ strong enough as well: Qxc3 40.Qb5#+-]

(Diagram)



1-0

153 **B55**
□ **Lodici,Lorenzo** **2511**
■ **Sonis,Francesco** **2558**
Bassano del Grappa Vergani Cup (6)
[Kitty Kat]

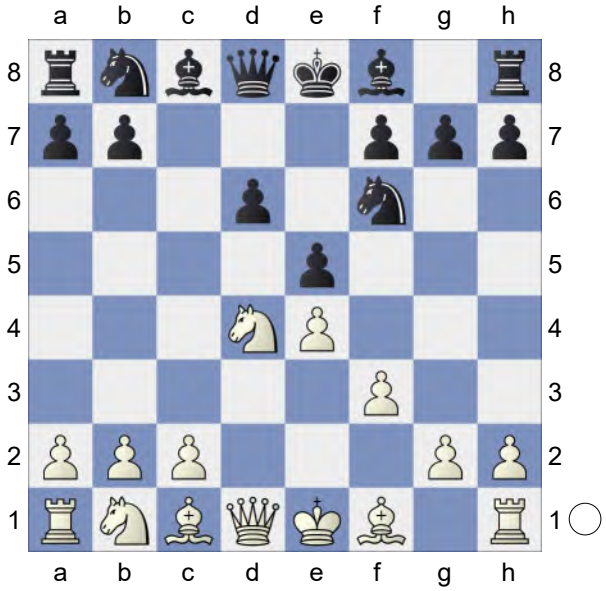
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

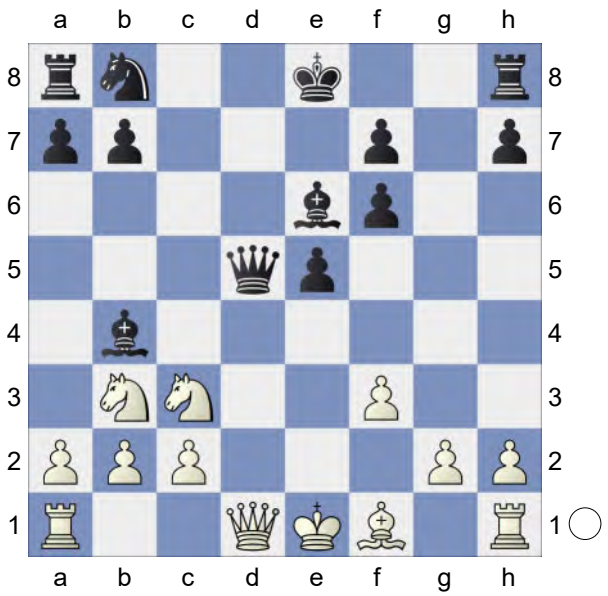


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.exd5 Qxd5 9.Nc3 Bb4 10.Bxf6 -0.46/20 now supersedes 10.Bd2. löst 10.Ld2 inzwischen ab.

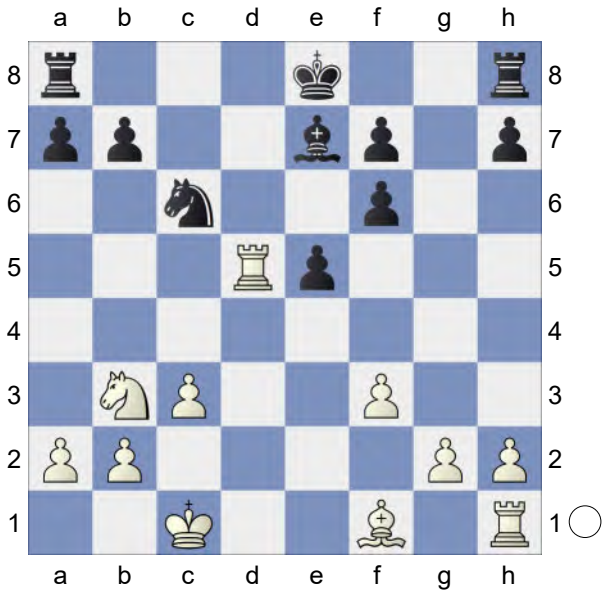
[10.Bd2= 0.20/19 Bxc3 11.Bxc3]

10...gxf6 -0.13/20

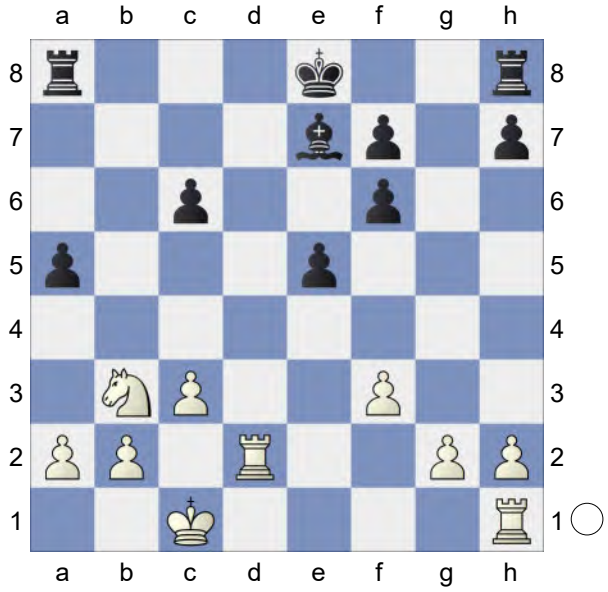
[10...Qxd1+∓ -0.46/20 11.Rxd1 gxf6]



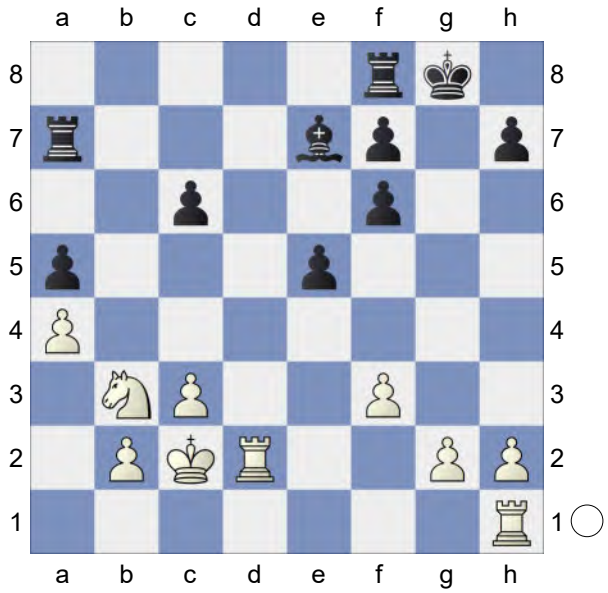
11.Qxd5= Bxd5 0.91/24
[11...Bxc3+= -0.04/23 12.bxc3 Bxd5]
12.0-0-0± White is better. **12...Be6** 1.16/23
[⌓12...Bxb3 0.83/23 13.cxb3 Bxc3 14.bxc3 *(14.Bb5+ Nc6±)* 14...Nc6]
13.Nd5 0.84/22
[⌓13.Nb5 1.16/23]
13...Bxd5 14.Rxd5 Hoping for Rb5.
14...Nc6 15.c3 Be7



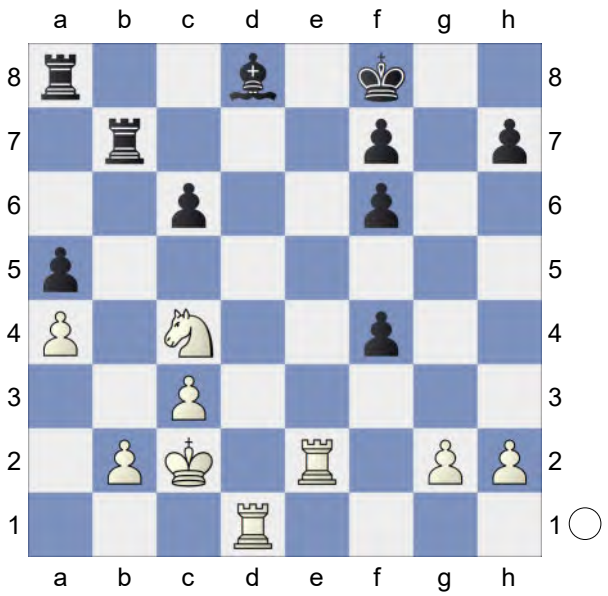
16.Bb5 a6 17.Bxc6+ bxc6 18.Rd2N
[Vorgänger: 18.Rd3 Ra7 19.Rhd1 Rc7 20.Nd2 0.58/21 *(20.Re3±* 0.92/22 *)* 20...0-0 1.27/21 *(*Black should play *20...Rg8±* 0.58/21 *)* 21.g4 Rfc8 1.63/22 *(21...h5±* 1.08/23 *)* 22.Ne4+- Kf8 23.Rd7 Ke8 24.Rxc7 Rxc7 1-0 (43) Rudolf,S (2162)-Rosner, J (2184) Playchess.com INT 2009]
18...a5



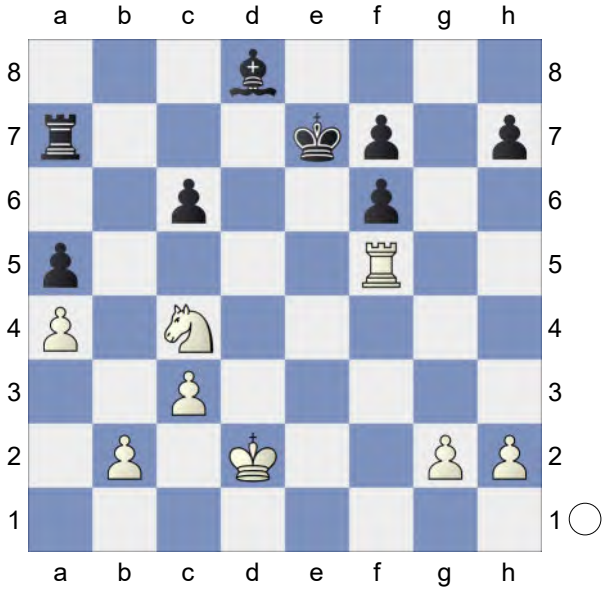
19.a4! Ra7 20.Kc2 0-0



21.Rhd1 Rfa8 1.29/23
[⌓21...Kg7 0.92/24]
22.f4± Kf8 23.Re2 Rb7 24.Nd2 exf4 25.Nc4 Bd8
(Diagram)

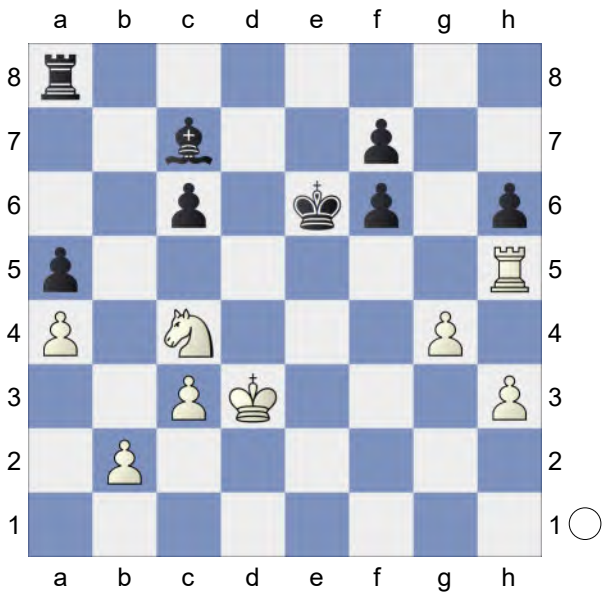


26.Re4 Re7 27.Rxf4 0x0.0025d93fa487dp-1022s more active pieces. **27...Re2+ 28.Rd2 Rxd2+ 29.Kxd2** Endgame KRB-KRN **29...Ra7 30.Rf5 Ke7**

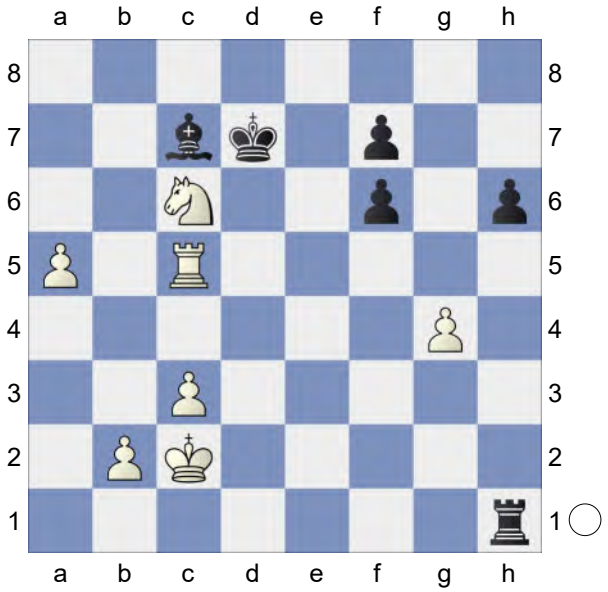


31.Rc5 Kd7 32.g4 Bc7 33.h3 Ra8 34.Kd3 h6 35.Rh5 Ke6

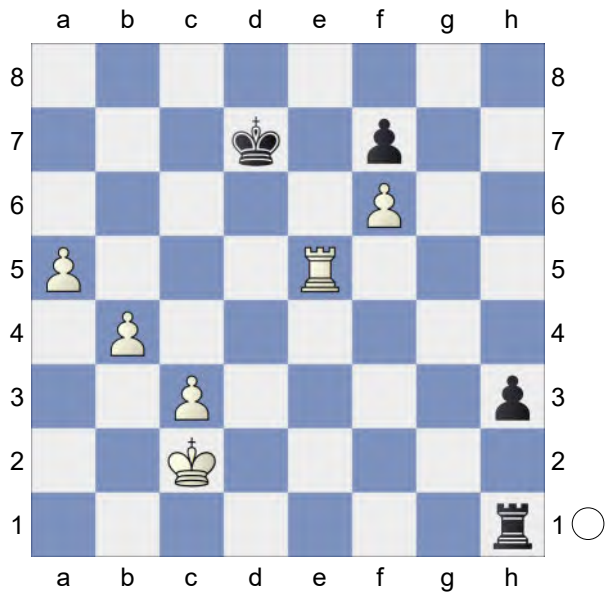
(Diagram)



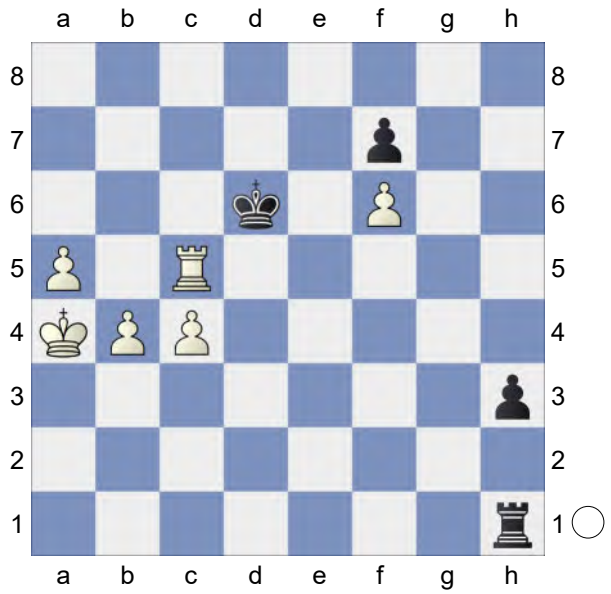
36.Rc5? -0.01/19
[Don't take 36.Rxh6?! Rd8+ 37.Ke2 c5+-]
[36.Ke4+- 2.88/23]
36...Kd7= A mistake that costs the game. **37.Kc2 Re8 38.Nxa5 Re3 39.Nxc6 Rxh3 40.a5 Rh1** 5.54/21
[⌓40...Bd6 3.55/21]



41.b4+- White is clearly winning. **41...f5 42.gxf5 h5 43.Ne5+ Bxe5 44.Rxe5** KR-KR **44...h4 45.f6 h3**
(Diagram)

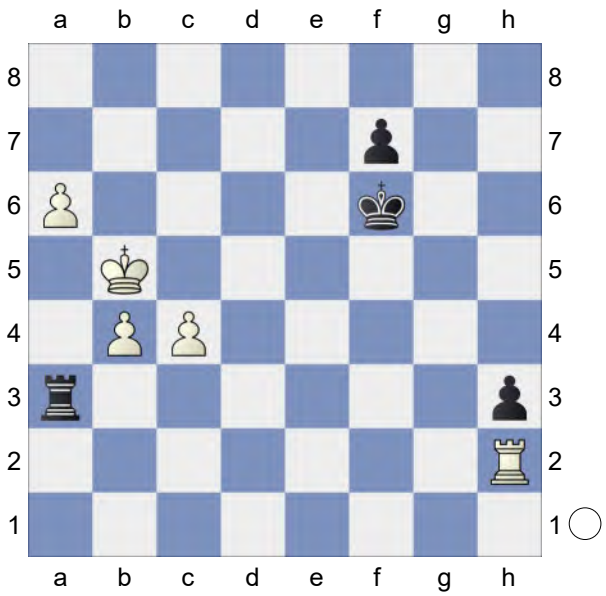


Threatens to win with ...h2. **46.Rh5 Kc7 47.c4 Rh2+ 48.Kb3 Rh1 49.Ka4 Kc6 50.Rc5+ Kd6**

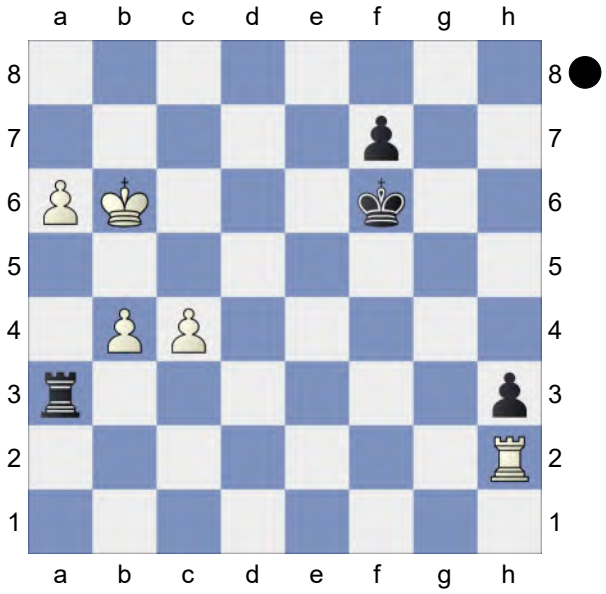


51.Kb5 Re1 52.Rd5+ Ke6 53.Rd2 Kxf6 54.Rh2 And now a6 would win. **54...Re3 55.a6 Ra3**

(Diagram)



56.Kb6



Weighted Error Value: White=0.24 (precise) /Black=0.25 (precise)
1-0

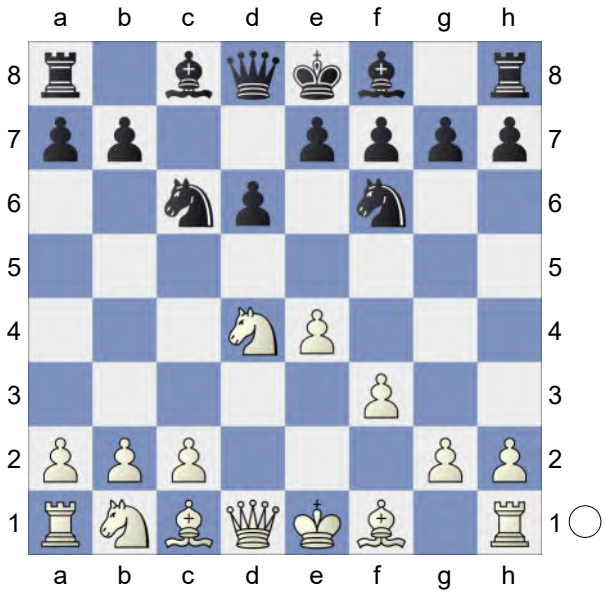
154 **B56**
□ **Prokopchuk,Evgeny** **2508**
■ **Motylev,Alexander** **2639**
84/166 Moscow 2002
[Kitty Kat]

B56: Classical Sicilian: Unusual Lines
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N

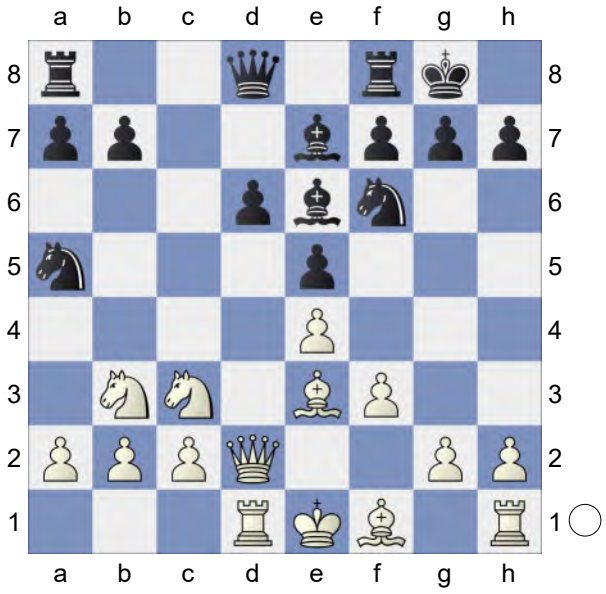
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

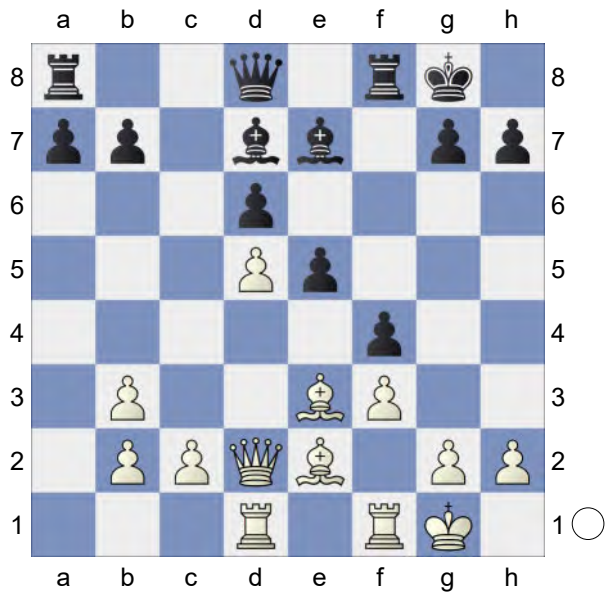


6.Nc3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 Be6 10.Rd1 Na5

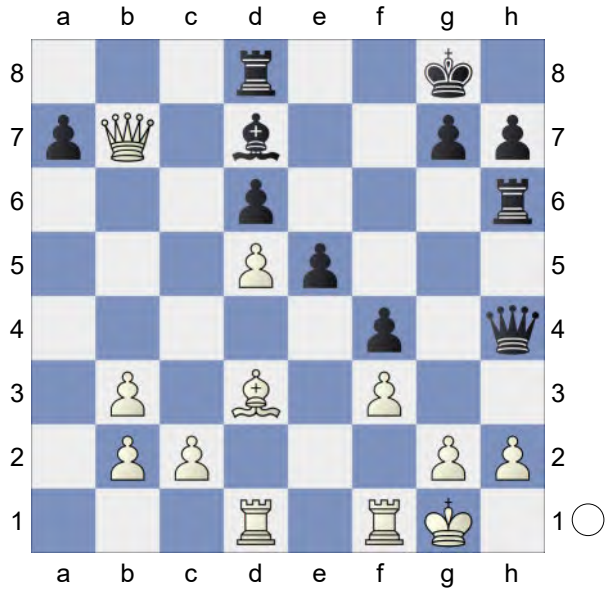


11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.exd5 Nxb3 13.axb3 Bd7 14.Be2 f5 15.0-0 f4

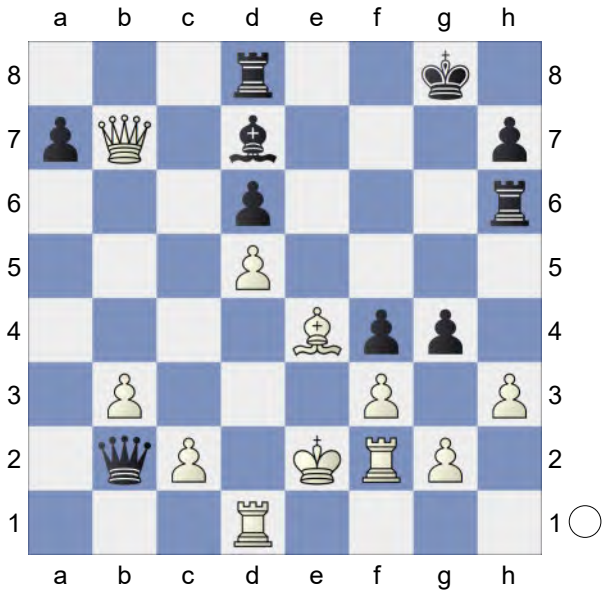
(Diagram)



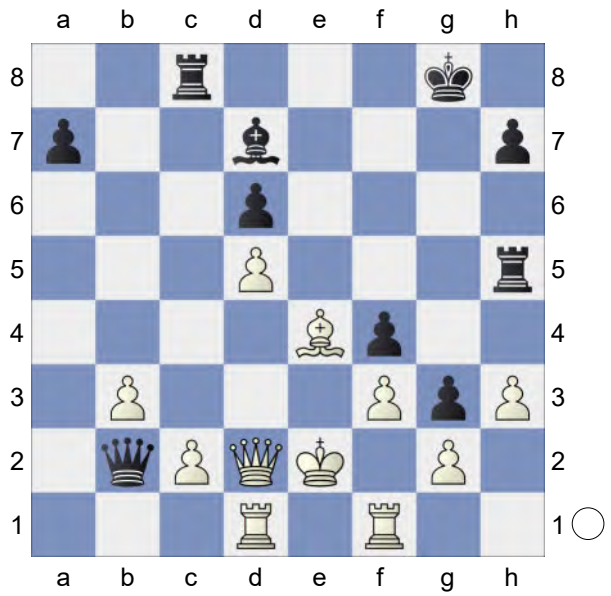
16.Bf2
[16.Bc5 is interesting. dxc5 17.d6 Bf6 18.Qd5+]
16...Bh4 17.Bxh4 Qxh4 18.Qb4 Rf6 Hoping for ...Rh6. **19.Qxb7 Rd8**
20.Bd3↑ White has some pressure.
[20.h3 Bxh3! 21.Ra1 Bxg2! 22.Rxa7 Rg6 23.Qf7+ Kh8 24.Qxg6 hxg6-+]
20...Rh6



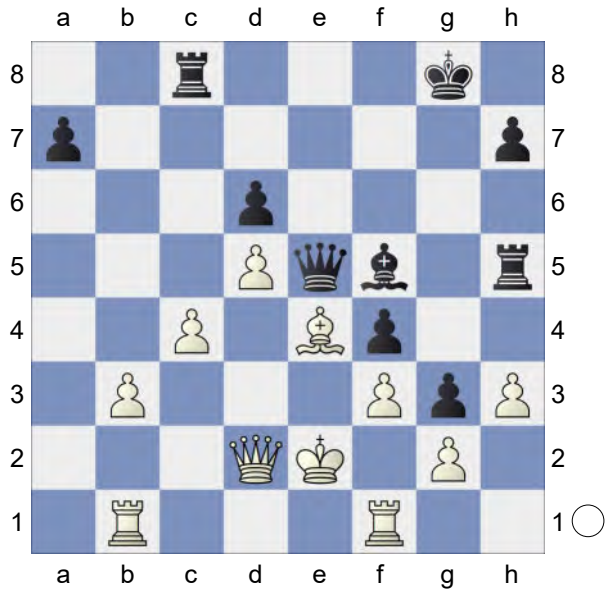
21.Rf2 Black should prevent h3.
[21.h3 Bxh3! 22.Rd2 Bd7∓]
21...g5 0.44/23
[21...Qxh2+= 0.01/22 22.Kf1 Qh5]
22.Kf1 h3 is the strong threat. Active counter play!
[22.h3!? g4 23.fxg4±]
22...g4 Against h3
[22...Qxh2? 23.Qc7 Rf8 24.Qxd7+-]
23.Ke2 Qf6 0.45/21
[23...Qxh2= -0.01/19 24.Ke1 a5]
24.h3!± e4 1.21/22
[24...gxh3± 0.50/20 25.gxh3 Rxh3]
25.Bxe4±
[25.fxe4 g3 26.Rf3 Be8±]
25...Qxb2? 3.12/20
[25...g3± 1.19/21]



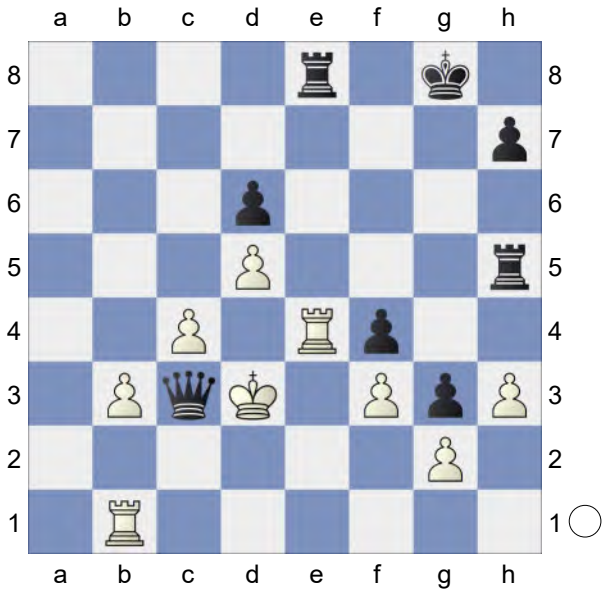
26.Qb4? 0.78/21
[26.Qxa7 g3 27.Qb6 Re8=]
[26.hxg4 Qc3 27.Rdf1 Re8 28.Qxd7 Qxc2+ 29.Ke1 Qc1+ 30.Ke2 Qc2+ 31.Ke1 Qc1+ 32.Ke2 Qc2+=]
[26.fxg4+- 3.12/20 Re8 27.Kf1!]
26...g3 1.12/20
[Better is 26...gxh3 0.78/21 27.gxh3 Qg7]
27.Rff1 Rc8 28.Qd2
[28.Qb7?! Qc3 29.Rd3 Qxc2+ 30.Rd2 Qc7 31.Qxc7 Rxc7=]
28...Rh5
(Diagram)



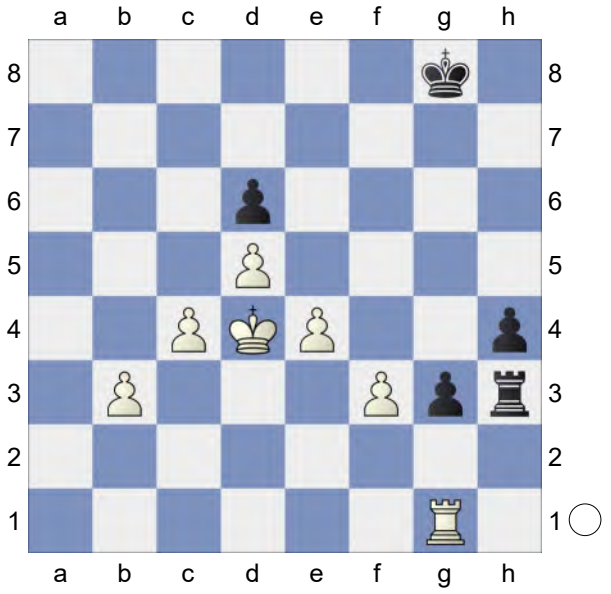
aiming for ...Rc3. **29.Rb1!**
[29.Qxf4? Rxc2+ 30.Bxc2 Qxc2+ 31.Ke3 Re5+ 32.Qxe5 dxe5-+]
29...Qe5 1.20/19
[⌓29...Qf6 0.87/21]
30.c4 Bf5 1.52/20
[⌓30...Rc7 1.20/16 31.Qb2 Kg7]



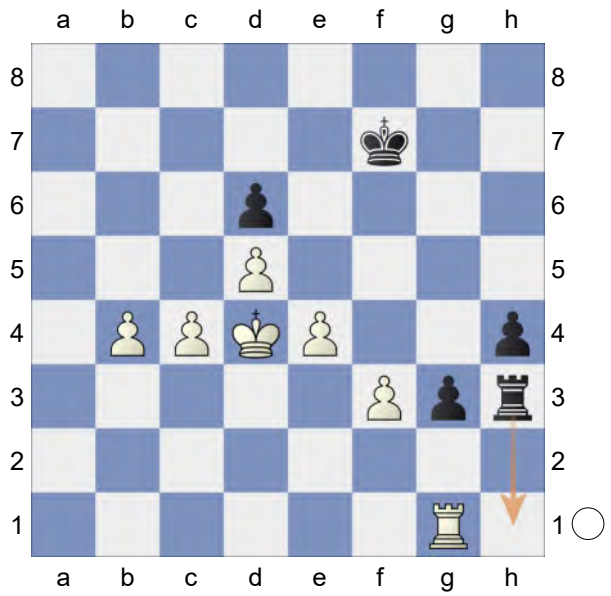
31.Kd3 a5 2.50/20
[31...Bg6? 32.Bxg6 hxg6 33.Rfe1]
[31...Bxe4+± 1.43/18 32.fxe4 Rf8]
32.Rfe1+- Re8 33.Qxa5 Qf6 34.Qc3 Bxe4+ 35.Rxe4 Dancing on a razor blade.
[35.fxe4?! Rhe5 36.Kd2 Qg6±]
35...Qxc3+? 4.63/21
[35...Qg6 2.84/20 was worth a try. 36.Qd2 Rxe4 37.fxe4 f3]



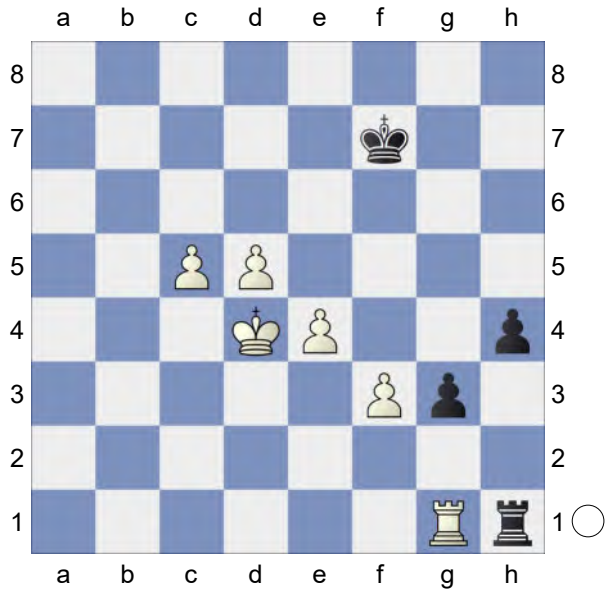
36.Kxc3 Rxe4 37.fxe4 Endgame KR-KR **37...f3 38.gxf3 Rxh3 39.Rg1 h5 40.Kd4 h4**



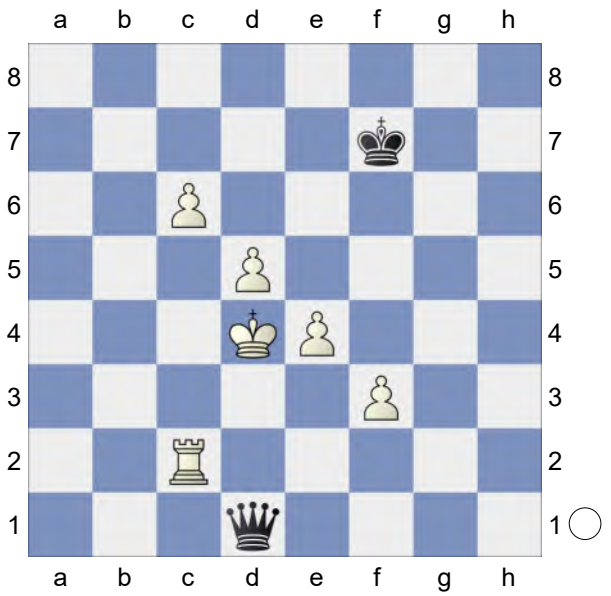
41.b4
[Don't take 41.e5 dxe5+ 42.Kxe5 Kf7+-]
41...Kf7



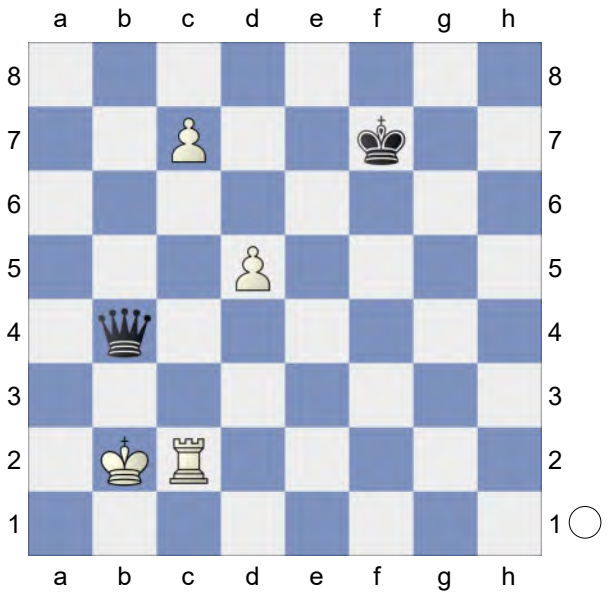
42.c5? -0.01/21
[42.Ke3!+- 3.19/18]
42...dxc5+= The position is equal.
43.bxc5 Rh1! 44.Rg2 And now c6 would win. **44...Rh2! 45.Rg1** Threatens to win with c6. **45...Rh1!**



46.Rxh1 KR-KPP **46...g2 47.Rg1**
[Don't blunder 47.Rxh4? g1Q+ 48.Kc4 Qf1+ 49.Kb3 Qf2 50.Rf4+ Ke8-+]
47...h3 48.c6 h2 49.Rxg2 h1Q 50.Rc2 Qd1+
(Diagram)



51.Kc3 Qxf3+ 52.Kb2 Qxe4 53.c7 Qb4+



Blacks defense is rewarded with a draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.22 (precise)
½-½

155 **B55**
□ **Alexakis,Dimitris** **2503**
■ **Niemann,Hans Moke** **2734**
Titled Tuesday intern op 04th Feb Late b..
[Kitty Kat]

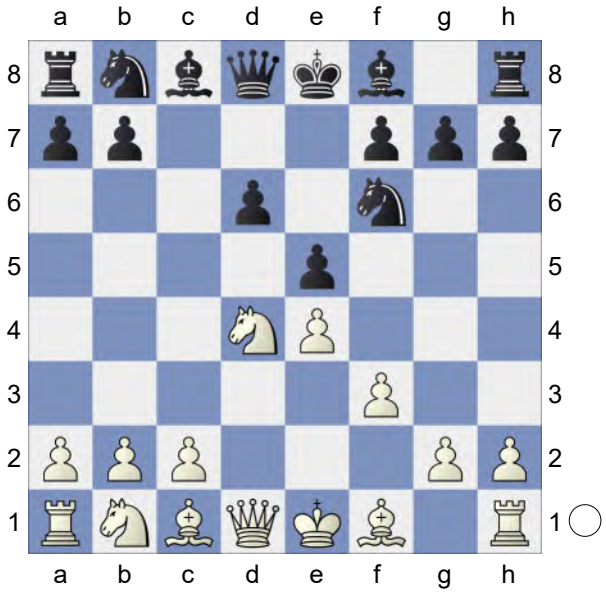
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

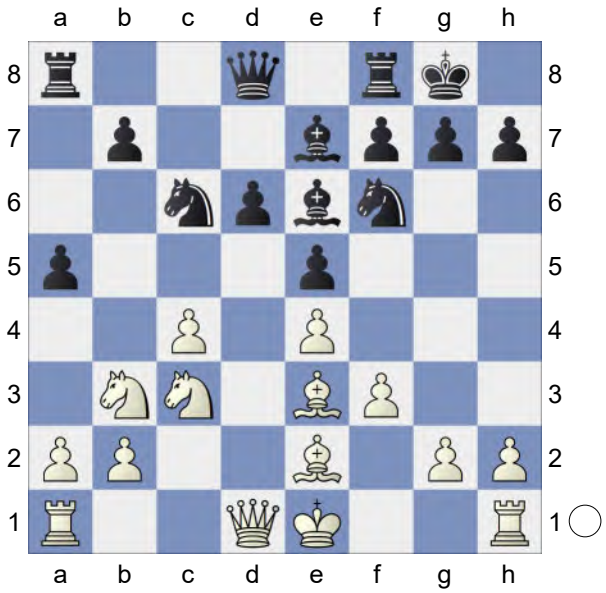
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 Nc6 7.c4 Inhibits d5. **7...a5**

[7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]

8.Be3 Be7 The position is equal. **9.Nc3 Be6 10.Be2 0-0**



11.0-0 a4 12.Nd2 Qa5 13.Nd5 next Bb6 is good for White. **13...Bd8** Prevents Bb6. Inhibits Bb6. **14.Kh1 Nd4!?** An interessante side line. Eine interessante Nebenvariante. **15.Bd3** 0.15/20

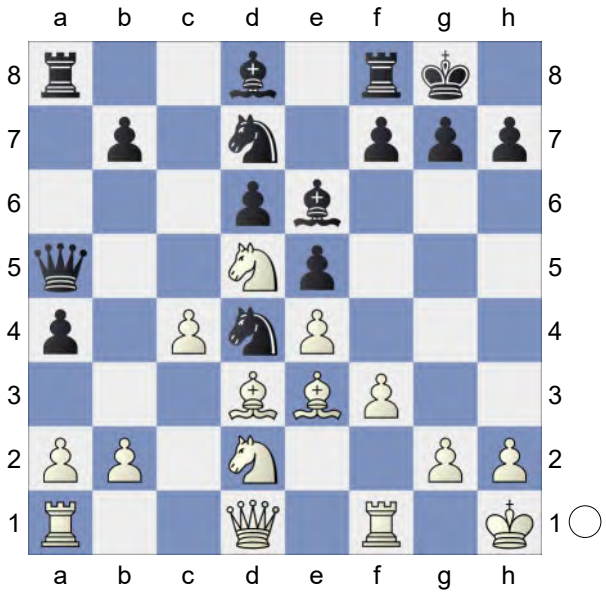
[15.b4!± 0.47/21 is more appropriate.

Qa6 16.Rc1]

15...Nd7N 0.59/20

[15...Bxd5 0.38/19 15...b5 0.04 16.cxd5 b5 Against Nc4 17.f4 Nd7 0.72/19 *(17...Bb6± 0.41/20)* 18.fxe5 dxe5 19.Nf3! Bb6 20.Nxd4 0.31/21 *(20.Bxd4± 0.82/20 Bxd4 21.Qe2)* 20...Bxd4± 21.Bxd4 exd4 0-1 Kovacsy,B (2268)-Kevlishvili,R (2531) Titled Tuesday intern op 16th Jan Early blitz 2024 (2)]

[15...b5= 0.15/20]



16.Bxd4 -0.01/19

[16.b4!± 0.59/20 axb3 17.Nxb3 *(17.axb3 Qxa1 18.Qxa1 Rxa1=)*]

16...exd4= 17.f4 Nc5 18.Bb1 -1.47/21

[18.b4= 0.00/20 keeps the balance. axb3 19.Nxb3]

18...Bxd5∓ -1.00/20

[⌓18...d3 -1.40/20 White must now prevent ...Bxd5. 19.Nf3 Bxd5 20.cxd5 Nxe4]

19.cxd5∓ Qb5 -0.89/21 Inhibits Nc4. Against Nc4

[Black should play 19...a3! -1.28/21 20.b4 Qxb4]

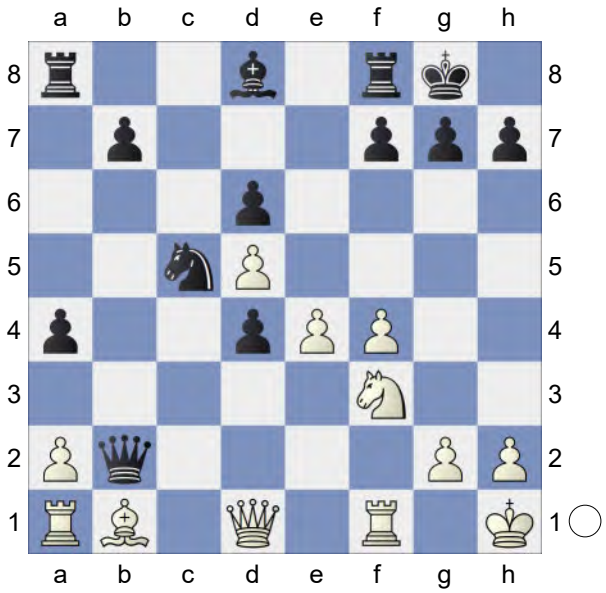
20.Nf3 -1.51/19

[⌓20.Qc1 -0.89/21]

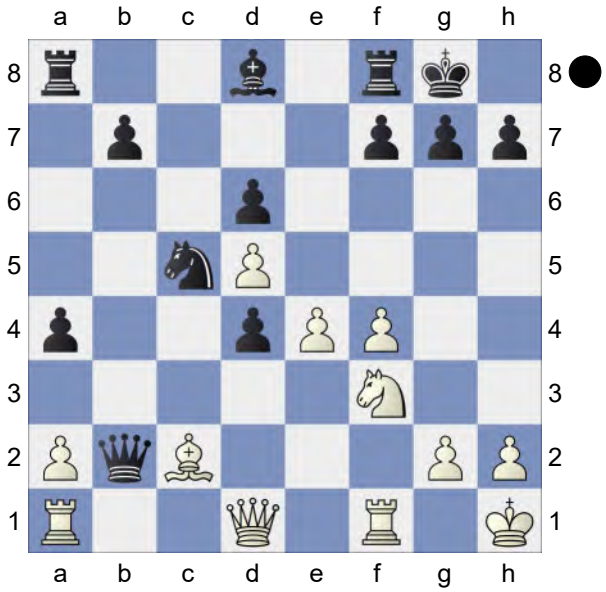
[20.e5∓ -0.79/17 was worth a try.]

20...Qxb2 -0.52/20

[20...d3!∓ -1.51/19 Threatens to win with ...Ba5. and Black stays clearly on top. Strongly threatening ...Ba5. 21.e5 Ba5]



21.Bc2



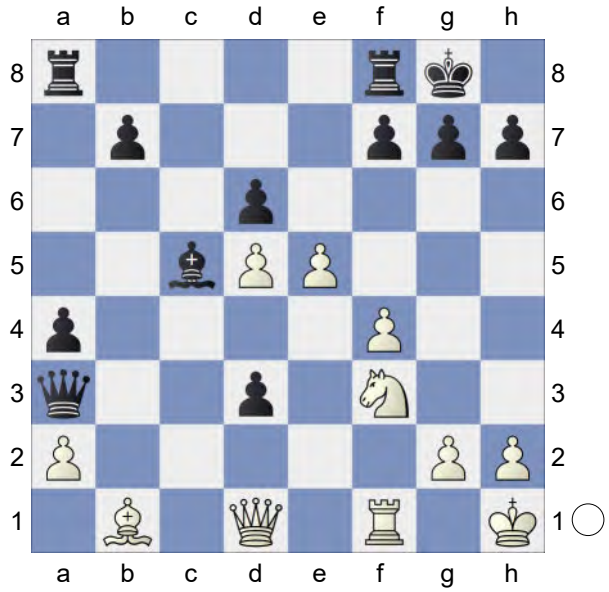
Qc3 0.31/21

[21...g6!∓ -0.78/20]

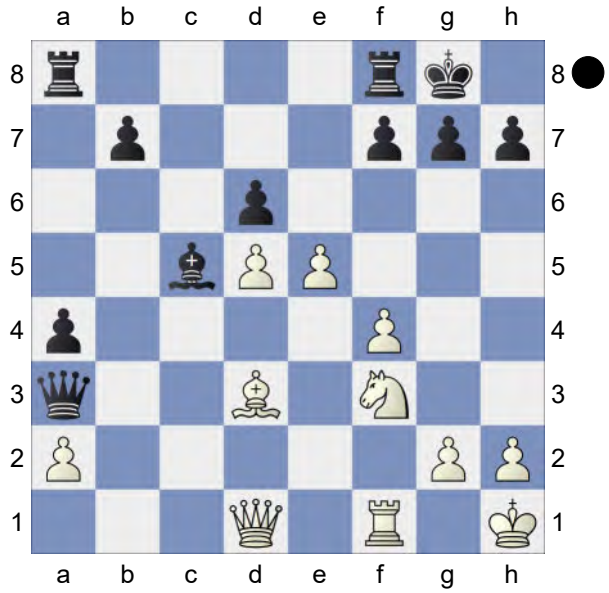
22.Rc1 -0.83/20

[22.Nxd4± 0.31/21 was the only good

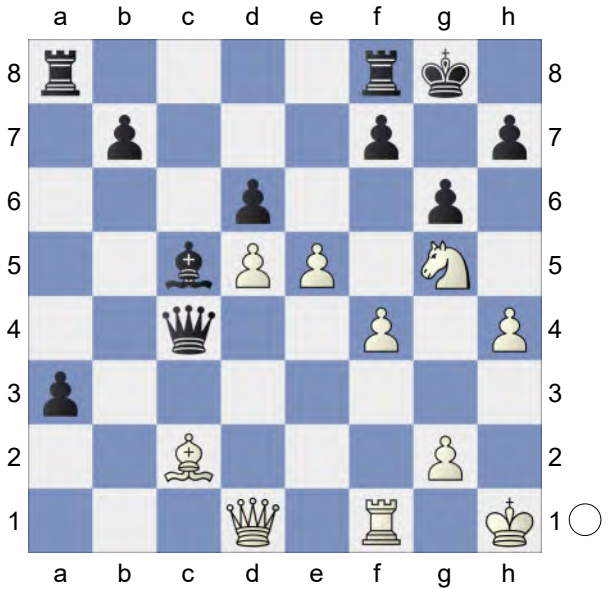
move. Qc4 23.Rc1]
22...d3 -0.54/20
[22...Qe3∓ -0.88/20 And now ...d3 would win. 23.Nxd4 Nxe4 24.Bxe4 Qxe4]
23.Bb1∓ Qa3 &Nero is much more active. **24.e5 Bb6** 0.60/21
[Black should try 24...Ba5∓ -0.56/19]
25.Rxc5? -0.96/23 **Bxc5** -0.64/21
[Black should try 25...Qxc5∓ -1.20/19 26.Bxd3 g6]



White is now going downhill. **26.Bxd3**

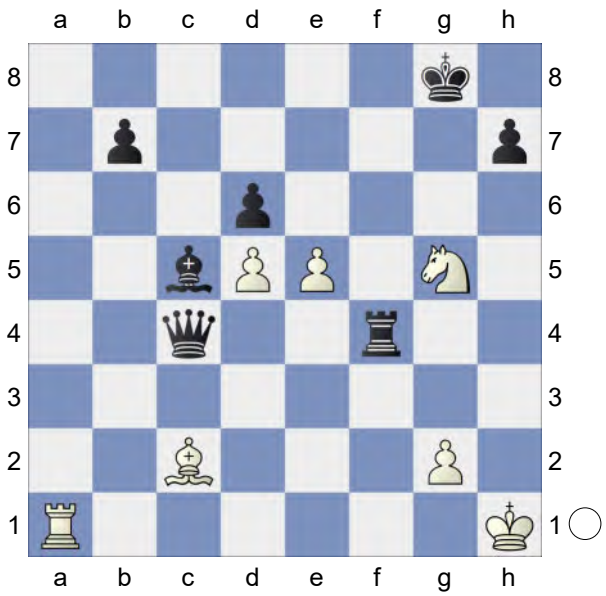


g6! -0.74/19
[26...Qxa2 27.Bxh7+ Kxh7 28.Ng5+ Kg6 29.Qg4+-]
[26...dxe5!-+ -2.03/19 has better winning chances. 27.fxe5 g6]
27.h4? -4.00/18 Loses the game.
[27.Qe2!∓ -0.66/19]
27...Qxa2-+ 28.Bb1? -4.48/18
[28.e6 -2.65/19 is a better defense.]
28...Qb3 29.Bc2 -5.07/20
[⌓29.Re1 -3.34/17]
29...Qc4 30.Ng5 a3

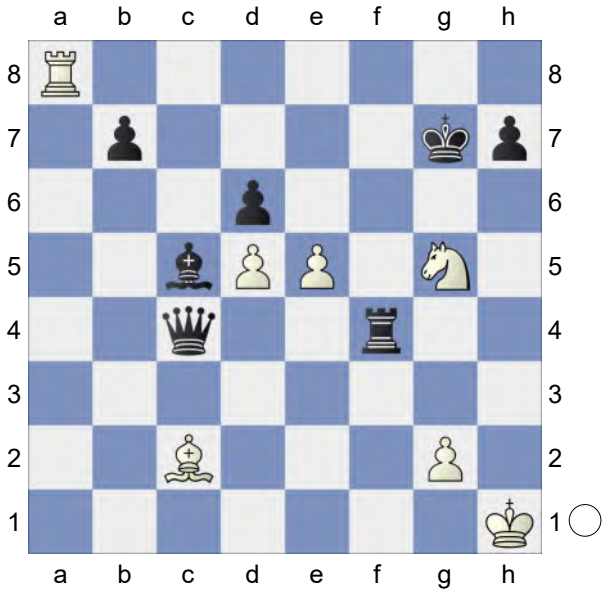


31.h5 -10.38/19
[⌓31.Bb3 -4.72/19 Qb5 *(31...Qd4 32.Qxd4 Bxd4 33.e6)* 32.Qb1]
31...a2 32.hxg6 a1Q 33.gxf7+ Rxf7 34.Qxa1 Rxa1 35.Rxa1 Rxf4

(Diagram)



36.Ra8+ Kg7

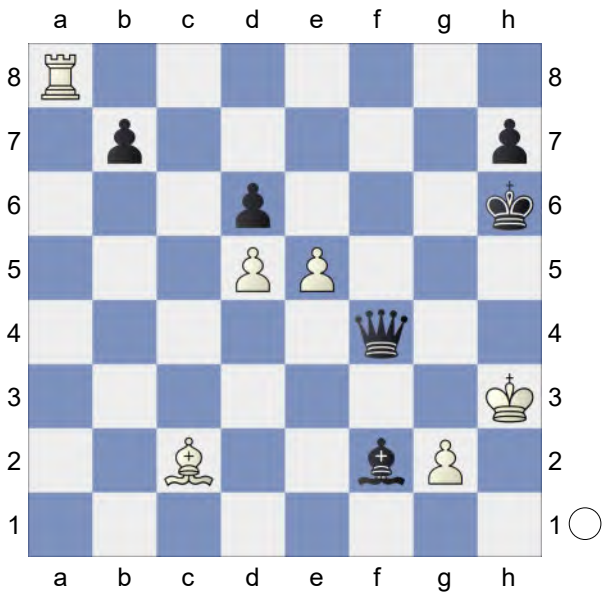


(-> ...Rh4+) **37.Ne6+ Kh6 38.Nxf4 Qf1+** -11.44/5

[⌓38...Qxf4 -24.64/27 39.Ra4 Qc1+ 40.Kh2 Qxc2]

39.Kh2 Qxf4+ 40.Kh3 Bf2

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=1.14/ Black=0.26 (precise)
Weighted Error Value: White=1.14/ Black=0.53

0-1

156 **B55**

□ **Nevostrujev,Vladimir** **2502**

■ **Timofeev,Artyom** **2558**

RUS-ch Krasnodar (3) 29.08.2002

[Kitty Kat]

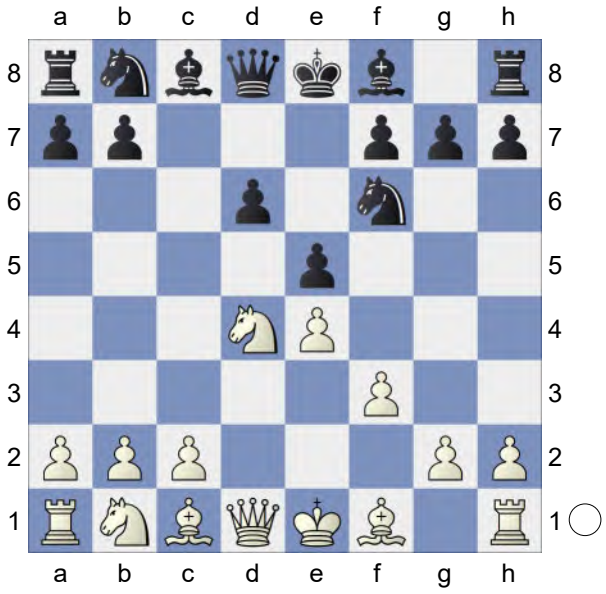
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

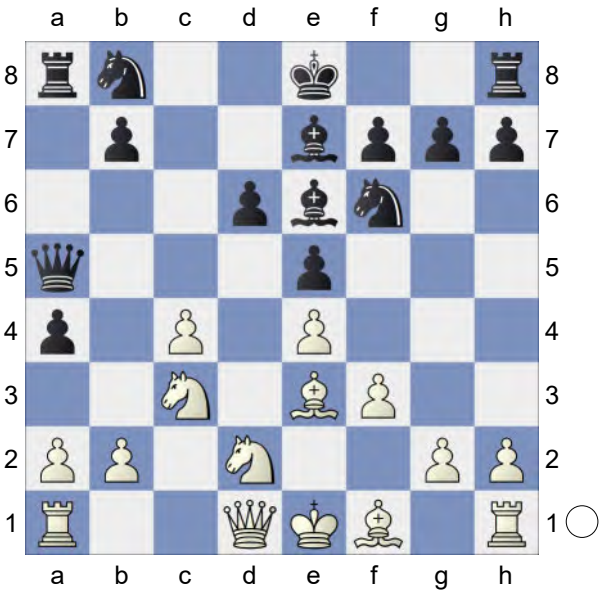
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53))

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

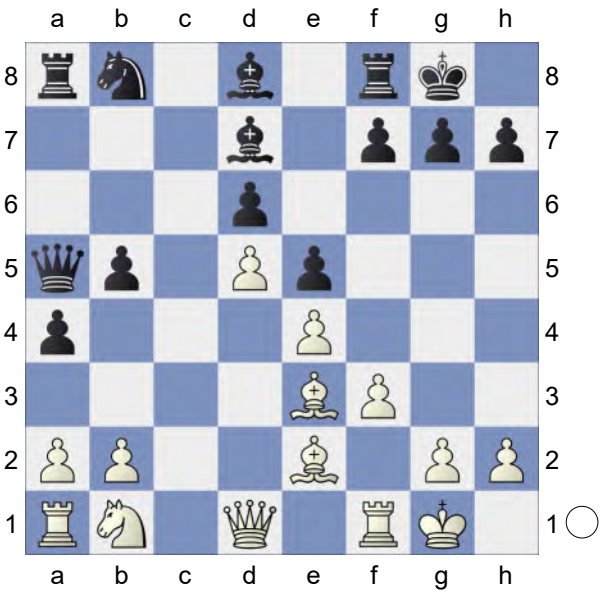
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



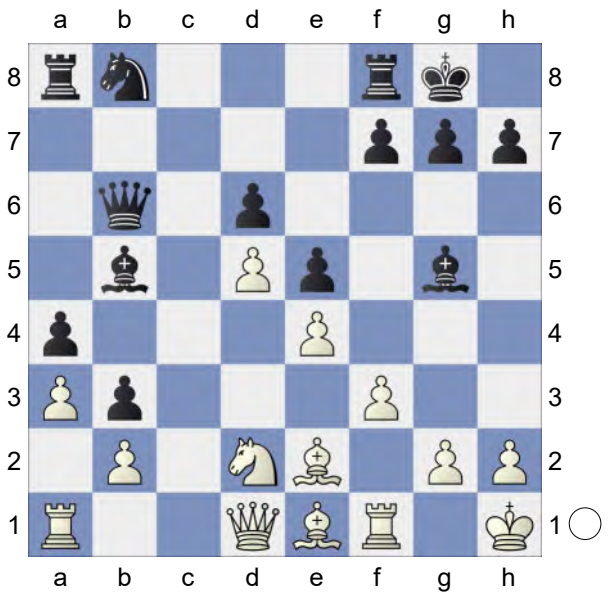
6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 a5
[Don't play 7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]
8.Be3 Be7 9.Nc3 a4 The position is equal. **10.Nd2 Qa5**



11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.cxd5 Bd7 13.Be2 0-0 14.0-0 And now Nc4 would win.
14...b5 Inhibits Nc4. **15.Nb1 Bd8**



16.Bd2 -0.20/21
[16.Kh1 0.18/20 deserves consideration.]
16...b4= Black wants to play ...a3.
17.Kh1 Qb6 18.a3 b3 19.Be1 Bg5
20.Nd2 -0.94/23
[White should try 20.Bd2∓ -0.43/20 Be7 21.Nc3]
20...Bb5∓



...Rc8 is the strong threat. 0x0.00209a8266b5dp-1022s more active pieces. The white rooks are badly placed. Black keeps a firm grip on the game.

21.g3 -1.92/21

[21.h4∓ -0.67/19 Be3 22.Nb1]

21...Nd7 -1.10/21

[21...Rc8-+ -1.92/21 Hoping for ... Nd7. 22.f4 Bf6]

22.f4 -2.10/22

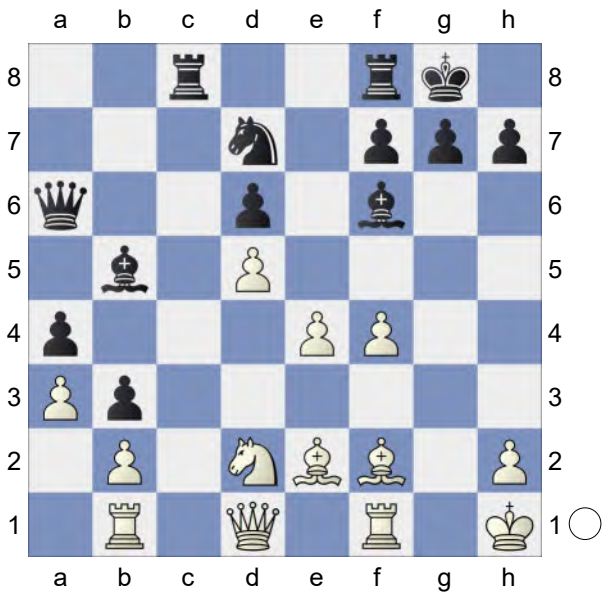
[22.Nb1∓ -1.10/21]

22...exf4 23.gxf4 Bf6 24.Rb1 -2.42/19

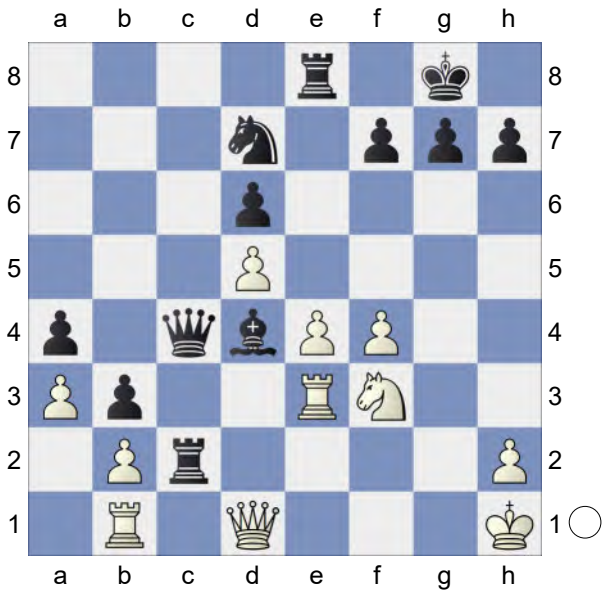
[24.e5 -1.85/20 is a better defense. dxe5 25.Ne4]

24...Rac8-+ 25.Bf2 Qa6

(Diagram)



26.Bxb5 Qxb5 27.Nf3 Rc2 28.Bd4 Re8 Prevents e5. **29.Re1 Qc4 30.Re3 Bxd4**

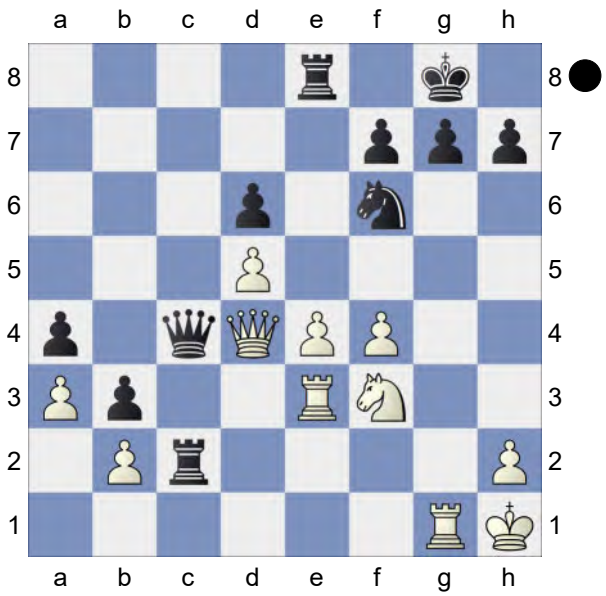


31.Qxd4 Nf6 32.Rg1? -5.22/21

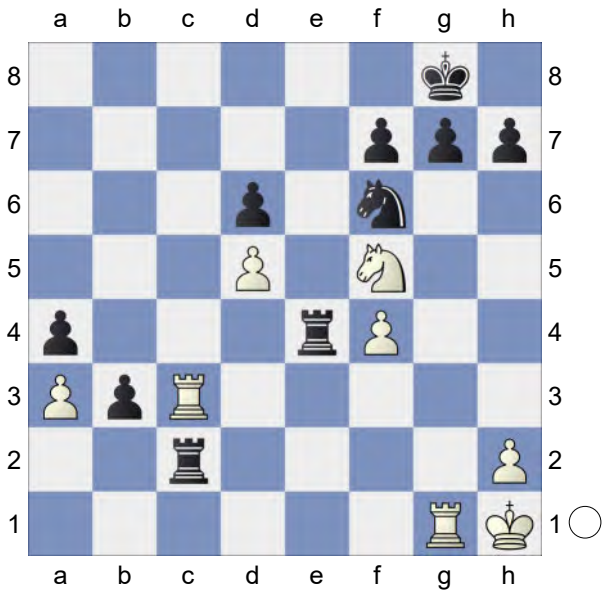
[Reject 32.Qxc4 Rxc4 33.e5 Rxf4-+]

[32.e5 -2.66/22 Nxd5 33.Re4]

(Diagram)

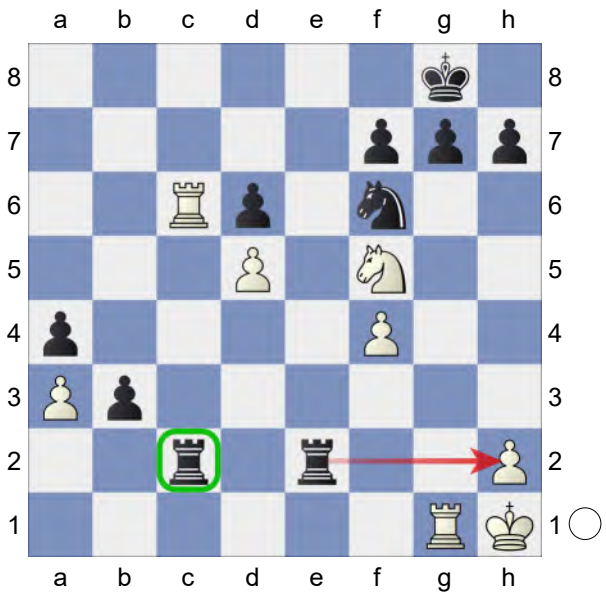


32...Qxd4 Black is clearly winning.
33.Nxd4 Rxb2 34.Nf5 Rxe4 35.Rc3 Rc2

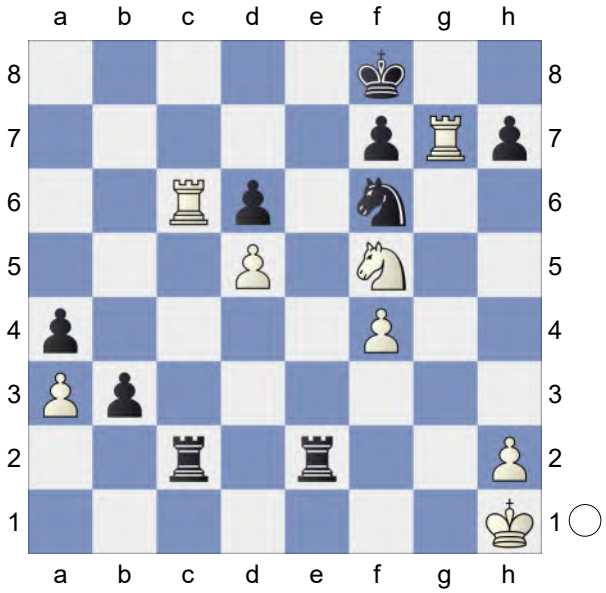


36.Rc6 Ree2

(Diagram)



37.Rxg7+ Kf8



Weighted Error Value: White=0.54/ Black=0.10 (very precise)
0-1

157 **B55**
□ **Bellmann,Herbert** **2486**
■ **Droessler,Uwe** **2342**
EM/MN/019 corr 2000
[Kitty Kat]

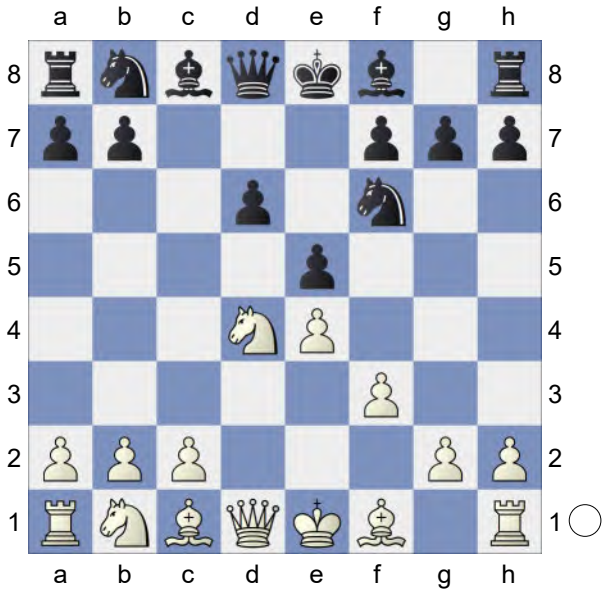
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

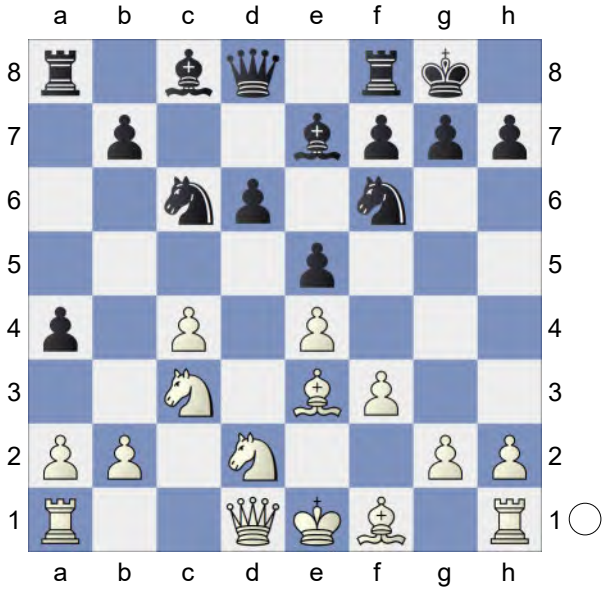
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

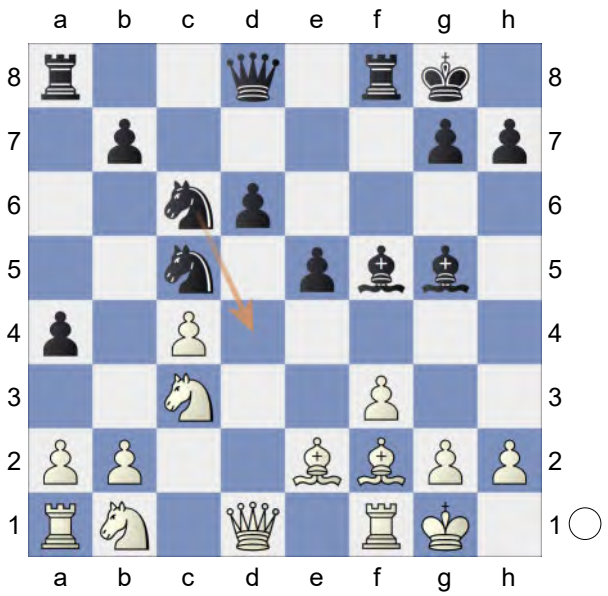


6.Nb3 Be7 7.c4 a5 8.Be3 a4 9.N3d2 Nc6 10.Nc3 The position is equal. **10...0-0**

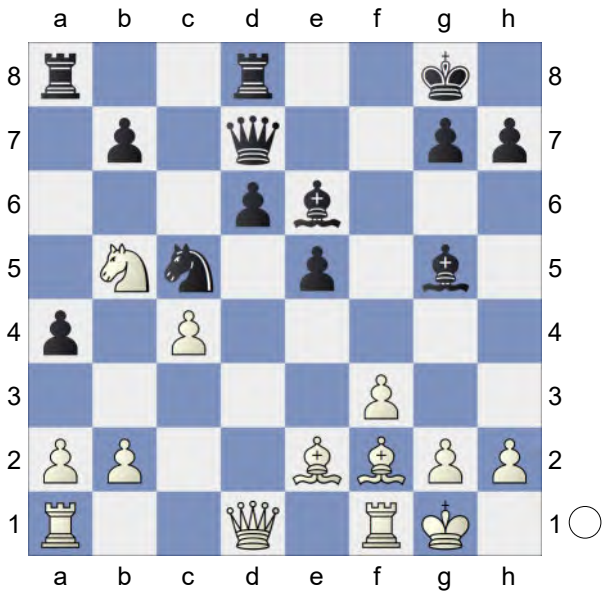


11.Ndb1 Nd7 12.Be2 Nc5 13.0-0 Bg5 14.Bf2 f5 15.exf5 Bxf5

(Diagram)

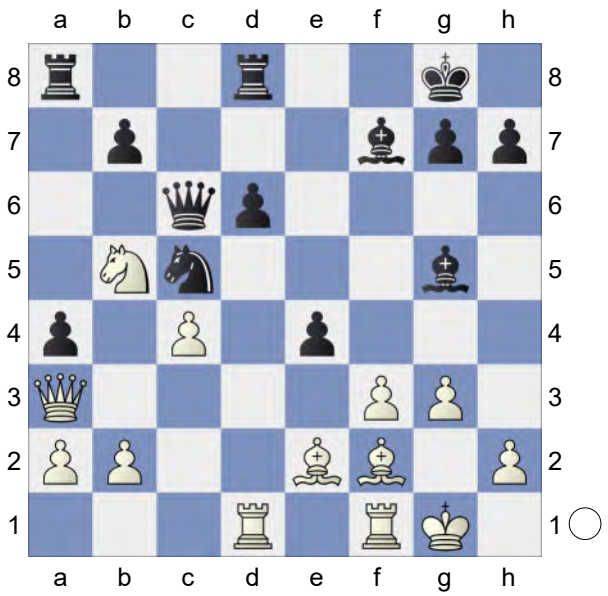


16.Nd5 Ne7 17.Nbc3 Nxd5 18.Qxd5+ Be6 19.Qd1 Qd7 20.Nb5 Rfd8



21.Qc2 Qc6 22.Rad1 Bf7 23.g3 Bg6 24.Qc3 Bf7 25.Qa3 e4

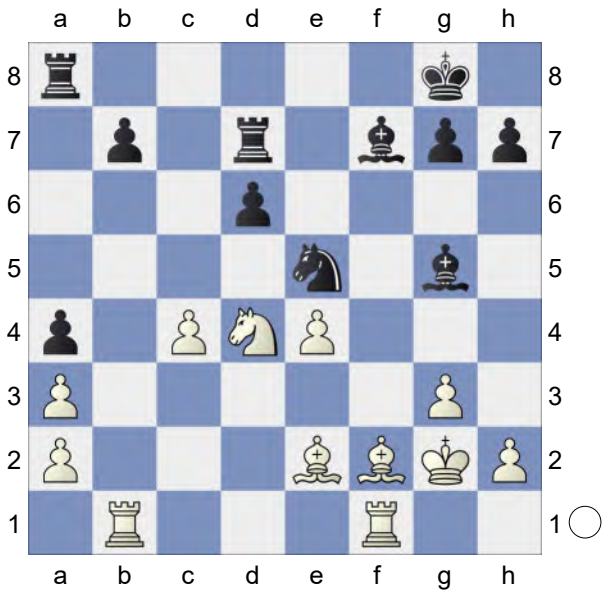
(Diagram)



26.Kg2

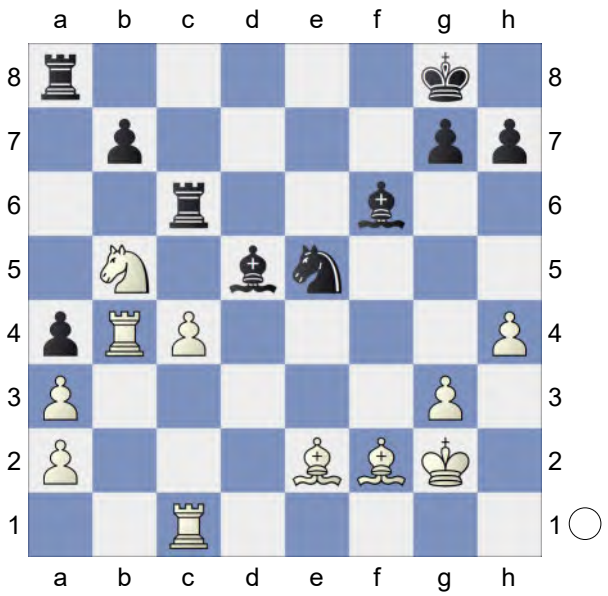
[26.Be3!? Bf6 27.Nc3±]

26...Nd3 27.Nd4 Qc5 28.fxe4 Qxa3 29.bxa3 Ne5 30.Rb1 Rd7

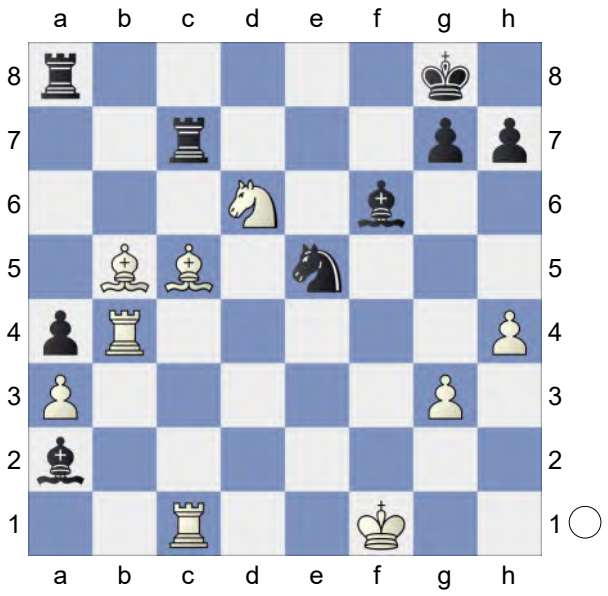


31.h4 Bf6 32.Rb4 Rc7 33.Nb5 Rc6 34.Rc1 d5 35.exd5 Bxd5+

(Diagram)

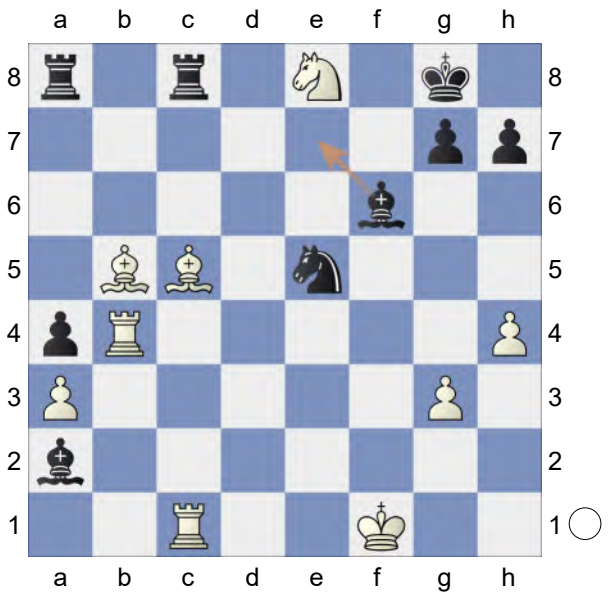


36.Kf1! Strongly threatening Na7.
36...Bf7 37.c5 b6! 38.Nd6! bxc5 39.Bxc5 Bxa2 40.Bb5 Rc7

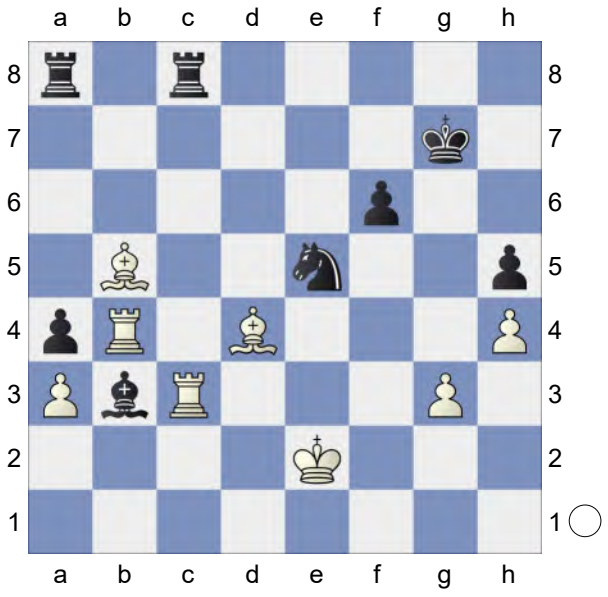


41.Ne8
[41.Bxa4? Nd3 42.Rc2 Nxc5-+]
[41.Rxa4? Rxa4 42.Bxa4 Nd3-+]
41...Rcc8

(Diagram)

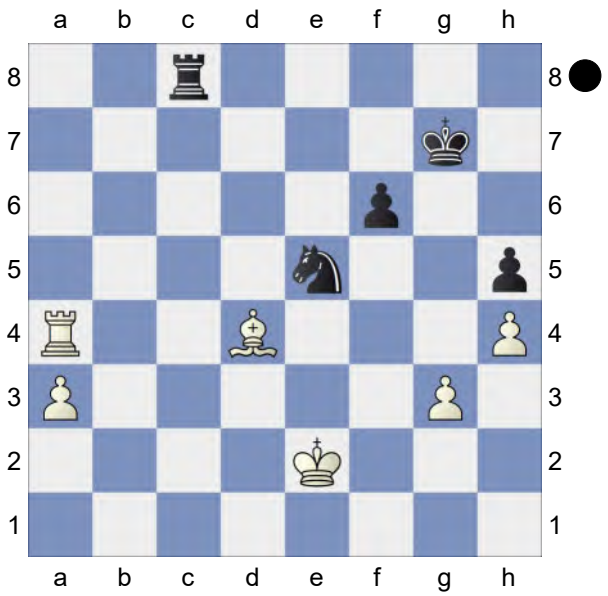


Threatens to win with ...Be7! **42.Nxf6+ gxf6 43.Rc3**
[Don't blunder 43.Bxa4? Nd3 44.Rc2 *(44.Rg4+? Kf7-+)* 44...Nxc5-+]
[Not 43.Rxa4? Rxa4 44.Bxa4 Nd3-+]
43...Bb3 44.Bd4 This bishop pair is nice. **44...Kg7 45.Ke2 h5**



46.Rxc8 Rxc8 47.Bxa4 Bxa4 48.Rxa4

(Diagram)

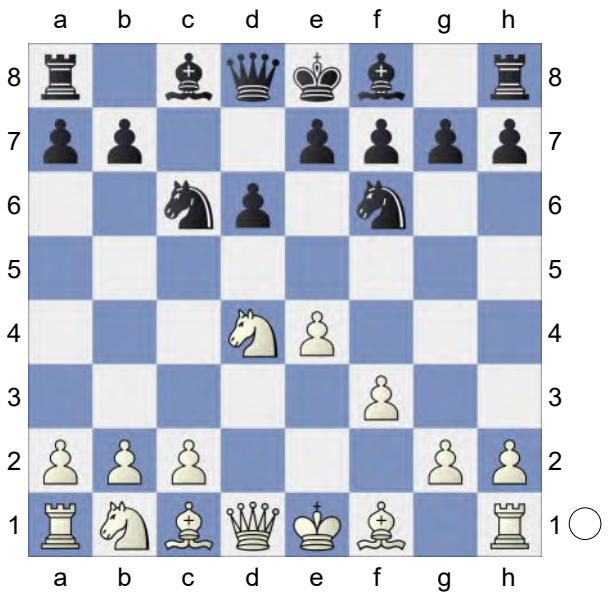


Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)
1-0

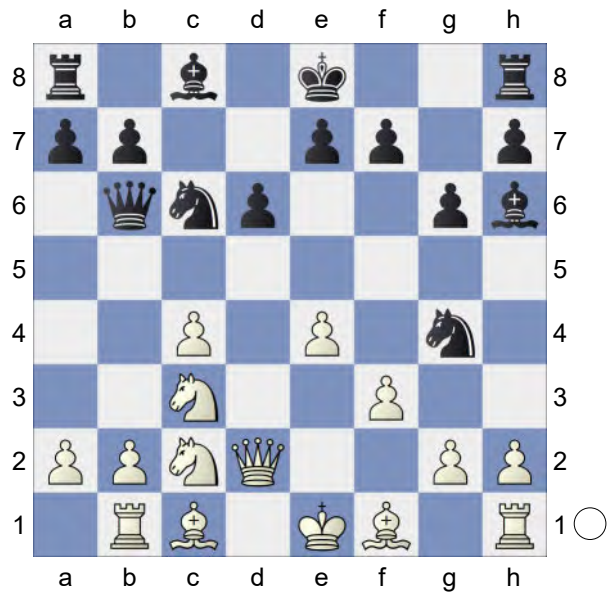
158 **B55**
□ **Gysi,Adolf** **2483**
■ **Morgado,Juan Sebastian** **2605**
olm14 qual GP1 B3 corr 21.03.2001
[Morgado,Juan Sebastian_17373]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6

(Diagram)



6.c4 Qb6!? Timoshenko-Bonsch. **7.Nc2 g6 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.Rb1**
[9.Qd3]
[9.Be2]
[9.Ne3]
[9.Be3]
[9.Nb5]
[9.b3]
[9.Qd2]
9...Ng4
[9...0-0]
[9...Nb4!?]
10.Qd2
[10.fxg4 Bxc3+∓]
10...Bh6
[10...Nge5 11.Nd5 Qd8 12.Be2 0-0 *(12...e6!?)* 13.f4 Ng4 14.0-0 f5 15.Bxg4 fxg4 16.b4±]
[10...Bxc3!? 11.Qxc3 Qf2+ 12.Kd1 0-0
A) 13.Qe1 Nce5 14.fxg4 Bxg4+ 15.Be2 Qxg2 16.Bxg4 *(16.Rg1?? Bxe2+; 16.Rf1? Nd3∓)* 16...Nxg4 17.Rf1 Rac8∞;
B) 13.h3 Nf6 14.Bh6 Re8 15.Qe3±]
[10...Nf2? 11.c5+-]



11.Qe2
[11.f4?! e5 12.Nd5 Qd8⇄]
11...Bxc1 12.Nd5
[12.Rxc1 Nge5 *(12...Qxb2? 13.Qd2)*
A) 13.Qd2 0-0∞ *(13...Be6=)*;
B) 13.Qe3 Qxb2 14.Nd5 0-0 15.h4 f5∓ Bebchuk,E-Dragomarezkij,E/Moscow 1991]
12...Qd8
[12...Qa5+ 13.b4 Qd8 *(13...Qxa2? 14.Rxc1+-)* 14.Rxc1± ○ ○]
13.Rxc1 Nge5
[13...Nf6 14.Nxf6+ exf6 15.Qd2 f5 16.exf5 Bxf5 17.Ne3 Be6 18.Be2 0-0 19.0-0 Re8 20.f4 Qb6 21.Rc3 *(21.f5 Bxf5 22.c5 Qb4⇄)* 21...Nd4⇄ 4 Mestel,A-Chandler,M/Hastings 1986/CBM 04]
14.Qd2
[14.Qe3!? f5 *(14...0-0 15.Be2 ⩲f5 16.f4±)*
A) 15.Be2 fxe4 16.Qxe4 *(16.fxe4? 0-0∓)* 16...Bf5↻;
B) 15.exf5 Bxf5
B1) 16.Be2? e6 17.Nf4 *(17.Nc3 Nxc4! 18.Bxc4 Qh4+∓)* 17...Qa5+ 18.Kf2 Qxa2∓;
B2) 16.Nd4!
B2a) 16...Qa5+ 17.b4! Nxb4 18.Qc3! Ned3+ 19.Bxd3 Nxd3+ 20.Kd2 Qxc3+ *(20...Qxa2+? 21.Rc2+-)* 21.Rxc3 Nc5 22.Nc7+±;
B2b) 16...0-0 17.Nxf5 gxf5 18.f4 Ng4 19.Qd2±;
B2c) 16...e6
B2c1) 17.Nxf5 gxf5 *(17...exd5 18.cxd5 Qa5+ 19.Rc3! ⩲Qxd5 20.Bc4+-)* 18.Nf4 Qf6 19.Be2 Nd4⇄;
B2c2) 17.Nxc6 bxc6 18.Nc3 *(18.Nf4 g5∓)*
B2c21) 18...Nxc4? 19.Bxc4 Qh4+ 20.g3 Qxc4 21.g4 Bd3 *(21...Qd3 22.Kf2)* 22.Kd2;
B2c22) 18...g5 19.c5±;
B2c23) 18...Qh4+ 19.g3 Qd4 20.Kf2!
B2c231) 20...Nxf3 21.Rd1! *(21.Kxf3? Bg4+ 22.Kf2 0-0+-+)* 21...Qxe3+ 22.Kxe3 Ne5 23.Rxd6± ⊥ ⊥;
B2c232) 20...Qxe3+ 21.Kxe3 (Δ g4) (Δ g4) g5 *(21...h5!? Morgado)* 22.h4 g4 23.f4↑ ⊥ ⊥;
B2c24) 18...Qb6!? 19.c5 *(19.Qxb6?! axb6∓)* 19...Qxb2□ *(19...Qxc5 20.Qxc5 dxc5 21.Na4±)*
B2c241) 20.cxd6 0-0! 21.Be2 (Δ 0-0±) (Δ 0-0±) *(21.Qd2? Qxd2+ 22.Kxd2 Rad8→)* 21...Nd3+

22.Bxd3 Bxd3 23.Qd2 *(23.Qxe6+ Rf7!≅)* 23...Qa3 24.Rd1 Bc4∞;

B2c242) 20.Be2! Nd3+! *(20...0-0 21.0-0!±)* 21.Bxd3 Bxd3

B2c2421) 22.Kd1!? Bc4 *(22...Qxg2 23.Qxe6+ Kf8 24.Re1!?)* 23.Rc2 *(23.Qd4 0-0-0! 24.cxd6 Qxg2 25.Re1 Rxd6 26.Qxd6 Rd8-+; 23.Rb1 Qxg2 24.Re1 0-0∓)* 23...Qa1+ 24.Rc1 Qb2=;

B2c2422) 22.Qxe6+ Kf8= [Δ ♖e8] [Δ ♖e8]

B2c24221) 23.Kd1 Qxg2=;

B2c24222) 23.Qxd6+ Kg7= *(23...Kf7 24.Qf4+ Kg7 25.Qd2 Qa3≅)*;

B2c24223) 23.Qf6+ Kg8 24.Qe6+ ½-½ Borgo,G-Stohl,I/Baden 75/180 1999/Inf 75/[Stohl,I] ½-½ Borgo,G-Stohl,I/Baden 75/180 1999/Inf 75/[Stohl,I]]

[14.Qf2 f5 △15.f4 Ng4↑]

[14.f4 Nd7 15.Rd1∞]

14...e6!?N

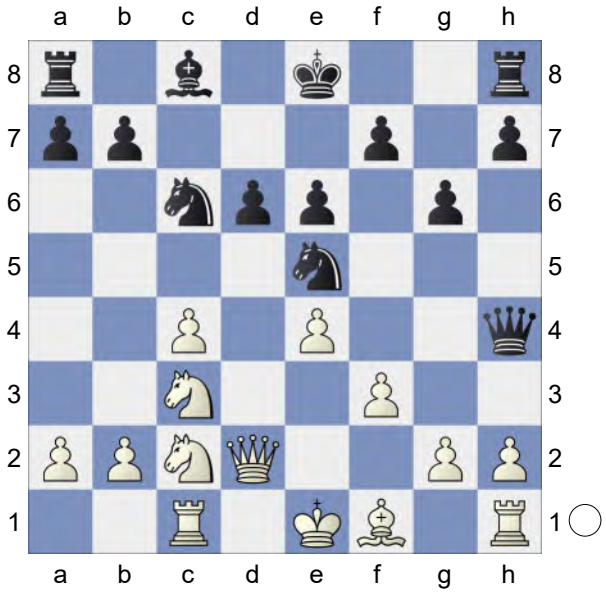
[14...0-0 15.Be2 a5 16.0-0 Nd7 17.b3 Nc5 18.Nce3 e5 19.Nc2 Ne6 20.f4 exf4 21.Nxf4 Nc5 22.Bf3 Ne5 23.Rcd1± Varga,Z-Hoffman,A/Elista 1998/CBM 66 ext]

[14...f5 15.exf5 *(15.f4 Ng4 16.exf5 Bxf5 17.Bd3 e6 18.Bxf5 gxf5 19.Nc3 Qh4+ 20.g3 Qh3 21.Qxd6 Qg2 22.Qxe6+ Ne7∞)* 15...Bxf5 16.Nce3 0-0 17.Nxf5 Rxf5 18.Be2 e6∓ Vuksanovic,S-Miloradovic,J/Niksic 1997]

15.Nc3

[15.Nde3 Qh4+ 16.Qf2 Qxf2+ 17.Kxf2 Ke7!?⇄ *(17...g5? 18.h4±; 17...f5!?* Morgado *)*]

15...Qh4+



16.Qf2 Qxf2+ 17.Kxf2 Ke7 18.Be2 f5

[18...g5 19.h4]

19.f4 Ng4+

[19...Nd7 20.exf5 gxf5 21.Rcd1 Nf8 22.Nb5 Ng6 23.Nxd6 Nxf4 24.Bf1 Rd8 25.c5 Ne5 26.Nd4→]

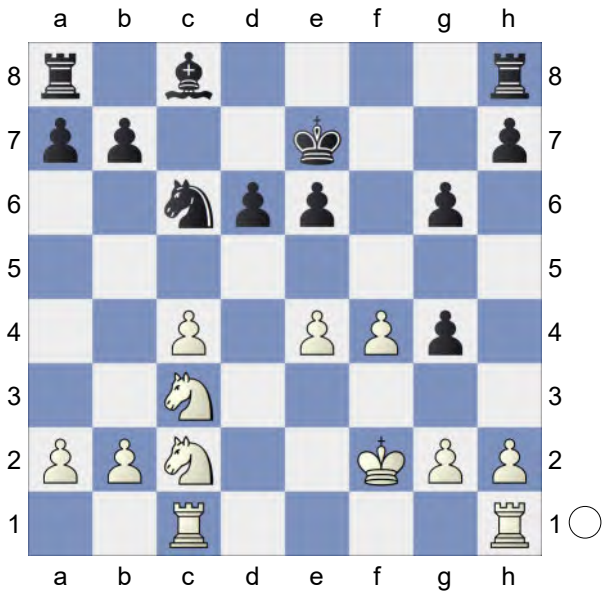
[19...Nf7 20.exf5 gxf5 21.Rhe1 h5 22.Bf3

A) 22...Kf6 23.Rcd1 h4 24.Nb5 Rd8 25.Nc7 Rb8 26.b4 Bd7 *(26...e5 27.b5 Na5 28.fxe5+*

dxe5 29.Rxd8 Nxd8 30.Ne8+ Kg5 31.Rxe5 Nxc4 32.Re7→) 27.Nb5→;

B) 22...Bd7 23.Rcd1 Kf6 24.Nb5]

20.Bxg4 fxg4



21.Rcd1 h5

[21...Bd7 22.Nb5 e5 23.Nxd6

A) 23...b6 24.g3 *(24.fxe5 Raf8+ 25.Ke1 Nxe5 26.Ne3 Be6 27.b3 Rf4⇄)* 24...Rhf8 25.Ke3 Be6 26.b3 a6 27.Rd3 Rad8 28.Rhd1 h6 29.R3d2 Rd7 30.fxe5 Nxe5 31.Nb4 Rfd8 32.Nd5+ Kxd6 33.Nxb6+ Kc5 34.Nxd7+ Rxd7 35.Rxd7 Nxd7 36.Kd3 Ne5+ 37.Kc3 a5 38.Rd8 Nc6 39.Rh8 h5 40.a3±;

B) 23...Rhf8 24.Nxb7 Rxf4+ 25.Kg3 Be6 *(25...Rxe4?? 26.Rxd7+ Kxd7 27.Nc5++-)* 26.Nc5 g5 27.h4 gxh3 28.Nxe6 Kxe6 29.Rxh3±;

C) 23...exf4 24.Nxb7 Ne5 25.b3 Bc6 26.Nc5 Rad8 27.Nd4 Rd6 *(27...Ba8 28.Nde6→)* 28.Nd3 *(28.Nxc6+ Nxc6 29.Nb7 Rxd1 30.Rxd1→)* 28...g3+ 29.hxg3 Ng4+ 30.Kf3 Rxd4 31.Kxg4 h5+ 32.Kh3 Rhd8 33.Nb4 Rxd1 34.Nxc6+ Kf6 35.Rxd1 Rxd1 36.gxf4 Re1 37.e5+ Kf5 38.g3 g5∞]

[21...Rf8 22.Kg3

A) 22...g5 23.fxg5 Ne5 24.Ne3 *(24.Nb5 Nf7 25.Kxg4 a6 26.Nbd4 Ne5+ 27.Kg3 Nxc4)* 24...Bd7;

B) 22...h5 23.Rd2

B1) 23...Nd8 24.Rhd1 Nf7 25.b3 a6⇄;

B2) 23...Rf7 24.Ne3 e5 25.Ned5+ *(25.Rf1 Be6 26.f5 Raf8 27.Ncd5+ Ke8 28.fxe6 Rxf1 29.c5!±)* 25...Kf8 26.fxe5 Nxe5

B2a) 27.Nb5 g5 *(27...Nxc4 28.Rc2 g5 29.h4 gxh3 30.Rxc4 h4+ 31.Kh2 Rf2 32.Rg1 g4 33.Kh1 g3 34.Ne3±)* 28.h4 gxh3 29.gxh3 Rf3+ *(29...h4+ 30.Kg2 Rf3 31.Rf2* trasposing.*)* 30.Kg2 h4 31.Rf2 trasposing. Rxf2+ 32.Kxf2 Nxc4 33.b3 Ne5 34.Nxd6±;

B2b) 27.b3 g5;

B3) 23...a6 24.Rhd1 Rd8 25.Kh4 b6 26.Kg5→;

B4) 23...e5 24.Nd5+ Kd8 25.Rf1 Be6 26.c5 *(26.Rdd1 Bxd5 27.cxd5 exf4+ 28.Rxf4 Rxf4 29.Kxf4 Ne5 30.Kg5 Rc8∞; 26.Nce3!? Nd4 27.fxe5 Rxf1 28.Nxf1 dxe5 29.Nfe3±)* 26...dxc5 *(26...Kd7 27.Nce3 Nd4 28.cxd6 Bxd5 29.Nxd5 Rae8 30.Nc7±)* 27.Nb6+ Ke7 28.Nxa8 exf4+ 29.Kh4 Rxa8 30.Rxf4 Bxa2 31.Kg5±]

[21...a6

A) 22.h3 e5 23.Nd5+ Kf7 24.fxe5

dxe5∞;
B) 22.Rd2 b6 23.Rhd1 Rd8 24.Kg3 h5 *(24...g5 25.fxg5 Ne5 26.Ne3 Bb7 27.b3 b5 28.cxb5 Rac8 29.Rc2 axb5 30.Nxb5 Rxc2 31.Nxc2 Bxe4 32.Ncd4 Rc8∞)* 25.Kh4 Bb7 26.Kg5 Rac8 27.Ne3 *(27.Kxg6? Rg8+ 28.Kxh5? Rg7-+)* 27...Na5
B1) 28.b3 b5 29.Rd4 Nc6 30.R4d3 Na5 *(30...b4 31.Na4→)* 31.cxb5 axb5 32.b4 *(32.Nxb5?! Rc5+ 33.e5 Rxb5 34.Rxd6 Rxd6 35.Rxd6 Be4∞)* 32...Nc4 33.Nxc4 Rxc4 34.Nxb5 Bxe4 35.Rxd6 Rxd6 36.Nxd6 Rxb4 37.a3±;
B2) 28.Rd4;
C) 22.Rhe1 Rb8 *(22...b5 23.cxb5 axb5 24.a3 Rb8 25.Nd5+ Kf7 26.Ncb4 Nxb4 27.Nxb4 Rb6 28.Rc1→; 22...g5 23.Nd5+ exd5 24.exd5+ Kd7 25.dxc6+ bxc6 26.fxg5→)* 23.Nd5+
C1) 23...Kf7 24.Nde3 Rd8 25.c5 *(25.Nxg4 e5⇄)* 25...dxc5 26.Rxd8 Nxd8 27.Nxg4 Nc6 28.e5→;
C2) 23...exd5 24.exd5+ Kf7 25.dxc6 bxc6 26.b3 Rd8 27.Ne3 *(27.c5 Bf5 28.Nd4 dxc5 29.Nxc6 Rxd1 30.Rxd1 Rb6→)* 27...Be6±]

22.Rd2

[22.Rhe1 Rf8 23.Kg3 *(23.Nd5+? exd5 24.exd5+ Ne5∓)* 23...Bd7 *(23...g5 24.fxg5 Ne5)* 24.Nd5+ *(24.Nb5 e5!⇄)* 24...Kd8∞]

22...Rf8

[22...a6?! 23.Rhd1 Rd8
A) 24.Kg3 Rb8 25.Kh4 b5 26.Kg5 b4 27.Ne2 Bb7 *(27...Na5 28.b3 Rb6 29.e5±)* 28.b3 Rbc8 29.Ned4→;
B) 24.b4 b6 25.Ne3 Bb7 26.b5 Na5 27.Na4 axb5 28.Nxb6 Rab8∞]
[22...Nd8 23.h3 *(23.Ne3!?)* 23...gxh3 24.gxh3 Nf7 25.Rg1 Rg8 26.h4 Bd7 27.Nd4 Raf8∞]
[22...Bd7 23.Rhd1 Rhf8 24.Rxd6 Rad8 25.Kg3 e5
A) 26.Rxg6 exf4+ 27.Kf2 Ne5 28.Nd5+ Kf7 29.Rf6+ Kg7 30.Rxf8 *(30.Rxf4? Ba4∓)* 30...Rxf8 31.b3±;
B) 26.fxe5 Nxe5 27.Ne3 g5 28.Nf5+ Bxf5 29.Rxd8 Rxd8 30.Rxd8 Kxd8 31.exf5 h4+ 32.Kf2 Nxc4⇄]
[22...g5?! 23.fxg5 Ne5 24.b3 Bd7 25.Rhd1 Raf8+ 26.Kg1→]
[22...h4?! 23.Rhd1 Rf8 24.Ke3 e5 25.Nd5+ Kd8 26.c5 Be6 27.g3 Kd7→]

23.Ke3

[23.Kg3
A) 23...Rf7 24.Ne3 e5 25.Ned5+ Kf8 26.Rf2 *(26.fxe5 Nxe5 27.b3 g5)*;
B) 23...e5 24.Nd5+ Kd8 25.Rf1
B1) 25...Ne7 26.Nxe7 *(26.Nce3 Nxd5 27.Nxd5 Bd7 28.Rff2±)* 26...Kxe7=;
B2) 25...g5? 26.f5±;
B3) 25...Be6 26.c5 *(26.Kh4 Bxd5 27.Rxd5 Kc7⇄; 26.Nce3!?)*
B3a) 26...dxc5 27.Nb6+ Ke7 28.Nxa8 exf4+ 29.Kh4 Rxa8 30.Rxf4 Bxa2 31.Kg5 Ne5
B3a1)
32.h4? Be6 33.Ne3 *(33.Rf6? Nf7+∓)* 33...Rg8∞;
B3a2) 32.Ne3 Rg8 33.Rf1

Nf7+ 34.Kh4 Be6 35.Nd5+ Bxd5 36.Rxd5 b6 37.Rb1 Kf6 38.Rd7 g5+ 39.Kg3 h4+ 40.Kf2 Re8 41.Ke3→;

B3b) 26...Ne7 27.Ncb4 *(27.Nc3 exf4+ 28.Kf2 Nc8 29.cxd6 Kd7⇄)* 27...Nxd5 28.Nxd5 Rc8 29.cxd6 Rc4 30.f5 *(30.Nc7 Bd7 31.f5 Rxe4!→)* 30...Bd7⇄]

23...Nd8

[23...g5

A) 24.g3

A1) 24...Rd8 25.Ne2 *(25.Rhd1 a6 26.Nd4 gxf4+ 27.gxf4 Bd7±)* 25...Bd7 26.b3 gxf4+ 27.Nxf4 Be8 28.Rf1 Ne5 29.Nd4 Bf7 30.Rdf2 Rd7 31.a4 Rad8 32.Nd3 Bg8 33.a5 Nxd3 34.Kxd3→;

A2) 24...gxf4+ 25.gxf4 a6 26.Rhd1 Rd8 27.Kf2 b6 28.Ne3 Ra7 29.Kg3 Rad7 30.Kh4±;

A3) 24...a6 25.Rhd1 Rd8 26.Nd4 *(26.Ne2 gxf4+ 27.Nxf4 b5 28.Nd4 Nxd4 29.Rxd4 Bb7 30.c5 dxc5 31.Rxd8 Rxd8 32.Rxd8 Kxd8 33.Nxe6+ Ke7 34.Nxc5±)* 26...gxf4+ 27.gxf4 Bd7± 28.b3±;

B) 24.fxg5 Ne5

B1) 25.Na3 h4 26.Ncb5 h3 27.gxh3 gxh3

B1a) 28.Ke2 Bd7 29.Nxd6 Bc6 30.c5 Rf4 31.Rf1 Rxf1 32.Kxf1 Nf3 33.Rd3 Nxg5 34.Ke2 Nxe4 35.Nxe4 Bxe4 36.Rxh3 Rc8 37.Rc3 Bd5⩱;

B1b) 28.g6

B1b1) 28...Bd7 29.Rg1 Bxb5 30.g7 Rf3+ 31.Ke2 Bc6 *(31...Rxa3 32.cxb5□ Rxa2 33.g8Q Rxg8 34.Rxg8 Nc4 35.Rc2 Na3 36.Rc7+ Kf6 37.Rxb7 Rxb2+ 38.Kd3 Rxh2 39.Rxa7 Nxb5 40.Rh7 d5 41.Rh6+ Ke5 42.Rh5+ Kd6 43.e5+→)* 32.g8Q Rxg8 33.Rxg8 Bxe4 34.b3 a6⩲;

B1b2) 28...Ng4+ 29.Ke2 Rf2+ 30.Ke1 Rxd2 31.Kxd2 Bd7⩱;

B1c) 28.Rhd1 Ng4+ 29.Ke2 Bd7

B1c1) 30.Rxd6 Rad8 31.Nxa7 Rf2+ 32.Ke1 Rxh2 33.Nc8+ Ke8 34.R6d3 *(34.Nb5 Ne5→)* 34...Ne5∓;

B1c2) 30.g6 Rf2+ 31.Ke1 Rxd2 *(31...Rg2 32.Nxd6 Rg1+ 33.Ke2 Rg2+=)* 32.Rxd2 Ne5 33.Rd1 Bxb5 34.Nxb5 Rg8 35.Nxd6 Rxg6→;

B1c3) 30.Nxd6 Rf2+ 31.Ke1 Rxh2

B1c31) 32.Nf5+ exf5 33.Rxd7+ Kf8 34.Rd8+ *(34.exf5?? Re8+-+)* 34...Rxd8 35.Rxd8+ Ke7∓;

B1c32) 32.Rxh2 Nxh2

B1c321) 33.g6? Rg8 34.Nxb7 *(34.c5 Rxg6∓)* 34...Rxg6 35.Nc5? *(35.Kd2 Rg2+∓)* 35...Rg1+ 36.Ke2 Rxd1 37.Kxd1 Ng4-+;

B1c322) 33.c5 Nf3+ 34.Kf2 Nxg5→;

B1c323) 33.Ke2 Rg8 34.Nc2 Rxg5→;

B1c324) 33.Nxb7 Bc6

34.Nc5 Nf3+ 35.Kf2 Nxg5 36.Kg3 Rg8 37.Kh2 Rf8 38.Kg3 Bxe4→;

B2) 25.b3 Nf3?! *(25...Bd7?! 26.Rhd1 h4 27.Ne2 Rad8 28.Rxd6 g3 29.h3 Nf7 30.R6d4 Nxg5 31.Nf4±; 25...Rg8?! 26.Nb5 Rxg5 27.Nxd6→)* 26.gxf3 Rxf3+ 27.Ke2 Rxc3 28.Ne3→]

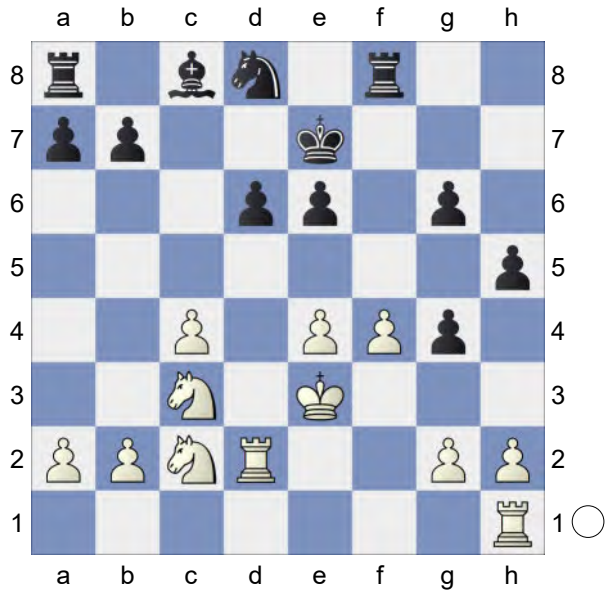
[23...e5 24.Nd5+ Kd8 25.c5 Be6 26.g3 Rc8 27.cxd6 Kd7 28.Na3→]

[23...a6 24.Rhd1 Rd8 25.c5 dxc5 26.Rxd8 Nxd8 27.Na4 Nc6 28.Nxc5 b6 29.Na4 Rb8∞]

[23...Nd8 24.h3 *(24.Nb5 Nf7 25.Rhd1 Rd8 26.Nb4 a6 27.Nd4 Bd7 28.b3 Rac8=)* 24...gxh3 25.gxh3 Nf7 26.Rg2 Nh8 27.Rd1 Bd7 28.Rgd2 Nf7

A) 29.c5 Rac8 30.cxd6+ Ke8 31.Rf2 *(31.e5 g5⩱)* 31...e5∞;

B) 29.e5 Rac8 30.exd6+ Kd8 31.b3 e5 32.h4 exf4+ 33.Kxf4∞]



½-½

159 **B55**

□ **Yandemirov,Valeri** **2465**

■ **Lerner,Konstantin Z** **2580**

RUS-Cup01 Chigorin Memorial (4) 1996

[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

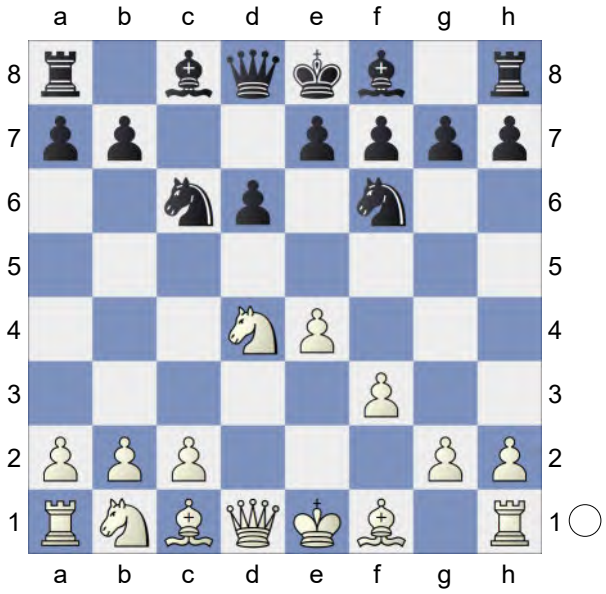
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

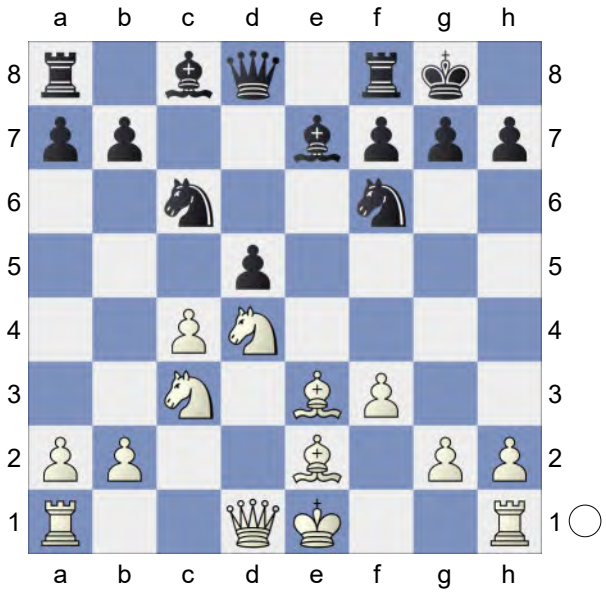
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060

[Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 d5 10.exd5 exd5

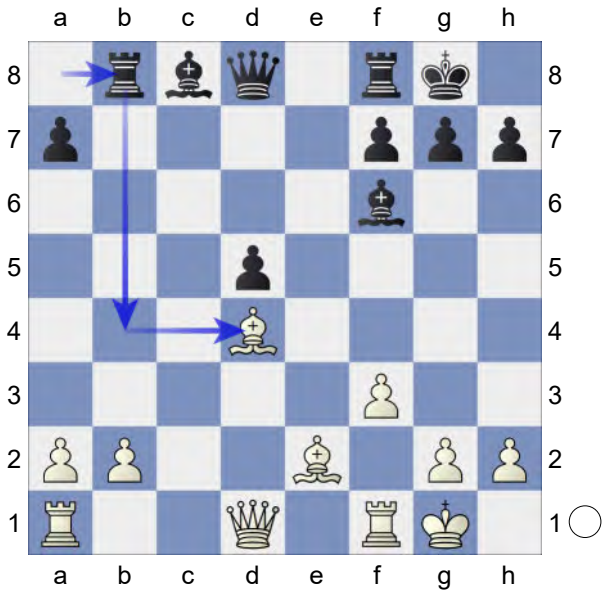
[10...Nxd4 is interesting. 11.Qxd4 exd5 12.cxd5 Re8]



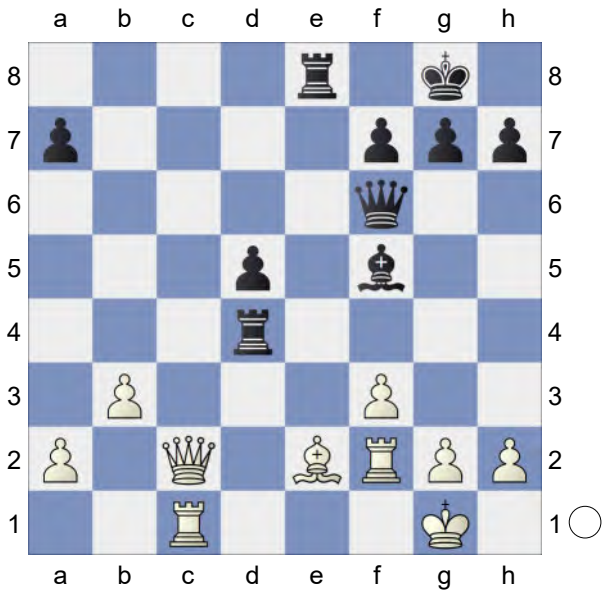
11.Nxc6

[11.0-0 feels hotter. Bc5 12.Kh1 Qe7 13.Qd2]

11...bxc6 12.cxd5 Black has an edge. **12...Nxd5 13.Nxd5 cxd5 14.0-0 Bf6 15.Bd4 Rb8**



16.b3 Re8 White must now prevent ... Bxd4+. **17.Rf2 Rb4 18.Bxf6 Qxf6 19.Rc1 Rd4 20.Qc2** Qxc8 is the strong threat. **20...Bf5**



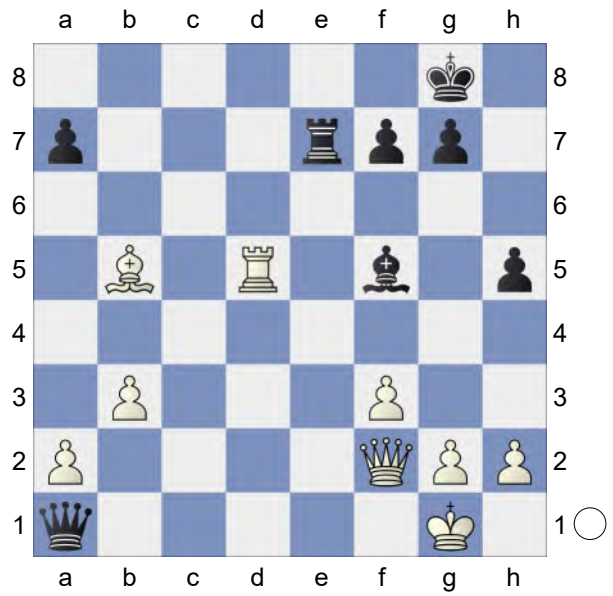
21.Qc5 Rd2 And now ...Qb2 would win. **22.Bb5 Rxf2 23.Qxf2→** White attacks. **23...Re7 24.Rd1 h5** 0.40/22

[24...Qd6= 0.01/19]

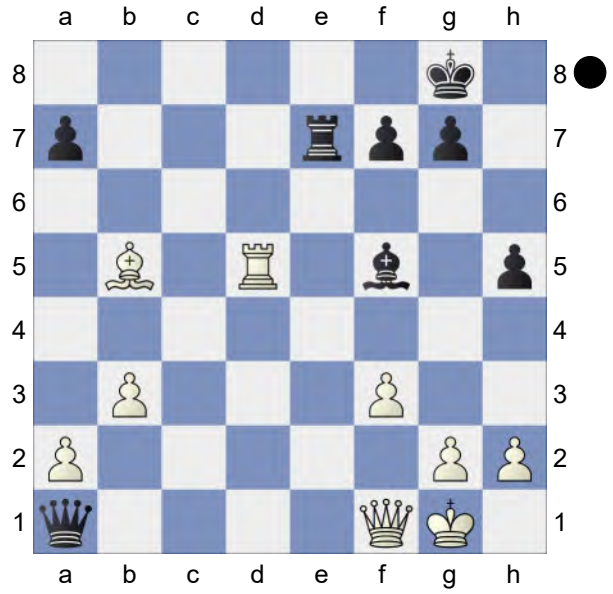
25.Rxd5± Qa1+ 1.22/22

[25...Re5= 0.29/22 26.Rxe5 Qxe5]

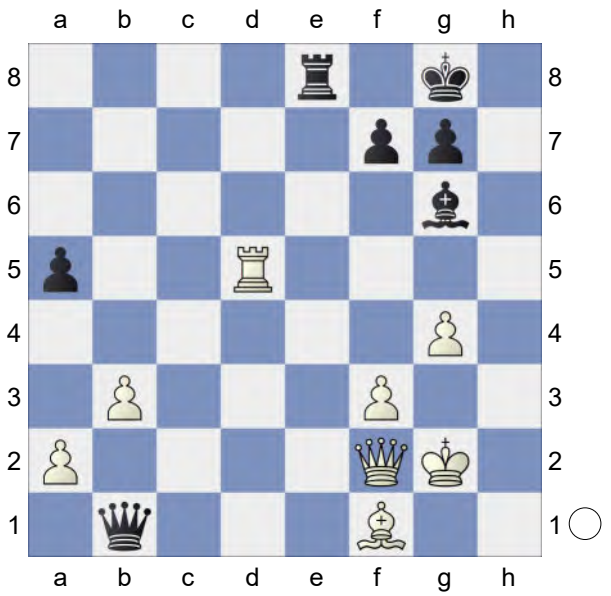
(Diagram)



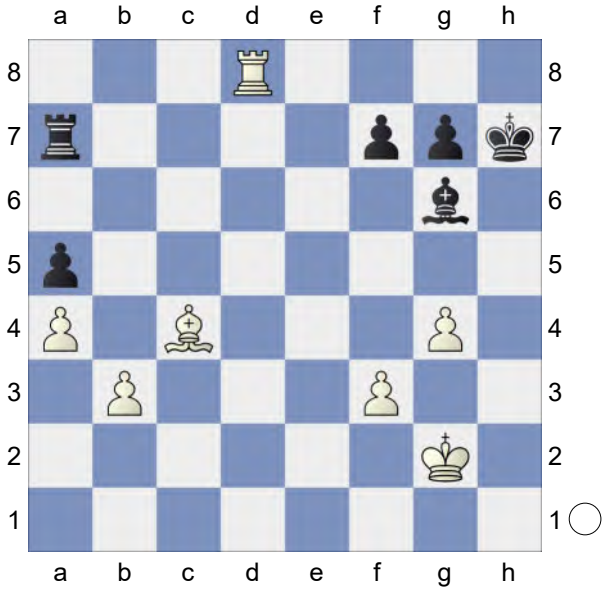
26.Bf1!±
[26.Qf1?



Re1! 27.Rxf5 *(27.Rd8+? Kh7-+)* 27...Qd4+ 28.Kh1 Rxf1+ 29.Bxf1 Qf2-+]
26...Bg6 27.g4 Qb1 1.74/22
[27...Qf6± 1.01/20]
28.Kg2+- Re8 29.h3 hxg4 2.22/22
[29...a5 1.61/20 was worth a try. 30.Bc4 *(30.Rxa5 Bd3=; 30.gxh5 Bf5±)* 30...a4 31.bxa4 *(31.gxh5 axb3 32.axb3 Bxh5±)* 31...Qb4]
30.hxg4 a5

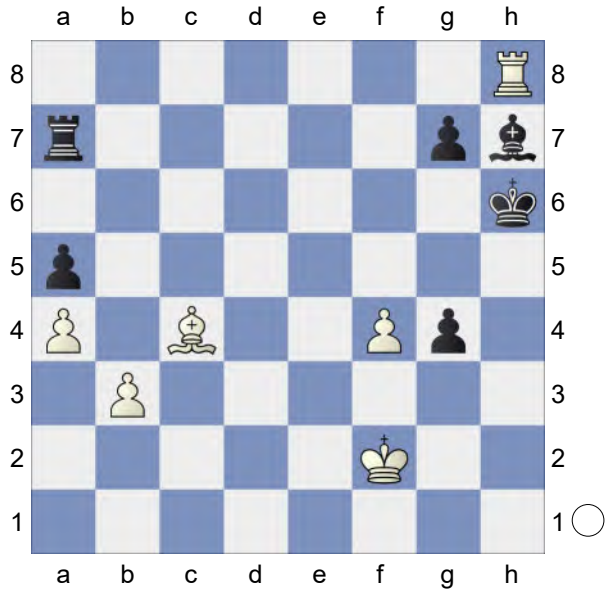


31.Bc4
[Much less strong is 31.Rxa5?! Bd3±]
31...Ra8 32.a4 Qc1 33.Qd2 Qxd2+ 34.Rxd2 Endgame KRB-KRB **34...Ra7 35.Rd8+ Kh7**

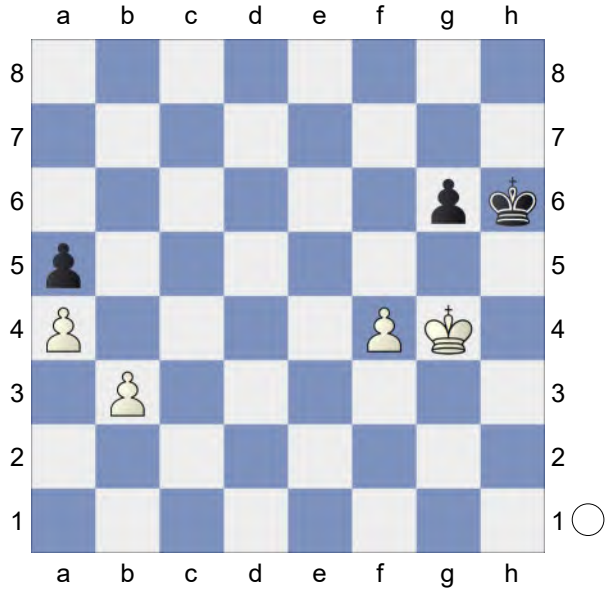


36.Kf2 f6 37.Bg8+ Kh6 38.Bc4? -0.01/24
[38.Be6+- 2.33/21]
38...f5? 3.34/24 Black cannot hold the game after this.
[38...Kh7!= -0.01/24 and Black stays safe.]

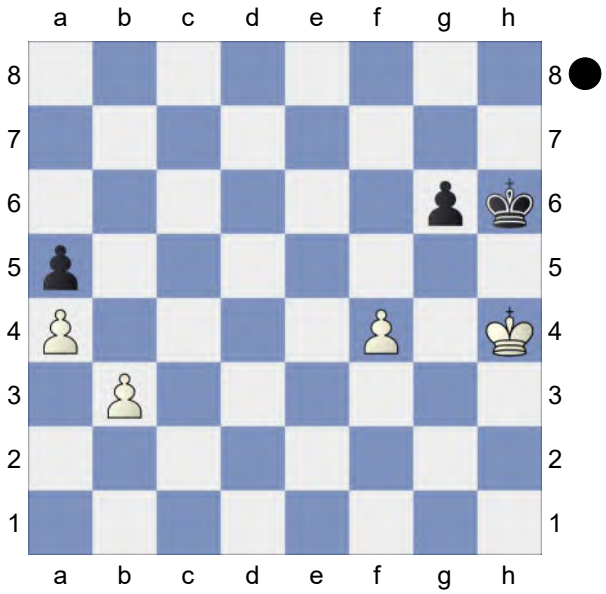
39.f4 Strongly threatening Rh8+.
39...fxg4? 7.11/26
[39...Bf7 3.47/25 40.gxf5 Kh7]
40.Rh8+ Bh7



41.Bg8 g6 42.Kg3 Rg7 43.Rxh7+? 1.60/5
[43.Bxh7+- 17.94/33 is more deadly. Rxh7 44.Rxh7+ Kxh7 45.Kxg4]
43...Rxh7± 44.Bxh7 Kxh7 45.Kxg4 Intending f5 and mate. **45...Kh6**



46.Kh4
[Worse is 46.f5 g5 47.Kh3 Kh7=]



Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/ Black=0.67
1-0

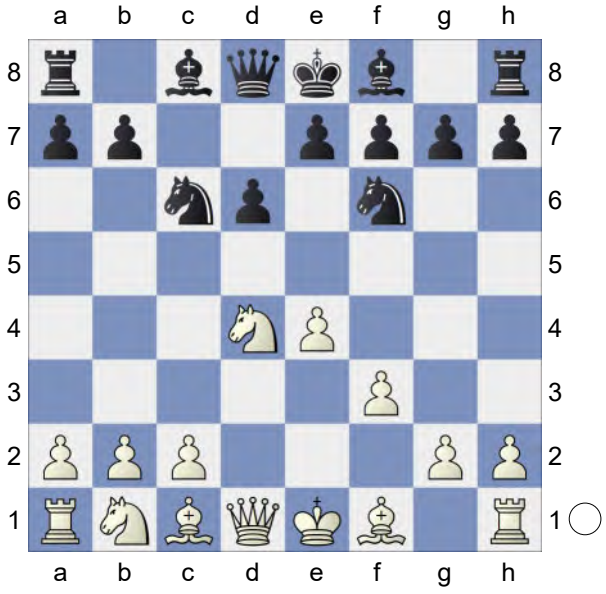
160	**B55**
□ **Yagupov,Igor**	**2450**
■ **Timoshenko,Georgy**	**2500**
Petrov mem St Petersburg (6)	1996

[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53))
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4*

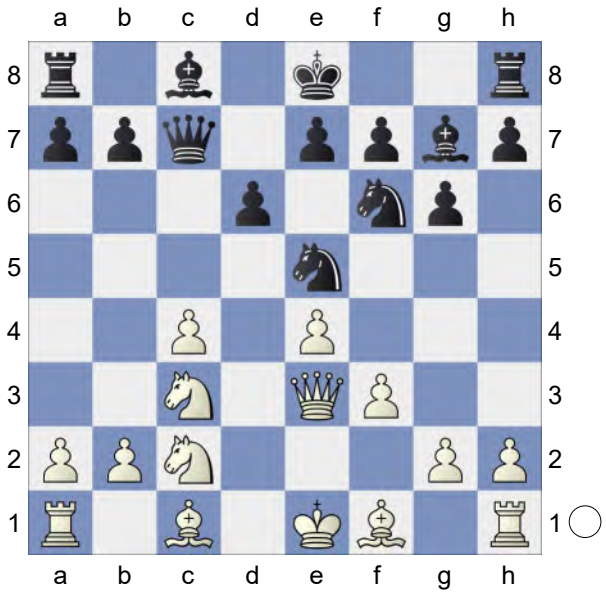
16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

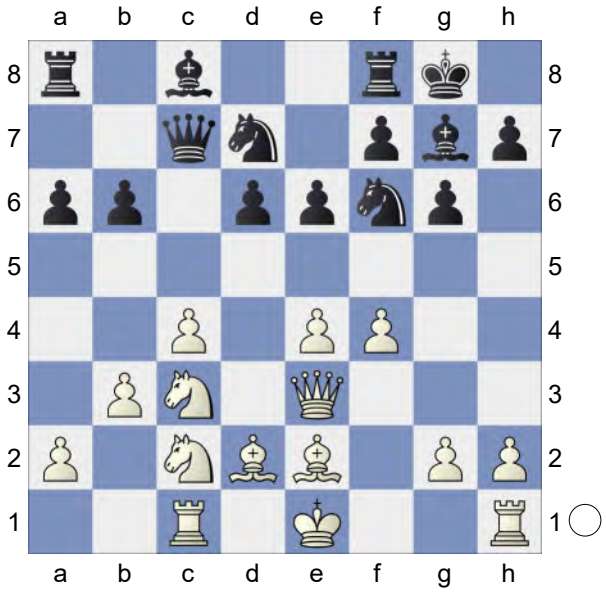


6.c4 Qb6 7.Nc2 g6 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.Qd3 Ne5 10.Qe3 Qc7

(Diagram)



11.b3 White has an edge. **11...a6 12.Bd2 0-0 13.Rc1 e6 14.f4 Ned7 15.Be2 b6**

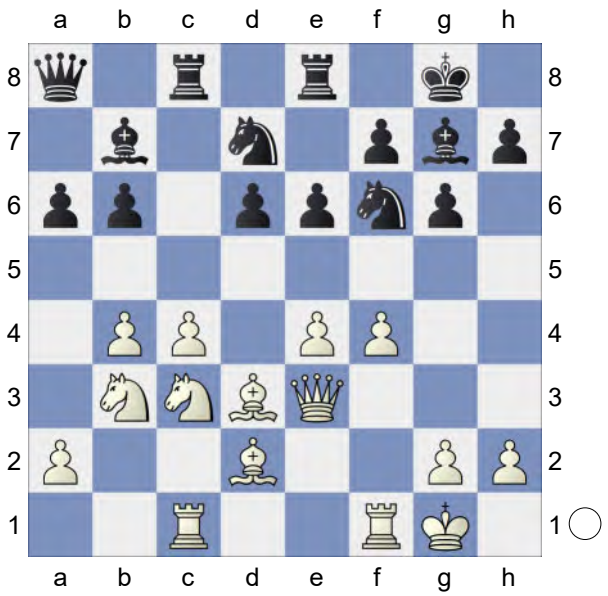


16.0-0 Bb7 17.b4 Rac8 18.Na1 Qb8 19.Nb3 Qa8 20.Bd3

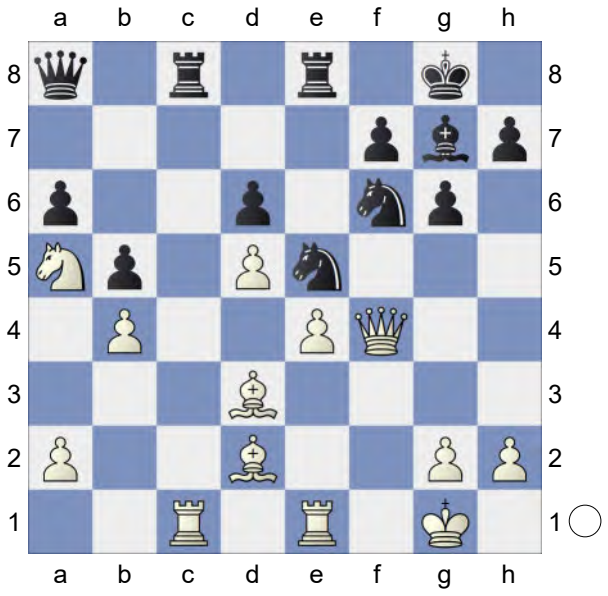
[Much weaker is 20.e5 dxe5 21.fxe5 Ne4 22.Nxe4 Bxe4∓]

20...Rfe8

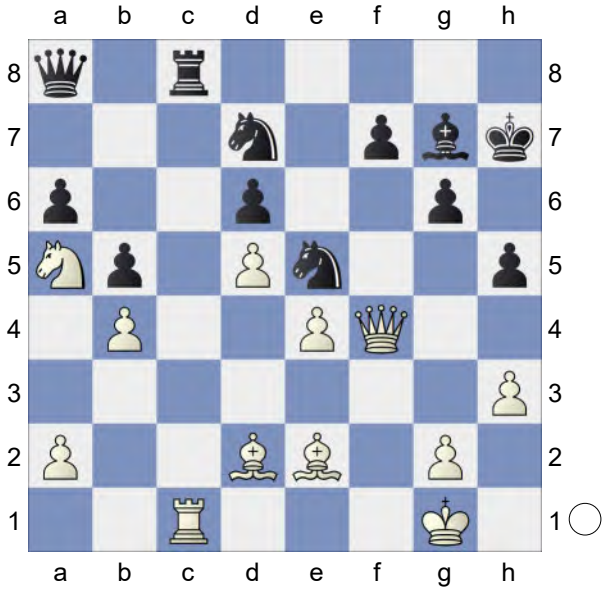
(Diagram)



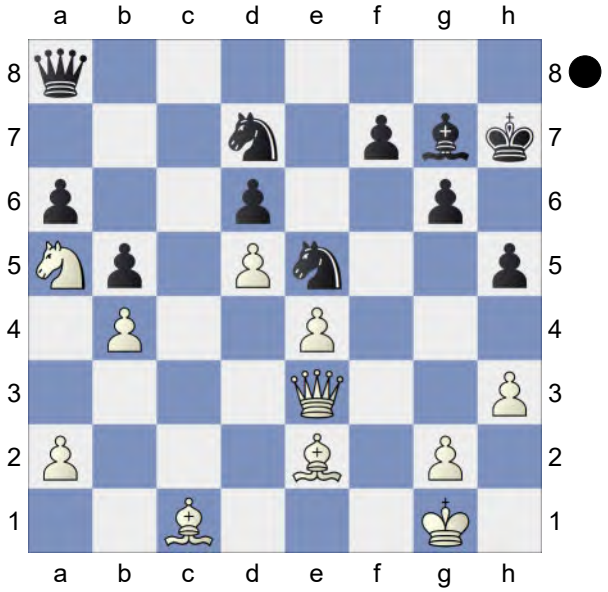
21.Rfe1 -0.35/17
[21.Qe2!= 0.03/18]
21...e5!∓ 22.Nd5 b5 23.Na5 -0.84/20
[23.cxb5∓ -0.49/20 might be stronger. Nxd5 24.exd5]
23...Bxd5∓ 24.cxd5 exf4 25.Qxf4 Ne5



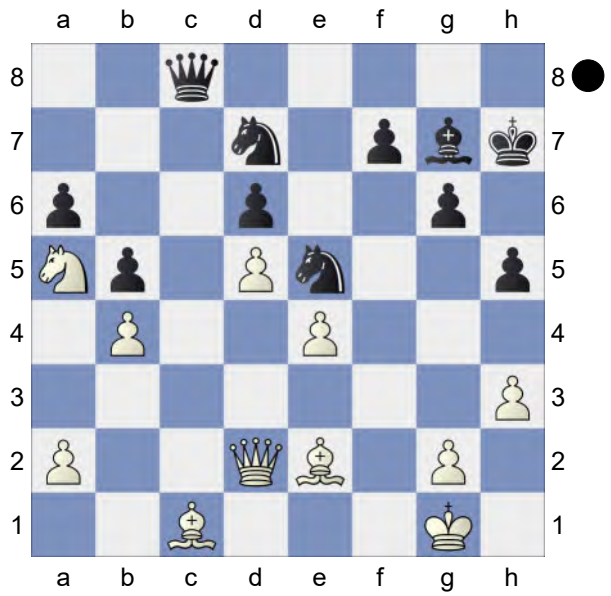
26.Be2 -0.65/21
[Better is 26.Rxc8∓ -1.03/21 Qxc8 27.Qf1]
26...h5∓ Threatens to win with ...Neg4.
27.h3 Against Neg4 **27...Rxc1 28.Rxc1 Rc8** -0.24/21
[28...Qa7+!∓ -0.59/21 is superior. 29.Be3 Qe7]
29.Bf3 -1.32/21
[29.Bc3!= -0.24/21]
29...Nfd7 30.Be2 Kh7 -0.79/18
[⌓30...Rxc1+ -1.35/21 31.Bxc1 Qc8]



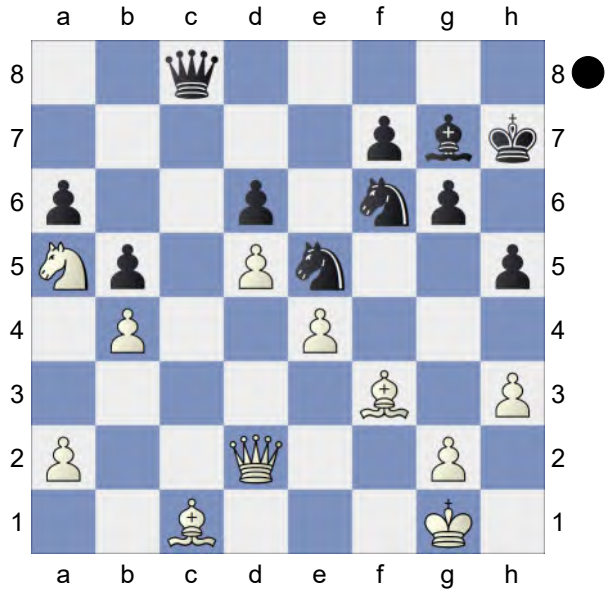
31.Qe3 -1.92/22
[31.Rxc8∓ -0.79/18 might work better. Qxc8 32.Bd1]
31...Rxc1+-+ 32.Bxc1



Qc8! 33.Qd2 -2.52/22
[33.Kh1∓ -1.53/20 keeps fighting.]

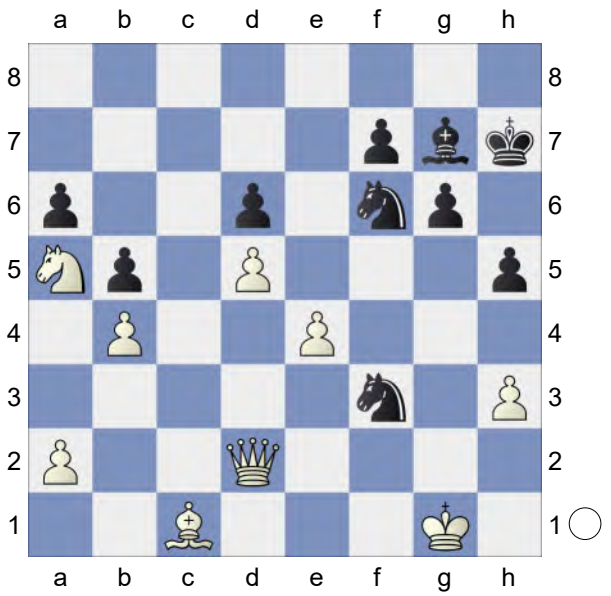


33...Nf6! 34.Bf3

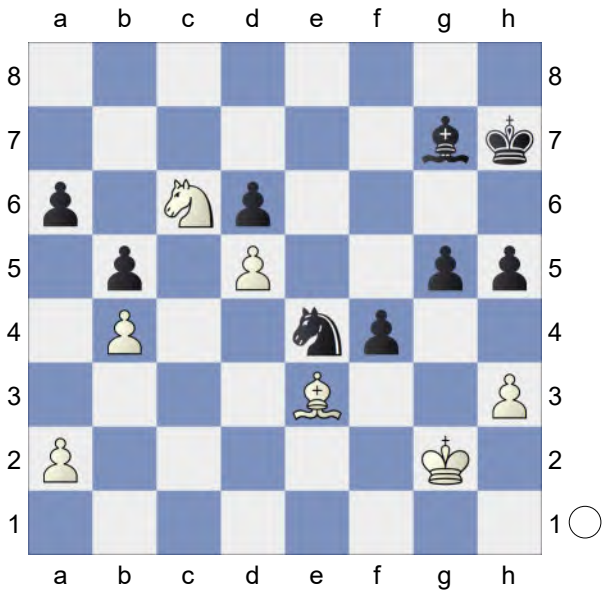


Qxh3 35.gxh3
[35.Qf2 Qc8]
35...Nxf3+

(Diagram)

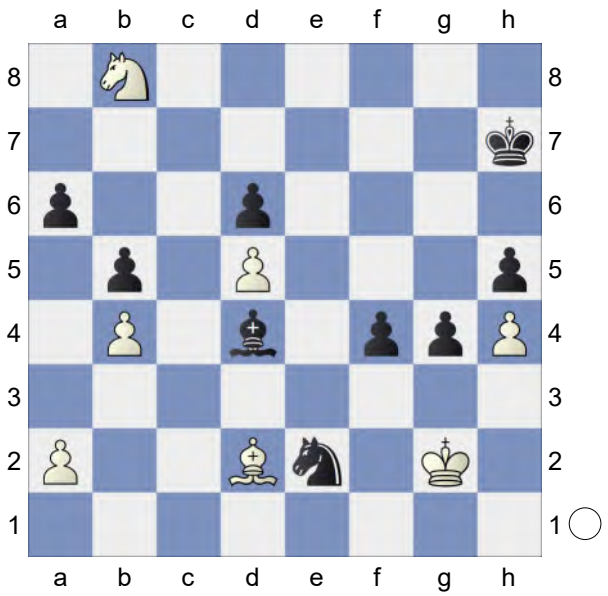


Pair of Knights! **36.Kg2 Nxd2**
Black is clearly winning. **37.Bxd2 Nxe4**
Endgame KBN-KBN **38.Bf4 g5 39.Be3 f5 40.Nc6 f4**



41.Bc1 Nc3 42.h4 Ne2 43.Bd2 g4 44.Nb8 Bd4

(Diagram)

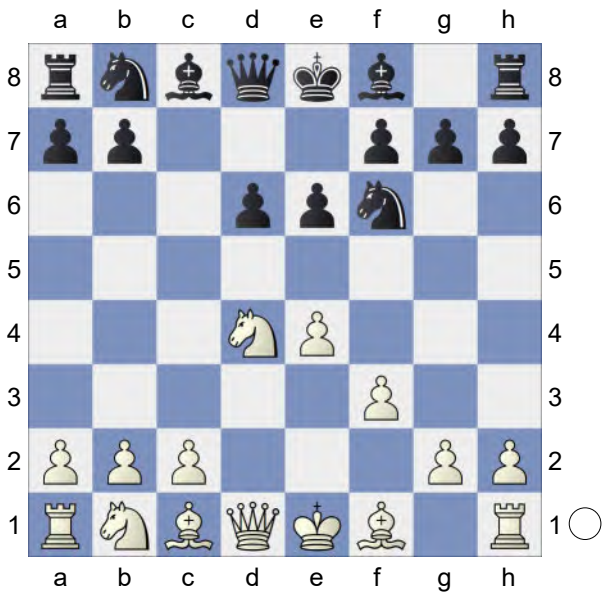


Weighted Error Value: White=0.42/ Black=0.10 (very precise)
0-1

161 **B55**
□ **Drozdowski,Kacper** **2448**
■ **Hovhannisyan,Robert** **2597**
EU-ch Blitz Katowice (12) 16.12.2022
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e6

(Diagram)

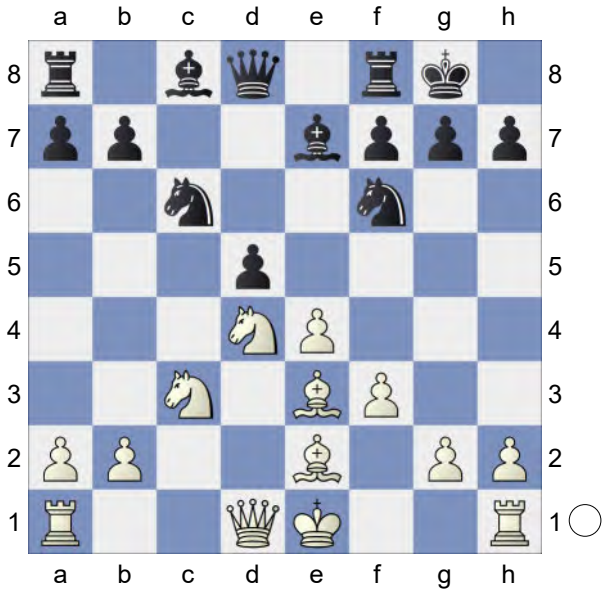


6.c4 Nc6N
[6...Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Qd2 b6 10.Be2 Bb7 11.0-0
A) 11...Qc7
A1) 12.Rfc1 Nbd7 13.a4 Rac8 *(13...Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 27.Nxd6 Red8 28.Ncb5* Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39)) 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 Kasparov,S-Heiduczek,J 65: Rasthofen 2012 The Hedgehog Defence [Sergey Kasparov] 1-0;
A2) 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2

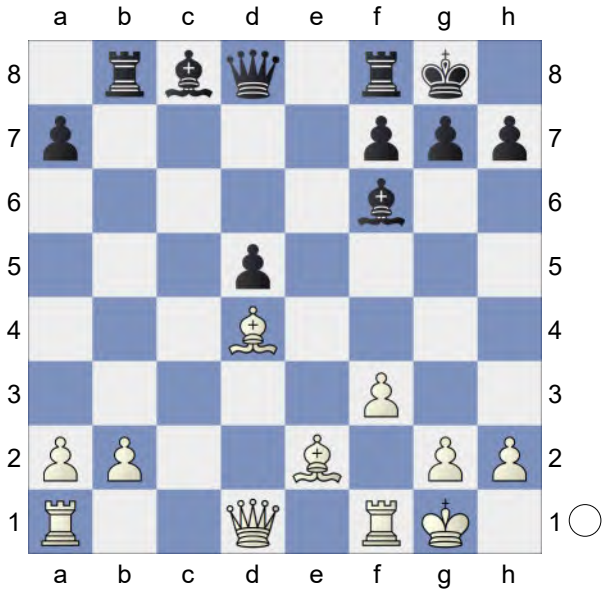
Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2 Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ♘a6 8.♖e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53);

B) 11...Nbd7 12.Rfd1 *(12.a4 Rb8 13.Rfd1 Qc7 14.Rac1 Rbc8 15.Bf1 Qb8 16.Qf2 Rfe8 17.g3 Bf8 18.b3 Nc5 19.Bh3 Ncd7 20.Rc2 Rc7 21.Nde2 Ba8 22.Rcd2 Nc5 23.Nc1 Rcc8 24.Bf4 Red8 25.b4 Nb7 26.Bf1 a5* Malakhov,V (2675)-Wang,H (2696) Chiva 2008 EXT 2017 [Primel, Dominique] ½-½ (70) *)* 12...Qc7 13.Bf1 Rfe8 14.Rac1 Rac8 15.b3 Qb8 16.Nde2 Bf8 17.Nf4 Bc6 18.Nd3 Bb7 19.Qf2 Ba8 20.Nb2 Be7 21.Qd2 Arias,L (2284)-Zepeda, S San Salvador ESA 2003 10000 Comentadas [Gonzalez, Julio A] 1-0 (33)]

7.Nc3 **Be7!** now scores much better than the old 7...h6.punktet besser als das ältere 7...h6. **8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 d5 10.cxd5N exd5**



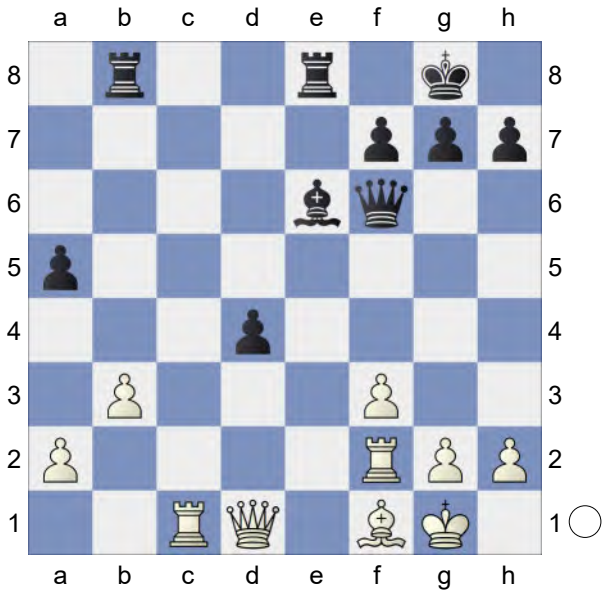
11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Black is slightly better. **13...cxd5 14.0-0! Bf6 15.Bd4 Rb8**



16.Rf2 Re8 17.Bf1 Be6 18.b3 a5 19.Bxf6

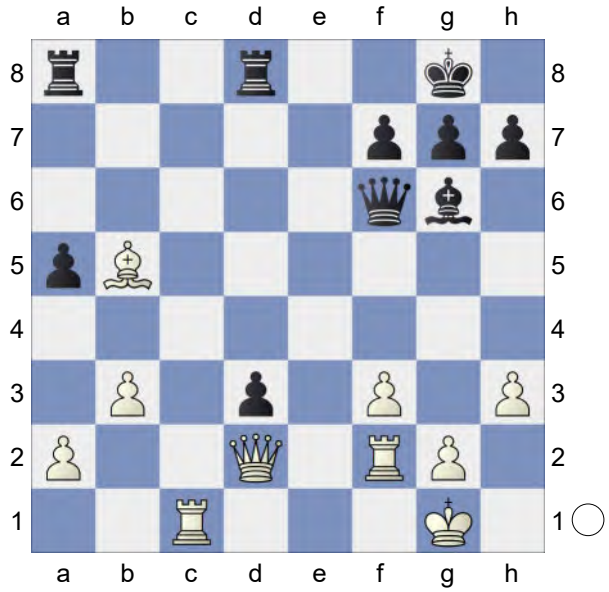
[19.Rc1 Bxd4 20.Qxd4 Rb4 21.Qc5 Qa8 22.Qc6 -0.59/18 *(22.Rfc2=* -0.13/20 *)* 22...Rc8∓ 23.Qxa8 Rxa8 24.Rc5 a4 25.Rb5 Rxb5 26.Bxb5 axb3 27.axb3]

19...Qxf6 20.Rc1 d4



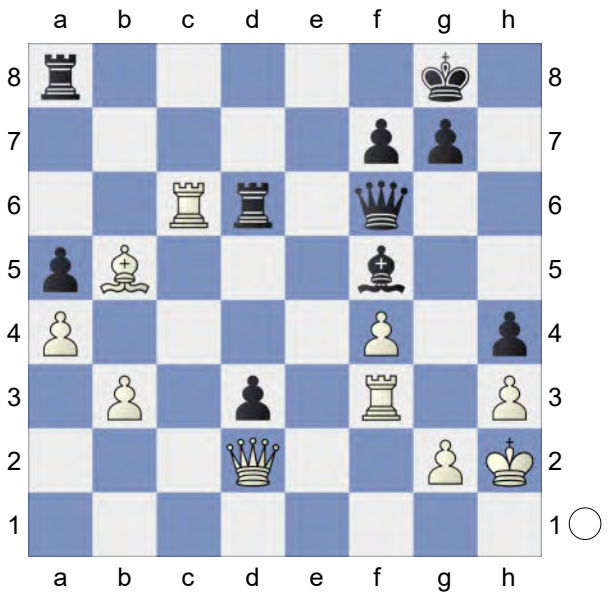
21.Qd2 Ra8 22.Bb5 Red8 23.Rc5 d3 -0.01/21

[23...g6∓ -0.60/20]
24.Rc1 -1.34/22
[24.Qe3= -0.01/21]
24...Bf5 -0.65/21
[24...Rab8∓ -1.34/22 25.Ba6 *(25.Bxd3? Bf5-+)* 25...Rd6]
25.h3 -1.19/19
[25.Qe3∓ -0.65/21]
25...Bg6 -0.53/21
[25...Qb6∓ -1.19/19 26.Bc4 Rac8]

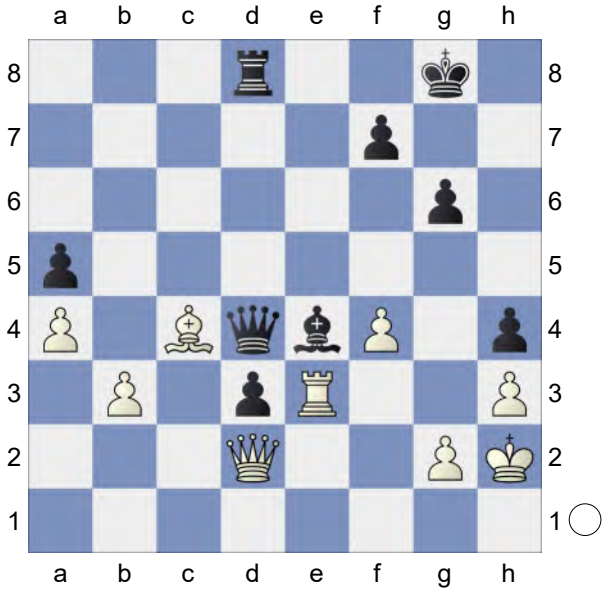


26.a4 -0.91/20
[26.Qe3!∓ -0.53/21 was preferrable.]
26...h5 27.f4 Bf5 28.Rf3 -1.23/20
[28.Qe3∓ -0.66/20]
28...Rd4 29.Kh2 -1.28/21
[⌓29.Rd1 -0.97/19]
29...h4∓ 30.Rc6 Rd6 -0.85/21
[⌓30...Qe7 -1.24/24 31.Rf2 Be6]

(Diagram)

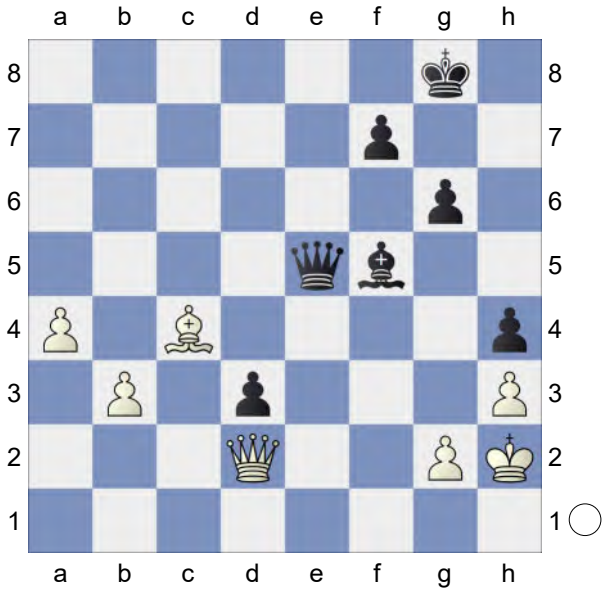


31.Rxd6 -1.18/21
[⌓31.Rc5 -0.85/21]
31...Qxd6 32.Bc4 -1.76/22
[32.Rf1∓ -1.26/24]
32...Be4 33.Rf1 g6 -1.11/23
[33...Re8-+ -1.74/22 34.Re1 Qd4]
34.Re1 -1.61/24
[34.Rd1∓ -1.11/23 is a better defense.]
34...Qd4-+ 35.Re3 Rd8



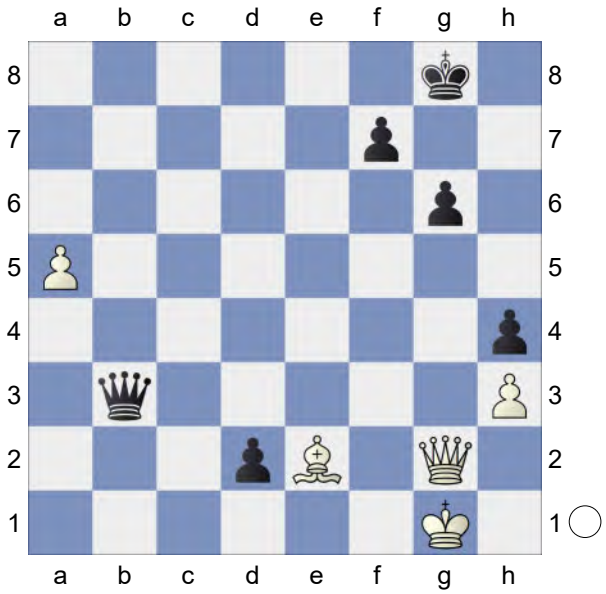
36.Re1 Bf5 -0.19/25 &Nero is much more active.
[36...Rd6∓ -1.27/21]

37.Re5 -0.99/23
[37.Re7= -0.19/25 was the only way to keep the balance.]
37...Rd7 0.01/24
[37...Kg7∓ -0.99/23]
38.Rxa5= Re7 0.93/26
[38...Be4= 0.01/22]
39.Re5 -0.01/25
[White has to play 39.Rd5± 0.93/26 Qa1 40.Rd8+ *(40.Bxd3? Re1-+)* 40...Kg7 41.Qb4 *(41.Bxd3? Re1-+)*]
39...Rxe5 40.fxe5 Qxe5+

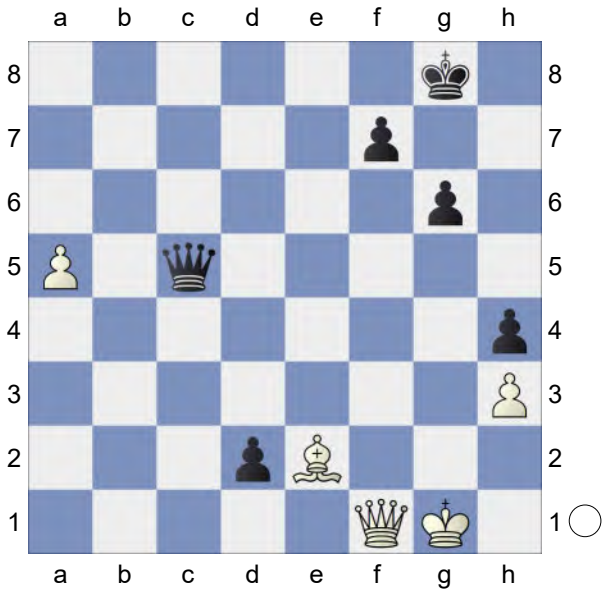


41.Kh1 Qg3 42.a5 Be4 -0.01/22
[42...Qe5∓ -0.96/22 43.a6 Qa1+ 44.Kh2 Qd4]
43.Kg1! Bxg2 44.Qxg2 d2 45.Be2 Strongly threatening Qxg3. **45...Qxb3** 0.77/21
[45...Qe1+= 0.01/24 keeps the balance. 46.Qf1 Qg3+ 47.Qg2 Qe1+ 48.Qf1 Qg3+ 49.Qg2]

(Diagram)

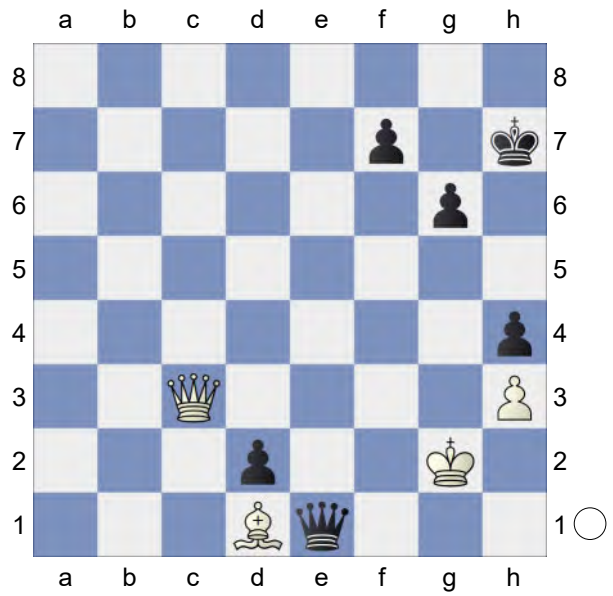


46.Qf1 -0.01/28
[46.Qa8+± 0.77/21 Kg7 47.Qf3]
46...Qe3+ 0.40/25
[46...Qg3+!= -0.01/28 47.Kh1 Qe1]
47.Kh1!± Qe4+ 48.Kg1 0.01/27
[48.Qf3± 0.85/26 Qa4 49.a6 *(49.Qd5 Qa1+ 50.Kh2 Qc3=)*]
48...Qd4+ 49.Kh1 Qd5+ 50.Kg1 Qc5+

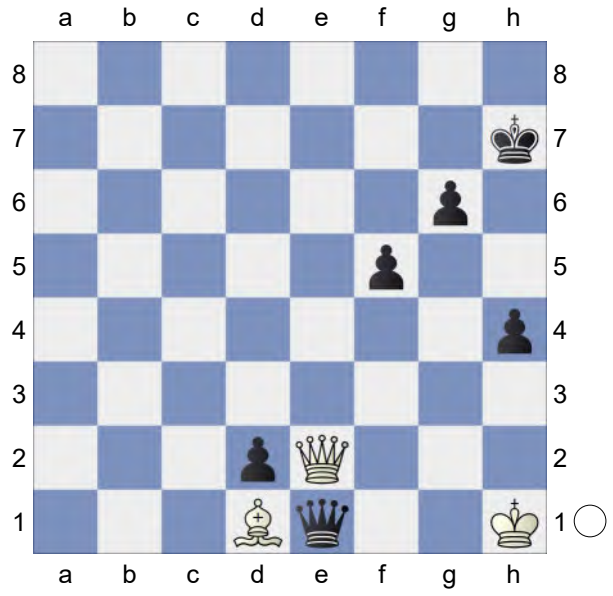


51.Kh1 Qxa5 52.Qf3 Qe5 53.Kg2 Kg7 54.Bd1 Qe1 55.Qc3+ Kh7

(Diagram)

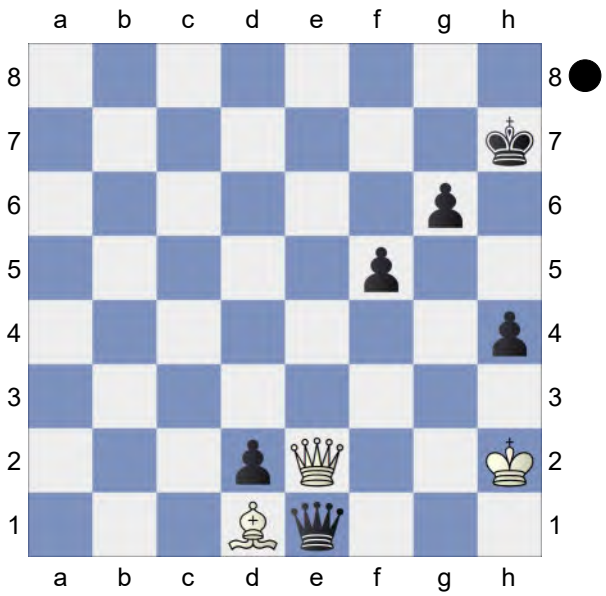


56.Qf3 f5 57.Qe2 Qg3+ Deflection
[57...Kh6!? 58.Qf3 Qe5=]
58.Kh1 Qxh3+ Predecessor: **59.Kg1 Qg3+ 60.Kh1?** -14.29/26
[60.Kf1= -0.01/29]
60...Qe1+-+



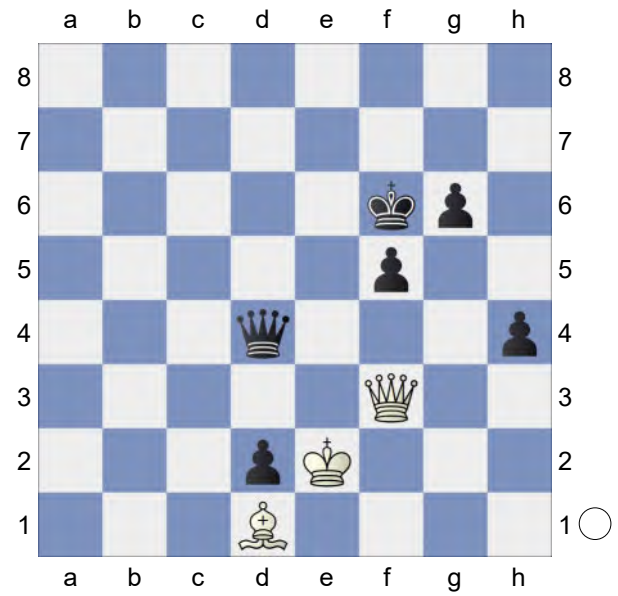
61.Kh2

(Diagram)

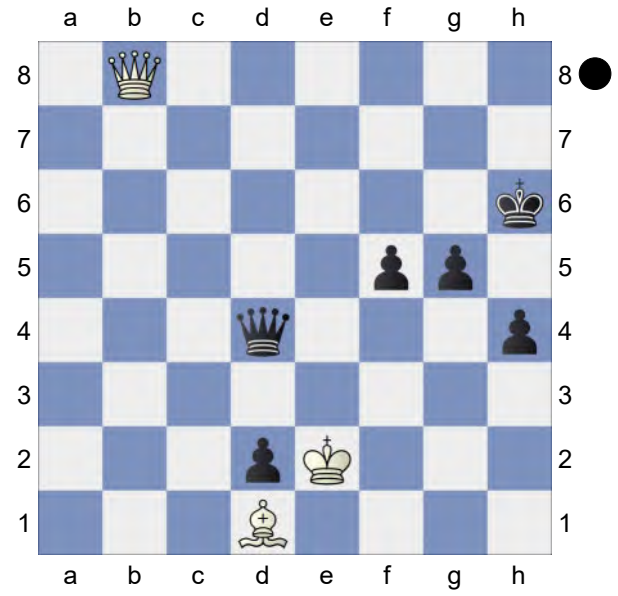


Kh6? -0.01/26
[Black should try 61...Qxe2+!-+ -14.53/26 62.Bxe2 g5]
62.Qf3= Qe5+ 63.Kg2? -7.32/26
[63.Kh3= -0.01/27]
63...Qd4? -0.01/23
[63...Qe4-+ -7.32/26 White must now prevent ...Qxf3+. 64.Qxe4 fxe4]
64.Kf1 Kg5 65.Ke2? -10.11/28
0-1 (26) Chen,N (1367)-Thanarotrung,R (1926) Bangkok 2015
[65.Qg2+= -0.01/24 Kh6 66.Ke2]
65...Kf6? -0.09/23
[65...Qg4-+ -10.11/28 66.Kf2 Qxf3+ 67.Kxf3 f4]

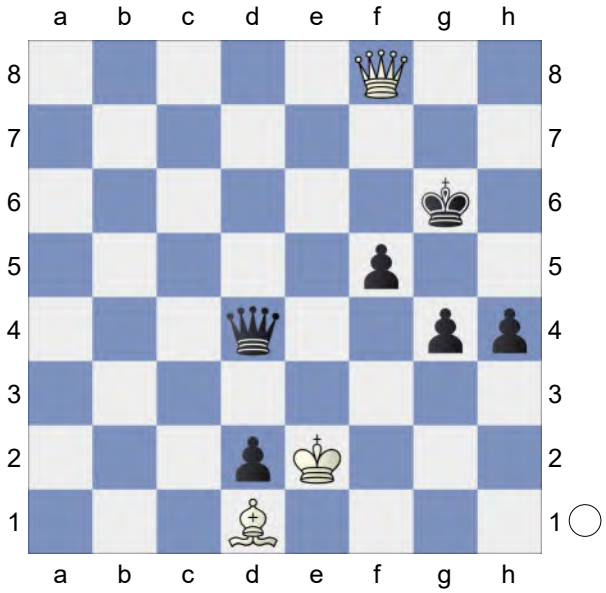
(Diagram)



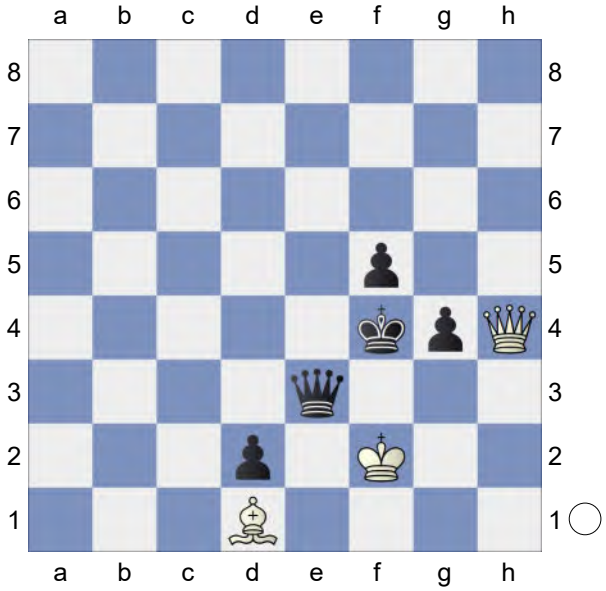
66.Qc6+ Kg7 67.Qc7+ Kh6
Hoping for ...h3. **68.Qh2?** -3.87/23
[68.Qe7!= -0.01/21 h3 69.Qa3]
68...g5? -0.73/22
[68...Kg5-+ -3.87/23 has better winning chances. aiming for ...Qf4. 69.Qc7 Kg4]
69.Qb8? -9.62/22
[69.Qh1∓ -0.73/22]



69...g4? -0.75/18
[69...h3!-+ -9.62/22 and Black stays clearly on top. 70.Qf8+ Kh5 71.Qxf5 Kh4 72.Qf2+ Qxf2+ 73.Kxf2 g4]
70.Qf8+∓ Kg6

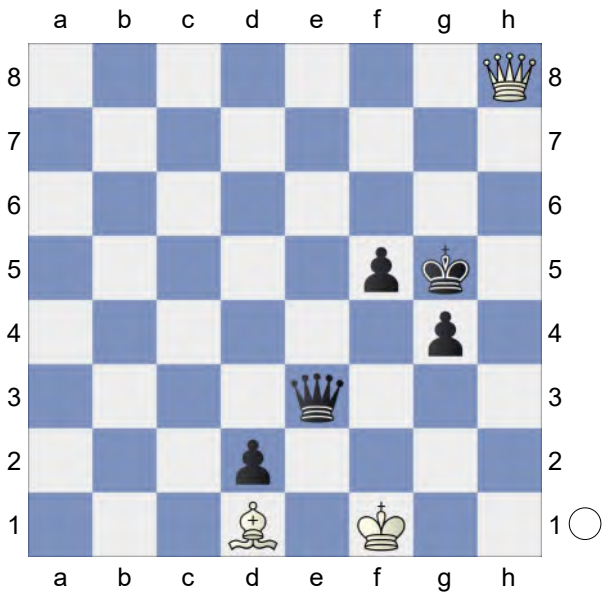


71.Qe8+ Kg5 72.Qe7+ Kf4 -0.01/23
[72...Qf6∓ -0.95/22 73.Qe3+ Kg6 74.Qxd2 Qe5+ 75.Kf1 Kh5]
73.Qxh4= Qe3+ 74.Kf1 Qd3+ 75.Kf2 Qe3+

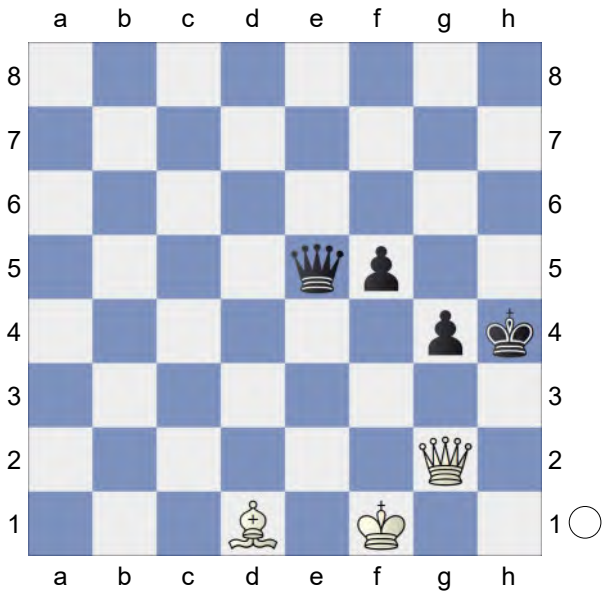


76.Kf1 Ke5 77.Qe7+ Kf4 Dancing on a razor blade. **78.Qd6+ Kg5 79.Qd8+ Kh5 80.Qh8+ Kg5**

(Diagram)



81.Qd8+ Kf4 82.Qd6+ Qe5 83.Qxd2+ Kg3 84.Qf2+ Kh3 85.Qg2+ Kh4



86.Qf2+ Kg5 87.Qd2+ Kh4 88.Qf2+ g3? #15/25

[88...Kh3= -0.01/25]

89.Qf3? 1.28/22

[89.Qd2 #15/25 mates g2+ 90.Kg1 Qc5+ 91.Kxg2 Qc6+ 92.Bf3 Qg6+ 93.Kh1 Kg3 94.Qg2+ Kf4 95.Qxg6]

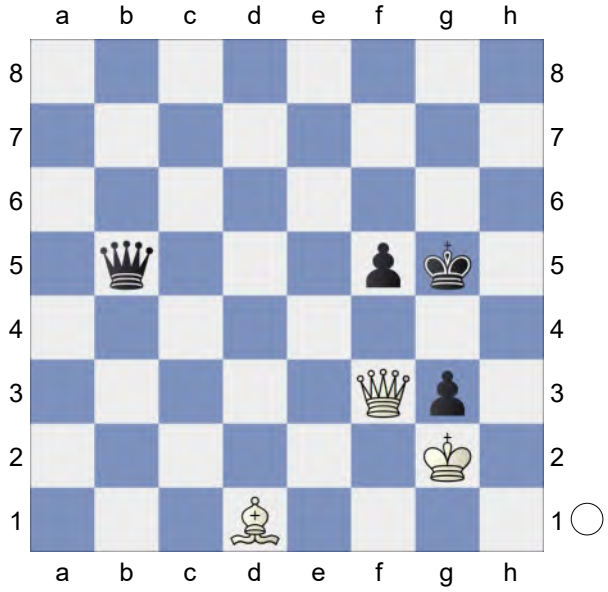
89...Qb5+

[89...g2+?! 90.Kg1 *(90.Kxg2 Qe4=; 90.Qxg2 Qf4+ 91.Qf3 Qxf3+ 92.Bxf3 Kh3=)* 90...Qd4+ 91.Kxg2 Qg4+ 92.Qxg4+ fxg4 93.Kh2=]

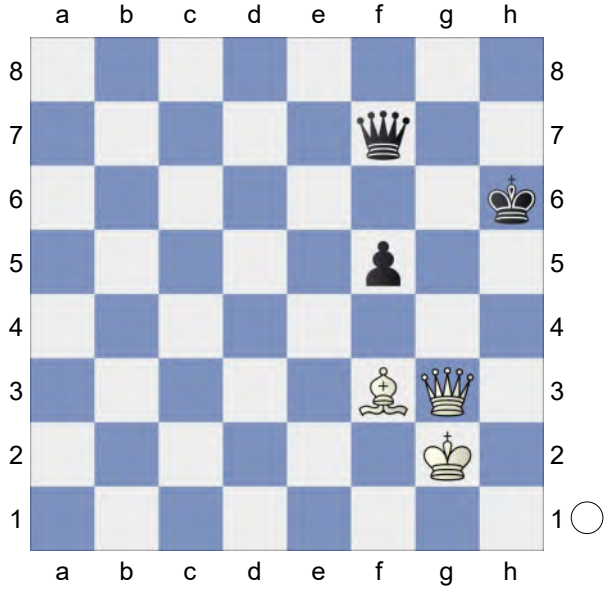
90.Kg2

[Resist 90.Be2?! Qb1+ 91.Bd1 *(91.Kg2 Qe4=)* 91...g2+ 92.Kg1 *(92.Kxg2 Qe4=)* 92...Qb6+ 93.Kxg2 Qg6+ 94.Kh2 Kg5±]

90...Kg5

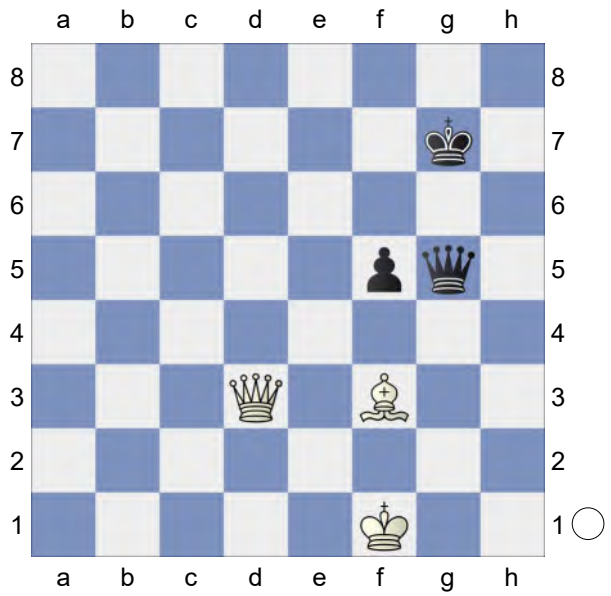


91.Qxg3+ Kf6 92.Qc3+ Kg6 93.Bf3 Qd7 94.Qe5 Qf7 95.Qg3+ Kh6

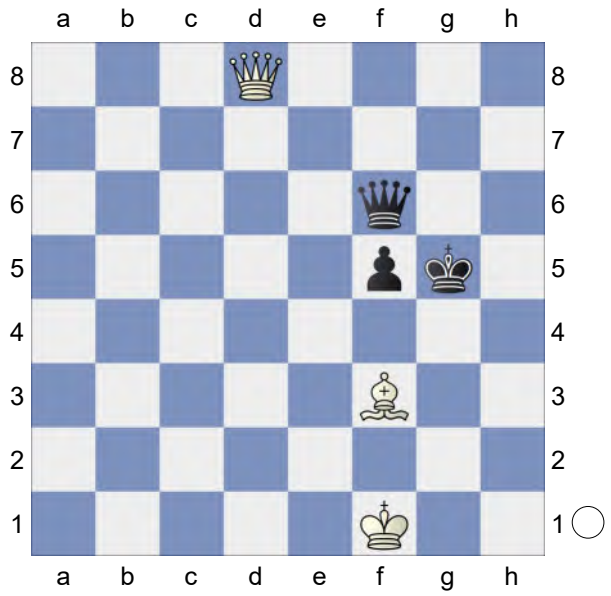


96.Qh4+ Kg7 97.Qd4+ Qf6 98.Qd7+ Qf7 99.Qd3 Qg6+ 100.Kf1 Qg5

(Diagram)

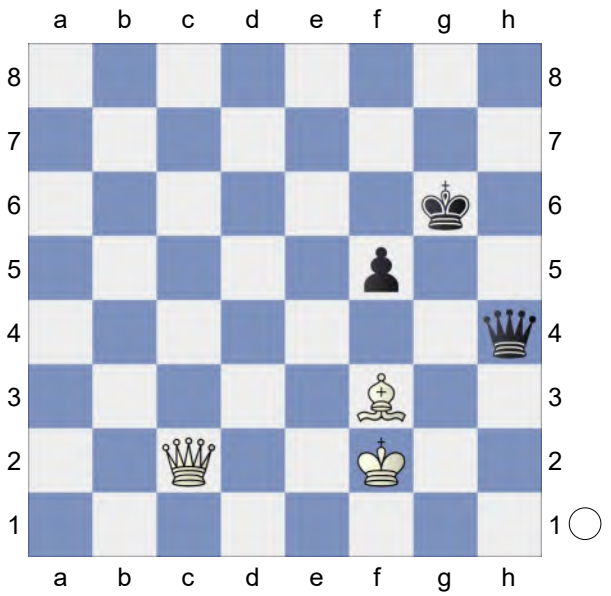


101.Bd5 Qf4+ 102.Ke2 Kf6 103.Bf3 Qe5+ 104.Kf1 Kg5 105.Qd8+ Qf6



106.Qd2+ Kg6 107.Qg2+ Qg5 108.Qc2 Qe3 109.Kg2 Qg5+ 110.Kf2 Qh4+

(Diagram)

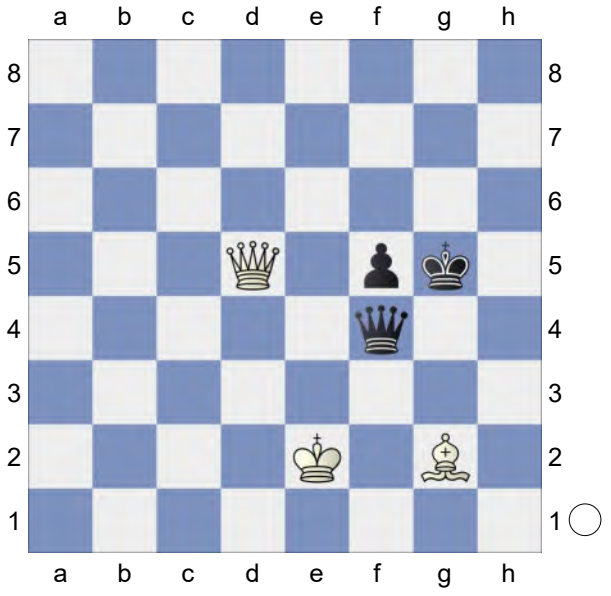


111.Kf1 Qh3+ 112.Bg2 Qe3 113.Qc6+ Kg5 114.Qd5 Qc1+ 1.21/24

[Better is 114...Kg4 0.86/25]

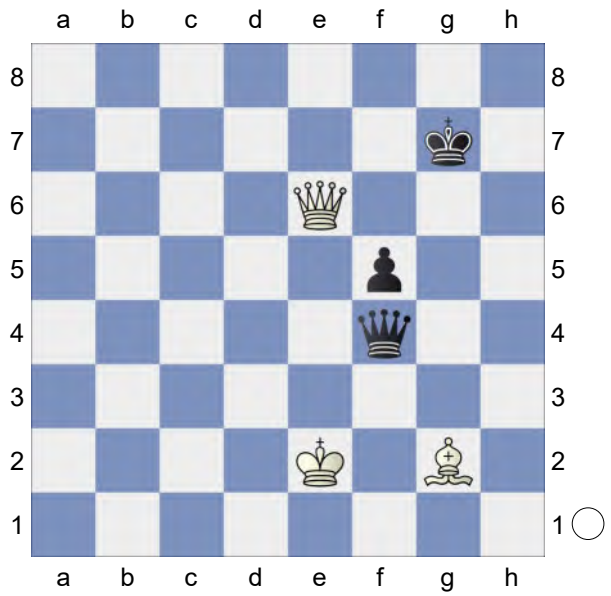
115.Ke2± Qf4 1.33/22

[⌓115...Qb2+ 0.92/25 116.Kf3 Qc3+ 117.Kf2 Qc2+ 118.Kg3 Qc7+ 119.Kh3 Qh7+ 120.Kg3 Qc7+ 121.Kf2 Qc2+ 122.Kg3 Qc7+]

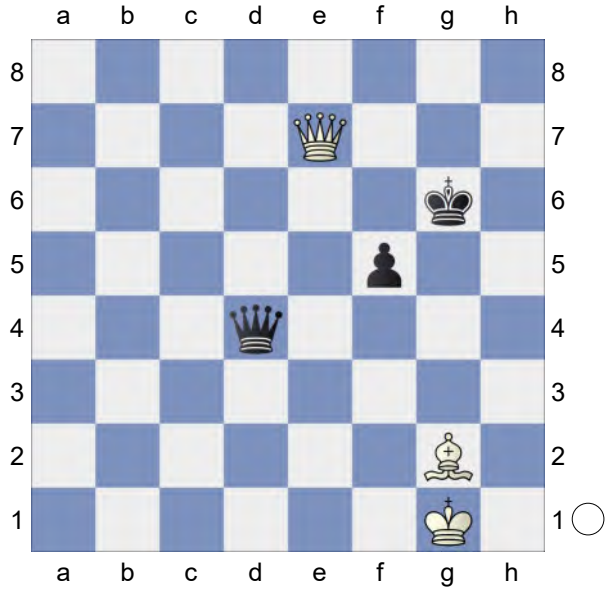


116.Qd8+ Kg6 117.Qg8+ Kh6 118.Qf8+ Kg6 119.Qe8+ Kh6 120.Qe6+ Kg7

(Diagram)

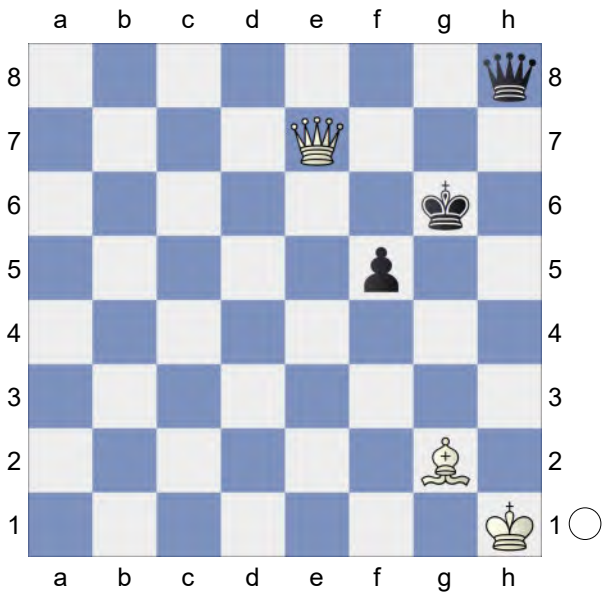


121.Qe7+ Kg6 122.Bf3 Qh2+ 123.Kf1 Qh3+ 124.Bg2 Qd3+ 125.Kg1 0.01/22
[White should play 125.Qe2± 1.16/23 Qxe2+ 126.Kxe2]
125...Qd4+=

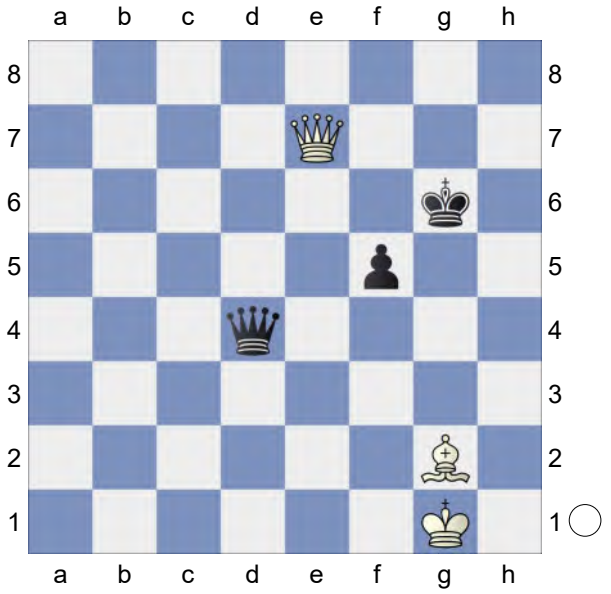


The position is equal. **126.Kh2 Qf4+ 127.Kh1 Qc1+ 128.Kh2 Qf4+ 129.Kg1 Qd4+ 130.Kh1 Qh8+**

(Diagram)



131.Kg1 Qd4+

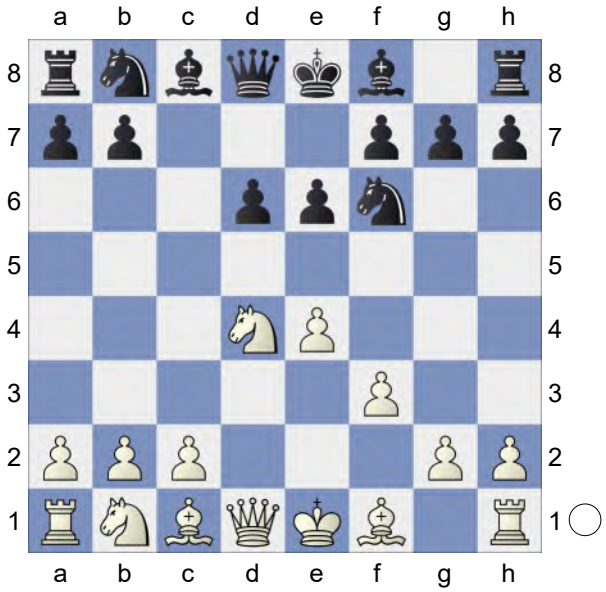


A wild game.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/ Black=0.32. Loss on time!?
0-1

162 **B55**
□ **Drozdowski,Kacper** **2448**
■ **Martinez Alcantara,Jose Eduardo**
Speed Chess Q1 Sw blitz (6) 21.08.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e6



6.c4 Nc6N

[6...Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Qd2 b6 10.Be2 Bb7 11.0-0

A) 11...Qc7

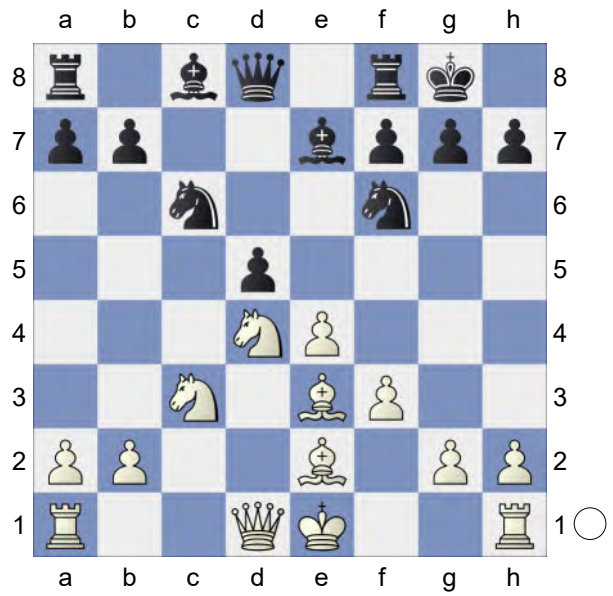
A1) 12.Rfc1 Nbd7 13.a4 Rac8 *(13...Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 27.Nxd6 Red8 28.Ncb5* Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39)*)* 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 Kasparov,S-Heiduczek,J 65: Rasthofen 2012 The Hedgehog Defence [Sergey Kasparov] 1-0;

A2) 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2 Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 ♘a6 8.♖e1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53);

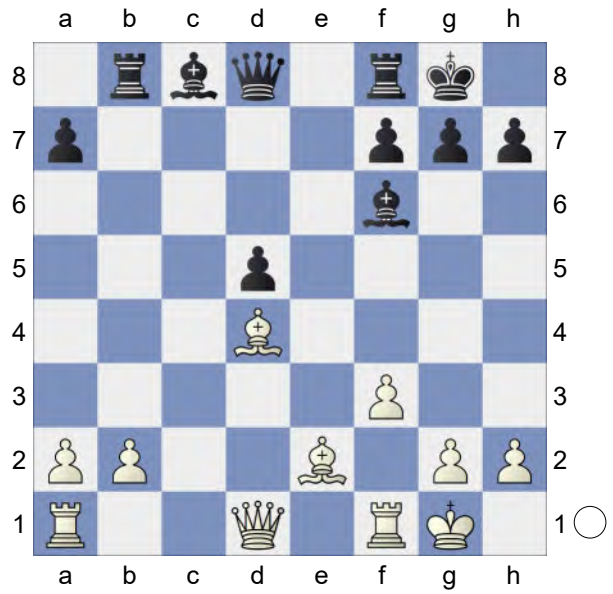
B) 11...Nbd7 12.Rfd1 *(12.a4 Rb8 13.Rfd1 Qc7 14.Rac1 Rbc8 15.Bf1 Qb8 16.Qf2 Rfe8 17.g3 Bf8 18.b3 Nc5 19.Bh3 Ncd7 20.Rc2 Rc7 21.Nde2 Ba8 22.Rcd2 Nc5 23.Nc1 Rcc8 24.Bf4 Red8 25.b4 Nb7 26.Bf1 a5* Malakhov,V (2675)-Wang,H (2696) Chiva 2008 EXT 2017 [Primel, Dominique] ½-½ (70) *)* 12...Qc7 13.Bf1 Rfe8 14.Rac1 Rac8 15.b3 Qb8 16.Nde2 Bf8 17.Nf4 Bc6 18.Nd3 Bb7 19.Qf2 Ba8 20.Nb2 Be7 21.Qd2 Arias,L (2284)-Zepeda, S San Salvador ESA 2003 10000 Comentadas [Gonzalez, Julio A] 1-0 (33)]

7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 d5 10.cxd5 10.exd5 is the modern continuation.10.exd5 ist die moderne Fortsetzung. **10...exd5**

(Diagram)



11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Black has an edge. **13...cxd5 14.0-0! Bf6 15.Bd4 Rb8**

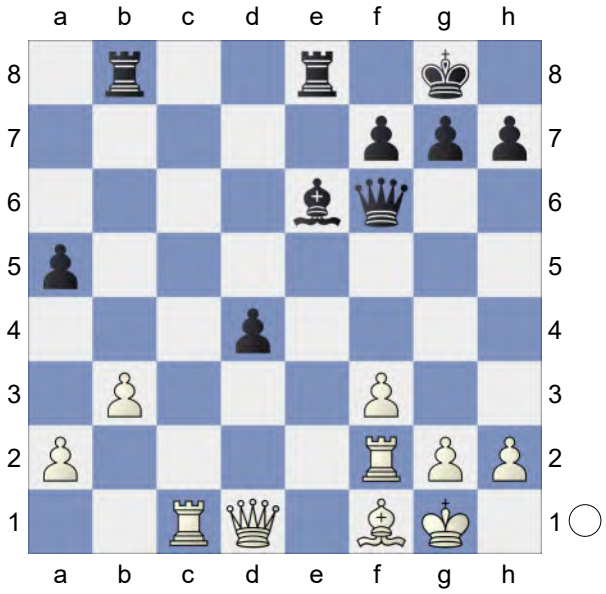


16.Rf2 Re8 17.Bf1 Be6 18.b3 a5

19.Bxf6N

[Vorgänger: 19.Rc1 Bxd4 20.Qxd4 Rb4 21.Qc5 Qa8 0.01/21 *(21...g6∓ -0.33/19)* 22.Qc6 -0.33/21 *(22.Rfc2= 0.01/21 is superior.)* 22...Rc8 -0.01/21 *(22...Qxc6∓ -0.33/21 23.Rxc6 a4)* 23.Qxa8= Rxa8 24.Rc5 a4 25.Rb5 Rxb5 26.Bxb5 axb3 27.axb3 ½-½ Granovskiy,A (2269)-Hracek,Z (2574) Paleochora op 12th 2019 (3)]

19...Qxf6 20.Rc1 d4



21.Qd2 Ra8 22.Bb5 Red8 23.Rc5 d3 -0.02/21

[23...g6∓ -0.48/18]

24.Rc1 -1.31/21

[24.Qe3!= -0.02/21]

24...Bf5 -0.75/21

[⌓24...Rab8 -1.31/21 25.Ba6 *(25.Bxd3? Bf5-+)* 25...Rd6]

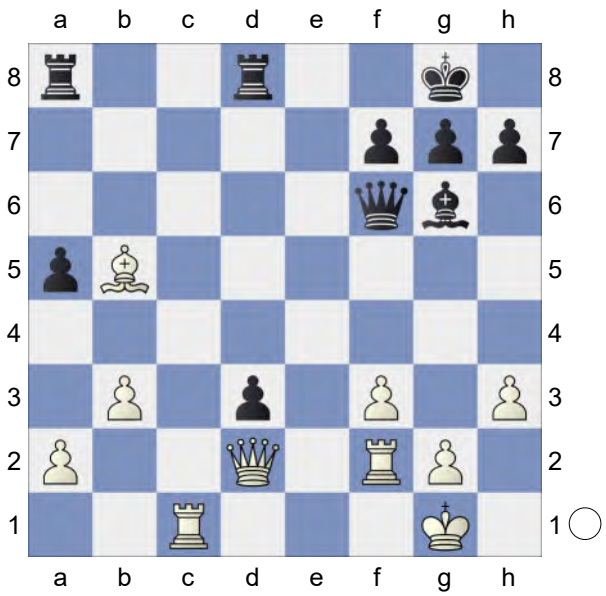
25.h3 -1.21/19

[⌓25.Qe3 -0.75/21]

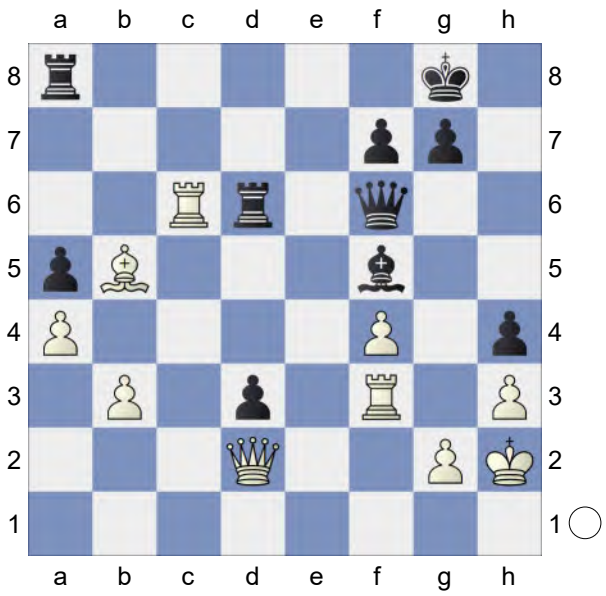
25...Bg6 -0.70/23

[25...Qb6∓ -1.21/19 26.Bc4 Rac8]

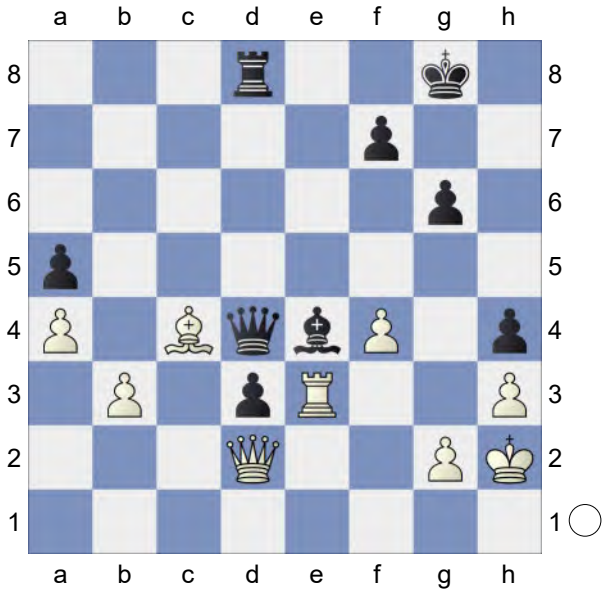
(Diagram)



26.a4 h5 27.f4 Bf5 -0.59/21
[27...Qb6∓ -0.95/20]
28.Rf3 -1.20/21
[28.Qe3∓ -0.59/21]
28...Rd4 29.Kh2 h4 30.Rc6 Rd6 -0.67/23
[30...Qe7∓ -1.06/23]

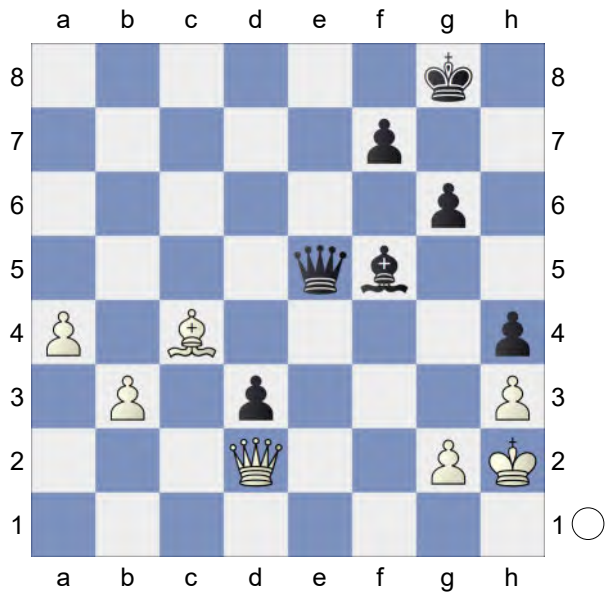


31.Rxd6 -1.34/20
[31.Rc5!∓ -0.67/23]
31...Qxd6∓ 32.Bc4 -1.80/23
[32.Rf1∓ -1.38/23 might work better.]
32...Be4 33.Rf1 g6 -1.03/23
[33...Re8-+ -1.70/21 34.Re1 Qd4]
34.Re1 -1.59/25
[⌓34.Qe3 -1.03/23 Bf5 35.Rf2]
34...Qd4 35.Re3 Rd8

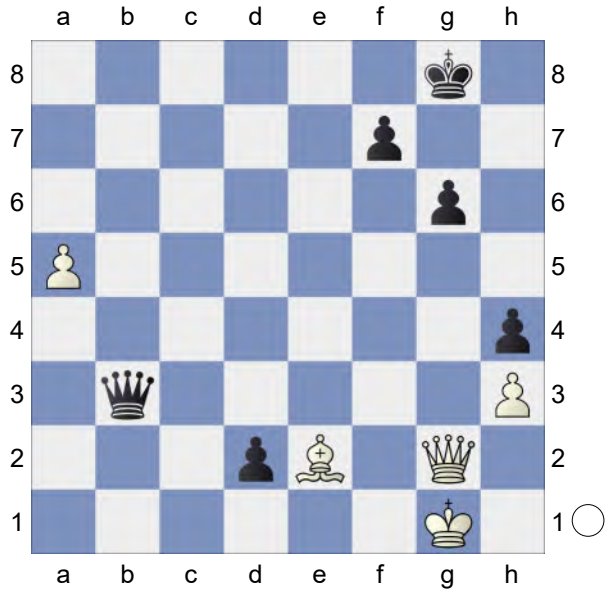


36.Re1 Bf5 -0.55/25
[36...Rd6∓ -1.37/22 37.Rf1 Rf6]
37.Re5 Rd7 -0.01/24
[37...Kg7∓ -0.83/23]
38.Rxa5= Re7? 2.03/22 Inhibits Re5.
[38...Be4= 0.01/23 and Black stays safe.]
39.Re5? -0.29/23
[39.Rd5+- 2.03/22 Qa1 40.Rd8+ *(40.Bxd3? Re1-+)* 40...Kg7 41.Qb4 *(41.Bxd3? Re1-+)*]
39...Rxe5 40.fxe5 Qxe5+

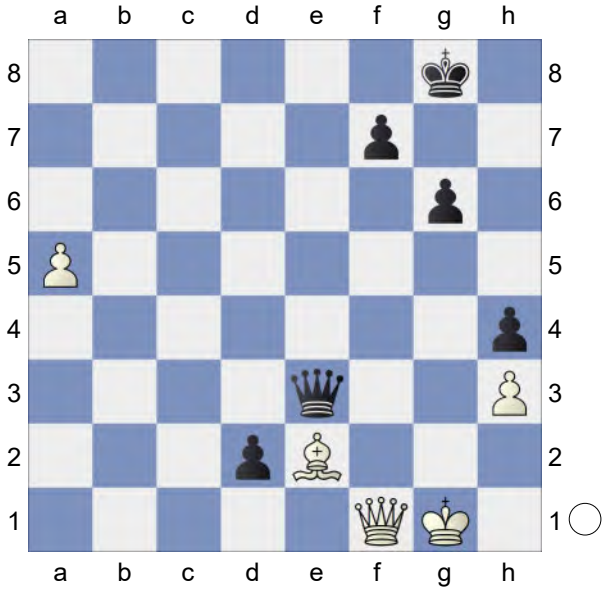
(Diagram)



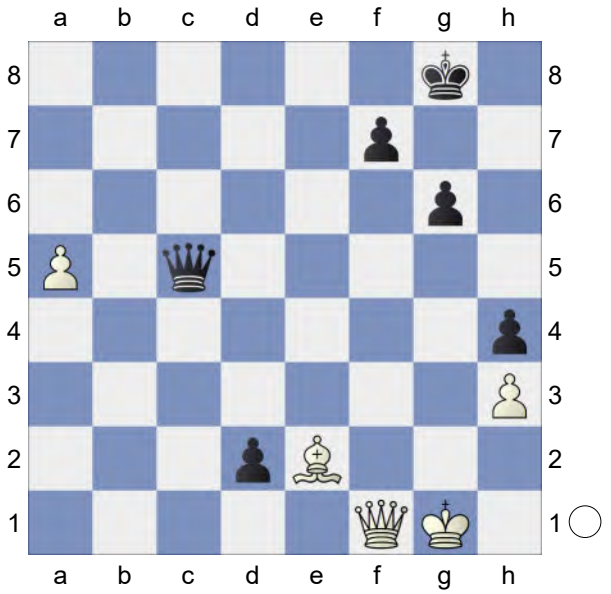
41.Kh1 -1.52/25
[⌓41.Kg1 -0.87/27]
41...Qg3 -0.79/24
[⌓41...Qa1+ -1.52/25 42.Kh2 Qd4]
42.a5 Be4 -0.01/26
[42...Qe5∓ -0.72/26]
43.Kg1! Bxg2 44.Qxg2 d2 45.Be2 Qxg3 is the strong threat. **45...Qxb3** 0.94/25
[45...Qe1+= 0.01/28 keeps the balance. 46.Qf1 Qg3+ 47.Qg2 Qe1+ 48.Qf1 Qg3+ 49.Qg2]



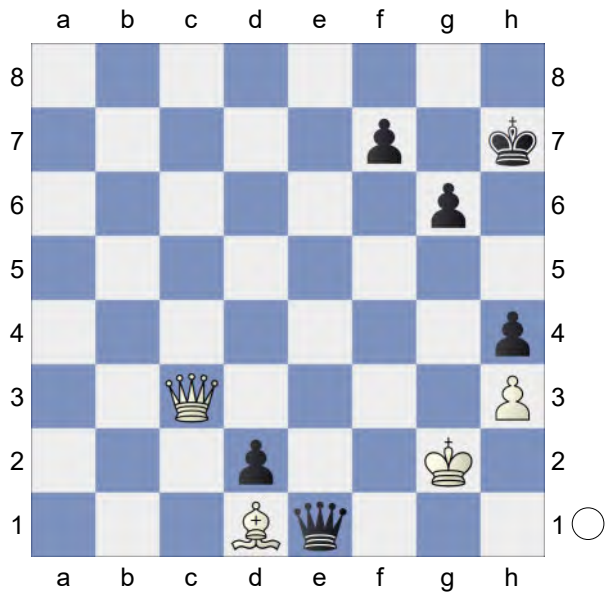
46.Qf1 0.01/30
[46.Qa8+± 0.94/25 Kg7 47.Qf3]
46...Qe3+ 0.98/29
[46...Qg3+!= 0.01/30 remains equal. 47.Kh1 Qe1]



47.Kh1!± Qe4+ 48.Kg1 -0.01/29
[48.Qf3± 1.01/28 Qa4 49.a6 *(49.Qd5 Qa1+ 50.Kh2 Qc3=)*]
48...Qd4+ 49.Kh1 Qd5+ 50.Kg1 Qc5+



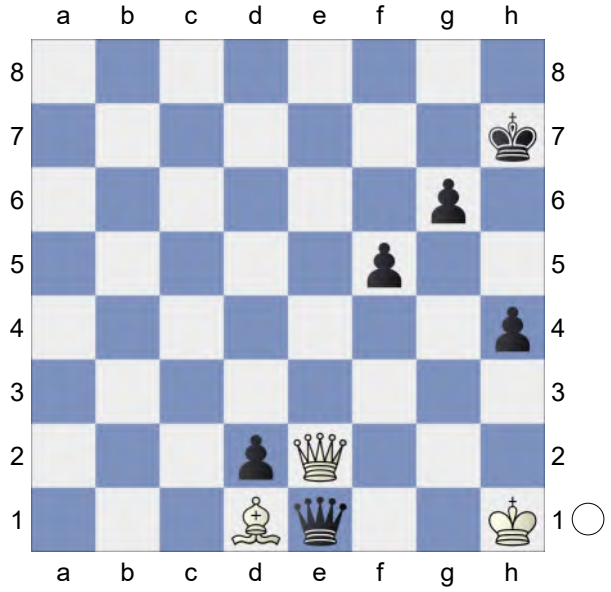
51.Kh1 Qxa5 52.Qf3 Qe5 53.Kg2 Kg7 54.Bd1 Qe1 55.Qc3+ Kh7
(Diagram)



56.Qf3 f5 57.Qe2 Qg3+ Deflection **58.Kh1 Qxh3+ 59.Kg1 Qg3+ 60.Kh1?** -19.34/24

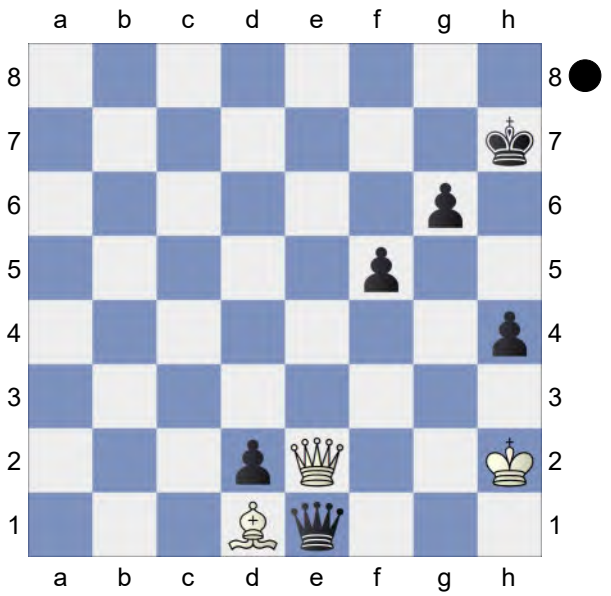
[60.Kf1= -0.01/28]

60...Qe1+-+



61.Kh2

(Diagram)



Kh6? -0.01/28

[61...Qxe2+!-+ -16.98/26 62.Bxe2 g5]

62.Qf3= Qe5+ 63.Kg2? -9.62/24

[63.Kh3= -0.01/30]

63...Qd4? -0.01/23

[Better is 63...Qe4-+ -9.62/24 Strongly threatening ...Qxf3+. 64.Qxe4 fxe4]

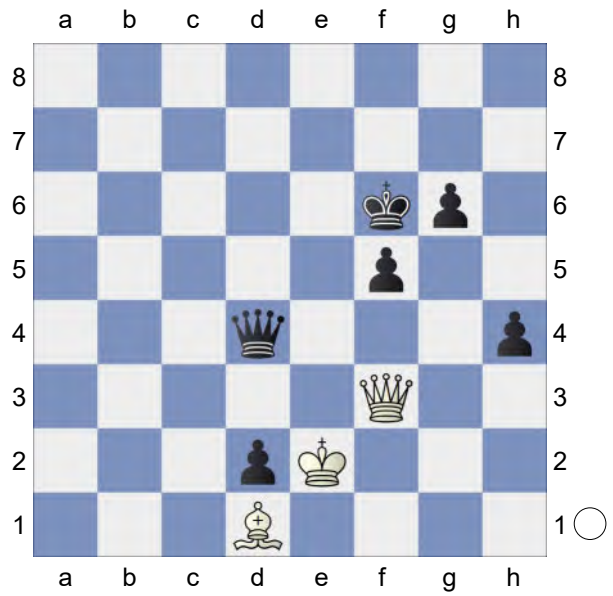
64.Kf1 Kg5 65.Ke2? -7.27/24

[65.Qg2+= -0.01/23 Kh6 66.Ke2]

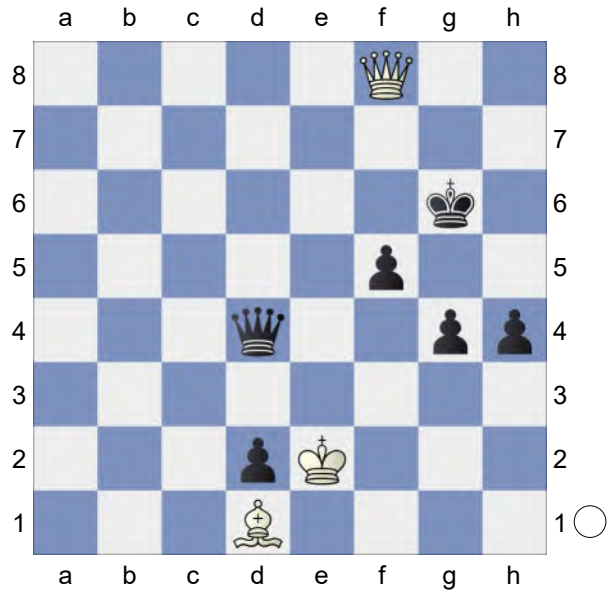
65...Kf6? -0.01/24

[Black should try 65...Qe4+-+ -7.27/24 66.Kf2 Qxf3+ 67.Kxf3 f4]

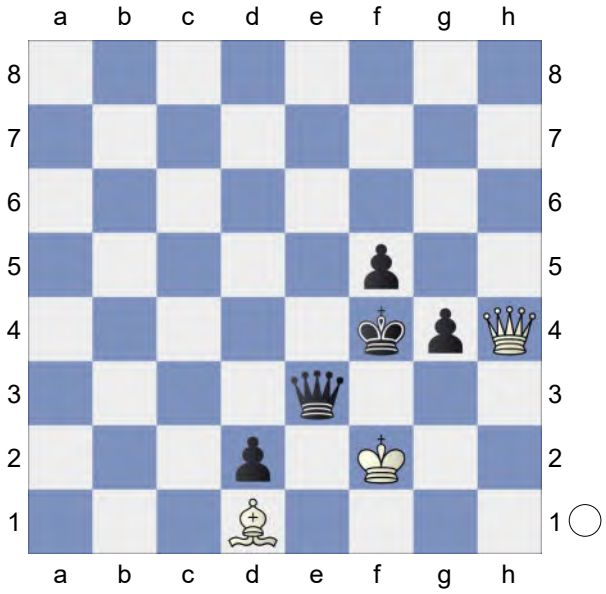
(Diagram)



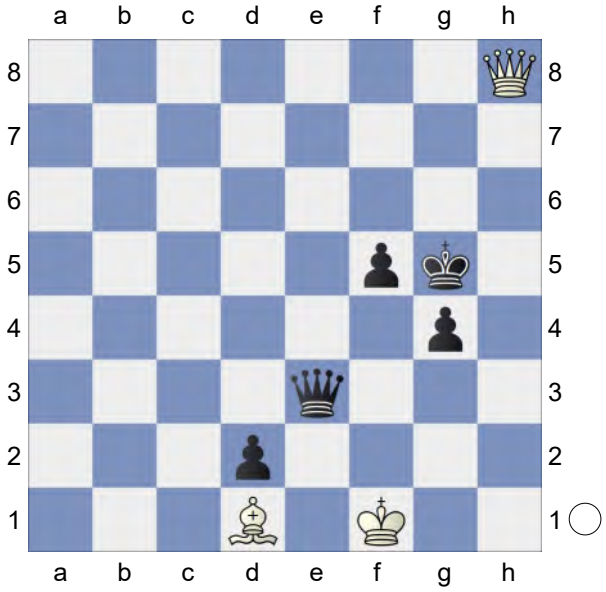
66.Qc6+ Kg7 67.Qc7+ Kh6
Hoping for ...h3. **68.Qh2?** -5.07/22
[68.Qe7= -0.01/22 h3 69.Qa3]
68...g5? -0.39/23
[68...Kg5-+ -5.07/22 69.Qc7 Kg4]
69.Qb8? -9.62/22
[69.Qh1∓ -0.39/23]
69...g4? -2.22/21
[69...h3 -9.62/22 70.Qf8+ Kh5 71.Kf1+ g4 72.Qxf5+ Kh4]
70.Qf8+-+ Kg6



71.Qe8+ Kg5 72.Qe7+ Kf4 -0.01/24
[Black should play 72...Qf6∓ -0.51/21
73.Qe3+ Kg6 74.Qxd2 h3]
73.Qxh4= Qe3+ 74.Kf1 Qd3+ 75.Kf2 Qe3+

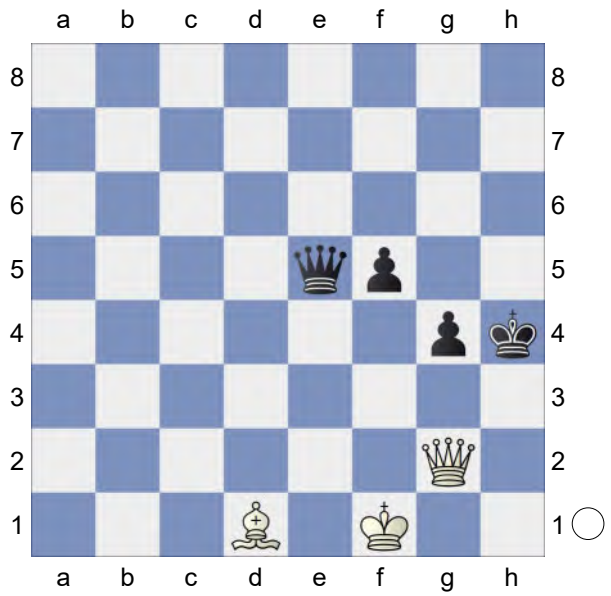


76.Kf1 Ke5 77.Qe7+ Kf4 78.Qd6+ Kg5 79.Qd8+ Kh5 80.Qh8+ Kg5



81.Qd8+ Kf4 White must now prevent ... Kg3. **82.Qd6+ Qe5 83.Qxd2+ Kg3 84.Qf2+ Kh3 85.Qg2+ Kh4**

(Diagram)



86.Qf2+ Kg5 87.Qd2+ Kh4 88.Qf2+ g3? #15/24

[88...Kh3= -0.01/25]

89.Qf3? 1.38/24

[89.Qd2 #15/24 mates g2+ 90.Kg1 Qc5+ 91.Kxg2 Qc6+ 92.Bf3 Qg6+ 93.Kh1 Kg3 94.Qg2+ Kf4 95.Qxg6]

89...Qb5+

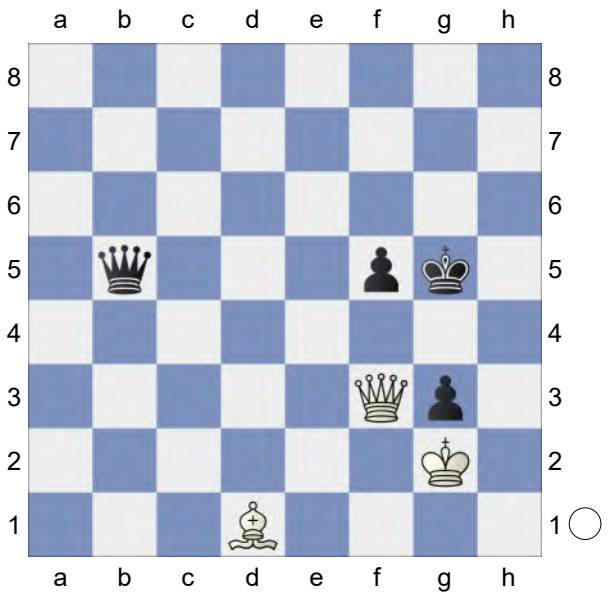
[89...g2+?! 90.Kg1 *(90.Kxg2 Qe4=; 90.Qxg2 Qf4+ 91.Qf3 Qxf3+ 92.Bxf3 Kh3=)* 90...Qd4+ 91.Kxg2 Qg4+ 92.Qxg4+ fxg4 93.Kh2=]

90.Kg2

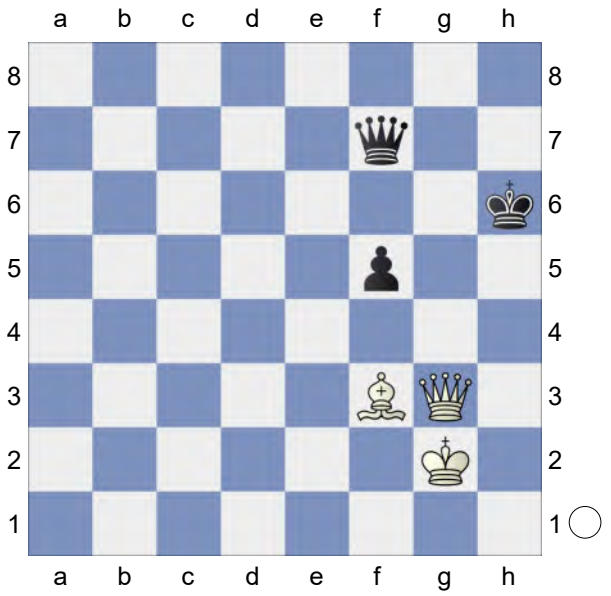
[Much less strong is 90.Be2?! Qb1+ 91.Bd1 *(91.Kg2 Qe4=)* 91...g2+ 92.Kg1 *(92.Kxg2 Qe4=)* 92...Qb6+ 93.Kxg2 Qg6+ 94.Kf1 Qg4±]

90...Kg5

(Diagram)

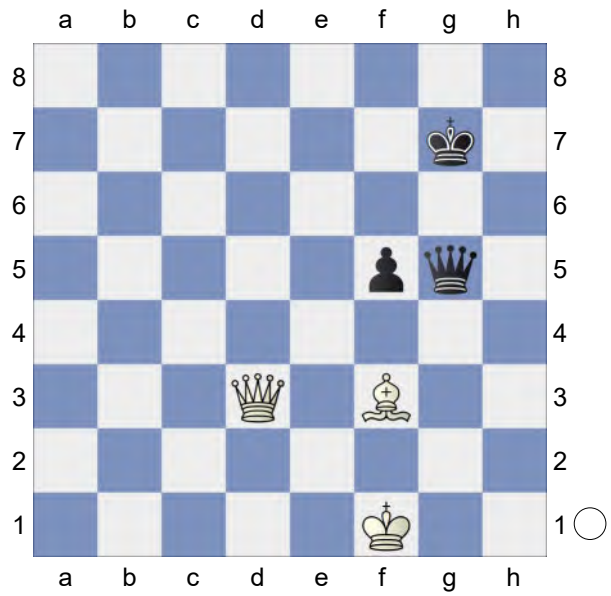


91.Qxg3+ Kf6 92.Qc3+ Kg6 93.Bf3 Qd7 94.Qe5 Qf7 95.Qg3+ Kh6

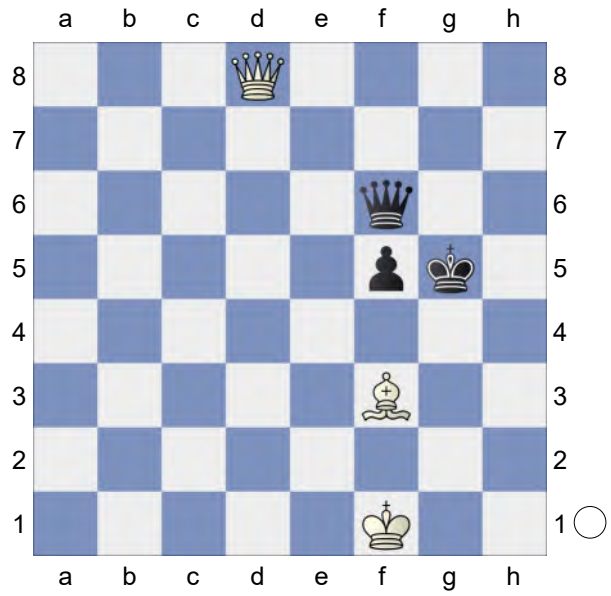


96.Qh4+ Kg7 97.Qd4+ Qf6 98.Qd7+ Qf7 99.Qd3 Qg6+ 100.Kf1 Qg5

(Diagram)

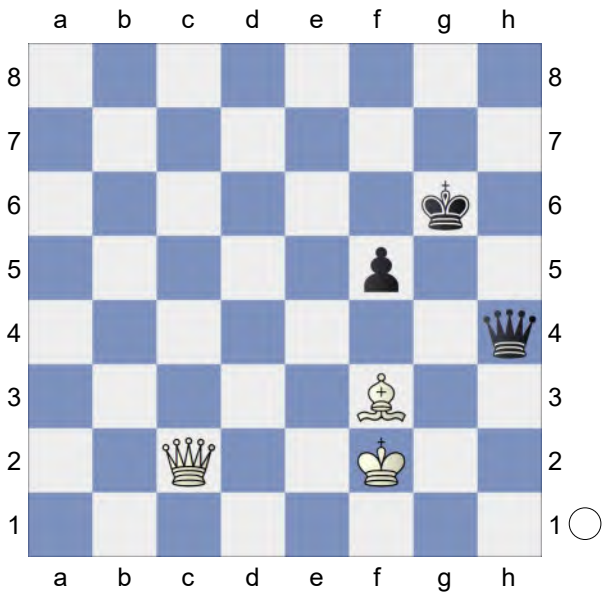


101.Bd5 Qf4+ 102.Ke2 Kf6 103.Bf3 Qe5+ 104.Kf1 Kg5 105.Qd8+ Qf6

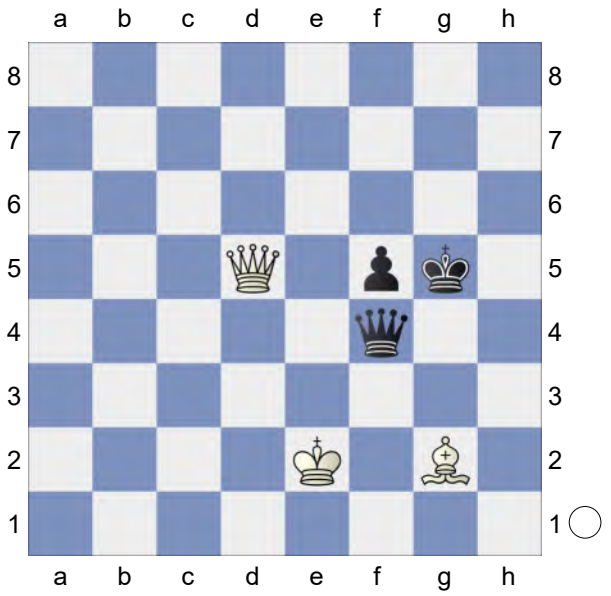


106.Qd2+ Kg6 107.Qg2+ 1.29/23
[107.Bd5+- 1.64/21]
107...Qg5± 108.Qc2 Qe3 109.Kg2 Qg5+ 110.Kf2 Qh4+

(Diagram)

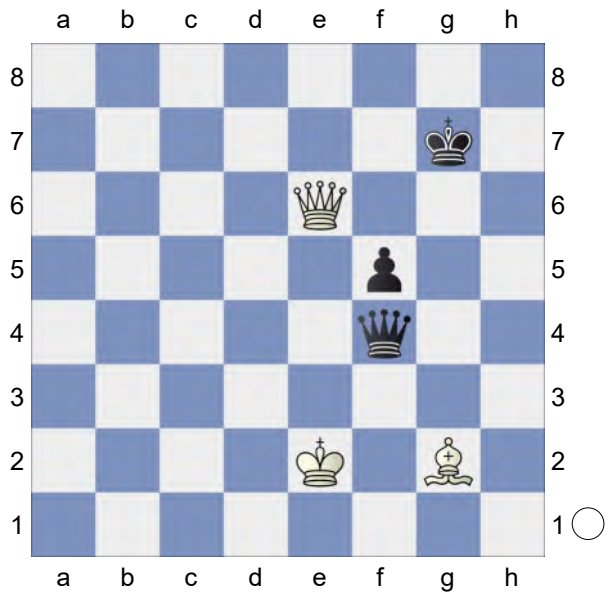


111.Kf1 Qh3+ 112.Bg2 Qe3 113.Qc6+ Kg5 114.Qd5 Qc1+ 115.Ke2 Qf4

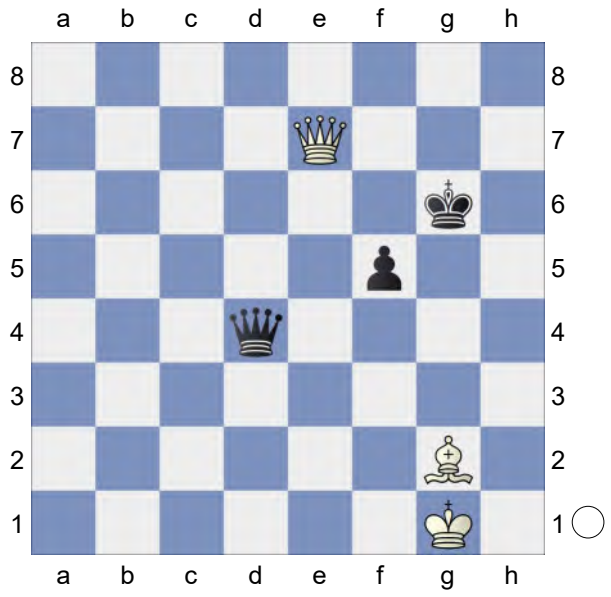


Prevents Be4. **116.Qd8+ Kg6 117.Qg8+ Kh6 118.Qf8+ Kg6 119.Qe8+ Kh6 120.Qe6+ Kg7**

(Diagram)

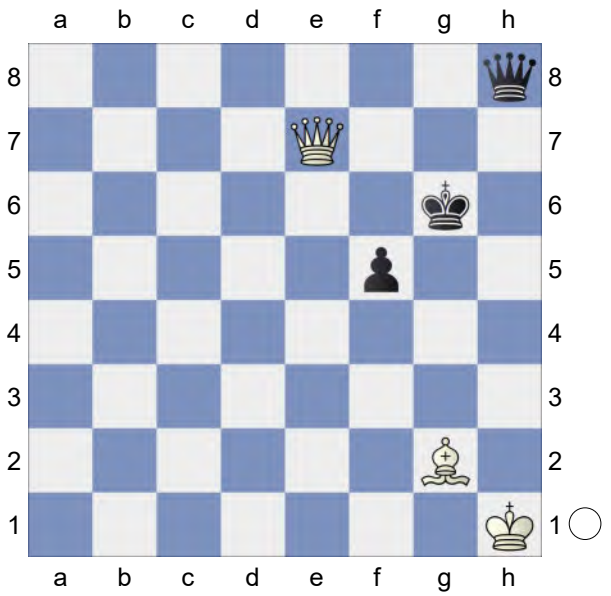


121.Qe7+ Kg6 122.Bf3 Qh2+ 123.Kf1 Qh3+ 124.Bg2 Qd3+ 125.Kg1 0.01/24
[125.Kf2± 1.29/25]
125...Qd4+=

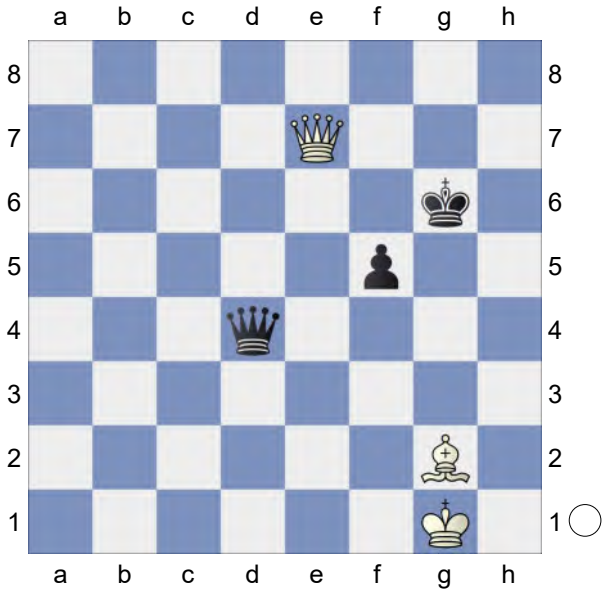


The position is equal. **126.Kh2 Qf4+ 127.Kh1 Qc1+! 128.Kh2** next Qe6+ is good for White. **128...Qf4+ 129.Kg1 Qd4+! 130.Kh1 Qh8+**

(Diagram)



131.Kg1 Qd4+



Both players deserved the win here.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/ Black=0.36
½-½

163 **B55**
□ **Drozdowski,Kacper** **2448**
■ **So,Wesley** **2760**
Titled Tuesday intern op 18th Apr Early b..
[Kitty Kat]

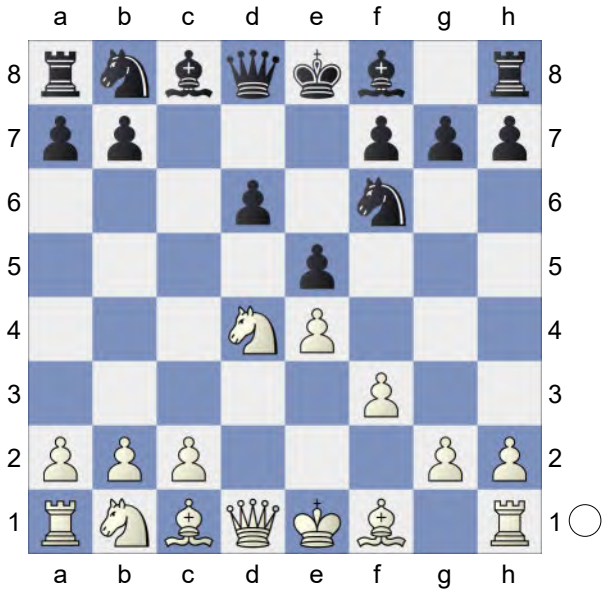
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



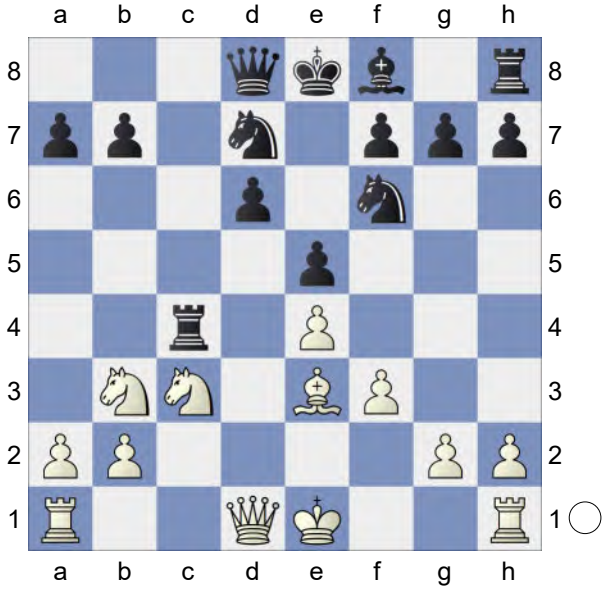
6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 7.Nbd2 deserves study. 7.Sbd2 verdient Beachtung.

7...Nbd7

[7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]

8.Be3 Rc8!? A promising side line. Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante.

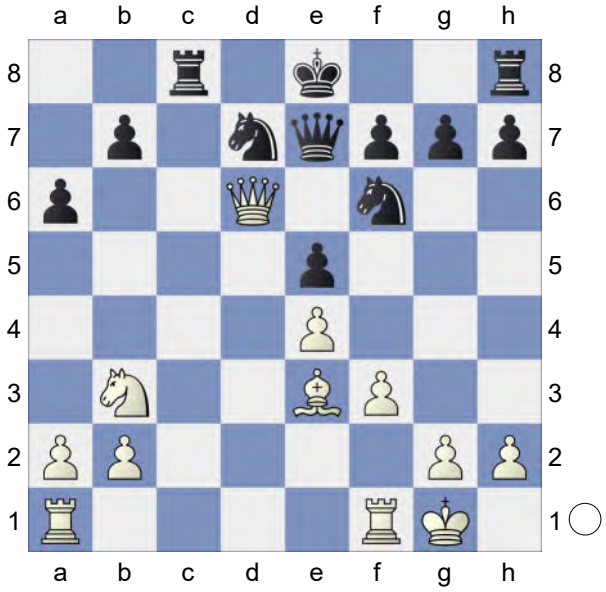
9.Nc3 Bxc4N 10.Bxc4 Rxc4



11.Qd3 Rc8 12.0-0 Be7 0.55/21

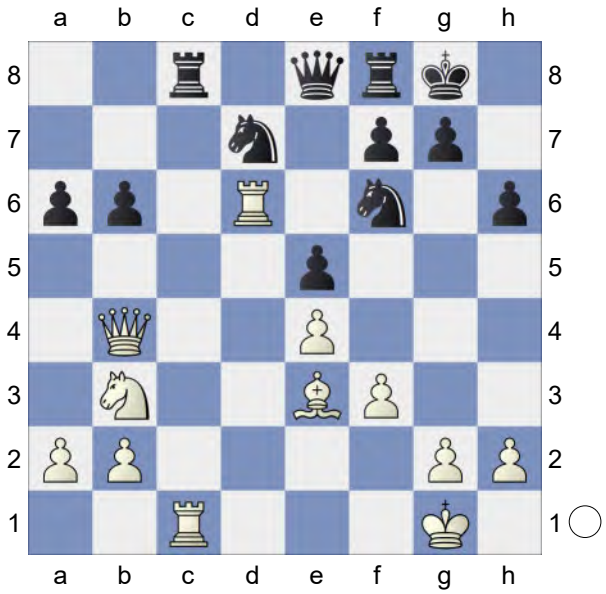
[12...a6 13.Rac1 Be7 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.Qxd5 Rb8 16.Rfd1 0-0 17.Na5 Nf6 18.Qd2 Qd7!]

[12...a6= 0.23/22]
13.Nb5!± a6 1.07/21
[13...Nc5± 0.50/21 14.Nxc5 dxc5 15.Qxd8+ Rxd8]
14.Nxd6+± Bxd6 15.Qxd6 Strongly threatening Rac1. **15...Qe7**

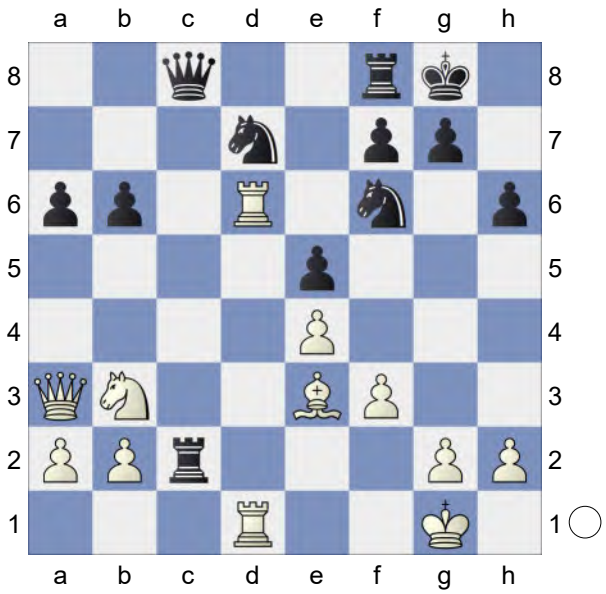


16.Qd2 0-0 17.Rac1
[17.Na5!?]
17...Qe6 0.92/24
[17...Rfd8± 0.52/22]
18.Rfd1 h6 19.Qb4 b6 20.Rd6 Qe8 1.01/23
[20...a5± 0.65/24 21.Qd2 *(21.Rxe6 axb4 22.Rec6 Ra8±)* 21...Qe7]

(Diagram)

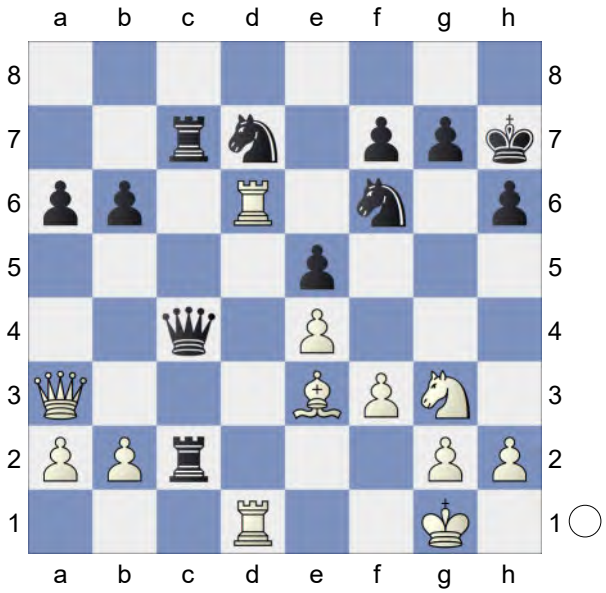


21.Rcd1 Rc2 22.Na1 Rc7 23.Qa4 Qc8 24.Nb3
[24.Bxb6? Nxb6 25.Rxb6 Rc1-+]
24...Rc4 25.Qa3 Rc2



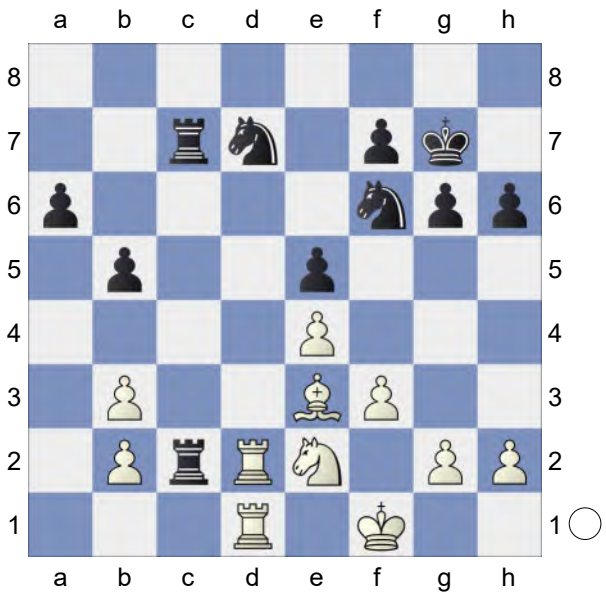
26.Nd2 Prevents Qc4.
[26.Bxb6 Nxb6 27.Rxb6 Nxe4 28.Qxa6 *(28.fxe4 Qg4∓)* 28...Rxb2 29.Qxc8 Rxc8=]
26...Qc7 0.70/22
[⌓26...Nc5! 0.37/20]
27.Nf1± Rc8 28.Ng3
[28.Qxa6 Rxb2 29.Ng3 Qc4 30.Qxc4 Rxc4±]

28...Kh7 29.Nf5 Qc4 30.Ng3 0.01/21
Inhibits Qe2.
[30.Rxd7? Qe2 31.Nh4 Nxd7-+]
[30.h3± 0.60/23]
30...Rc7 0.58/20
[30...Qc7!= 0.01/21]

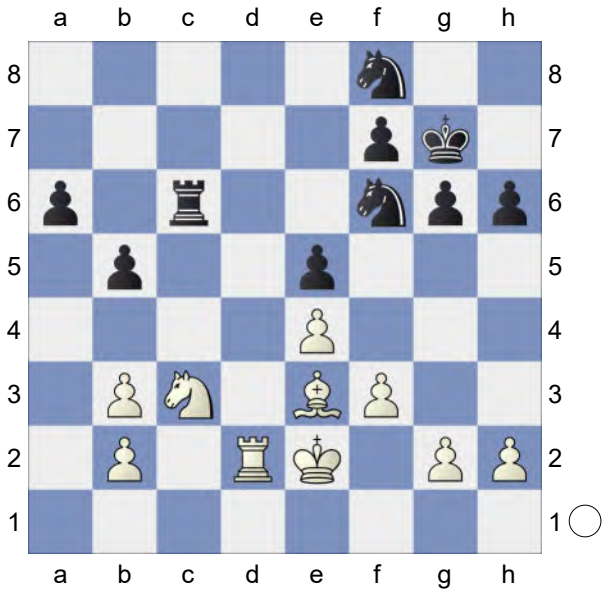


31.R6d2
[But not 31.Bxb6? Nxb6 32.Nf1 *(32.Rxb6? Nh5-+)* 32...Qb5-+]
31...Qb5 32.Qb3 0.18/23
[White should try 32.h3± 0.71/20]
32...Qxb3= 33.axb3 g6 0.66/21
[33...R2c6= 0.26/20]
34.Kf1 Kg7 35.Ne2 b5

(Diagram)

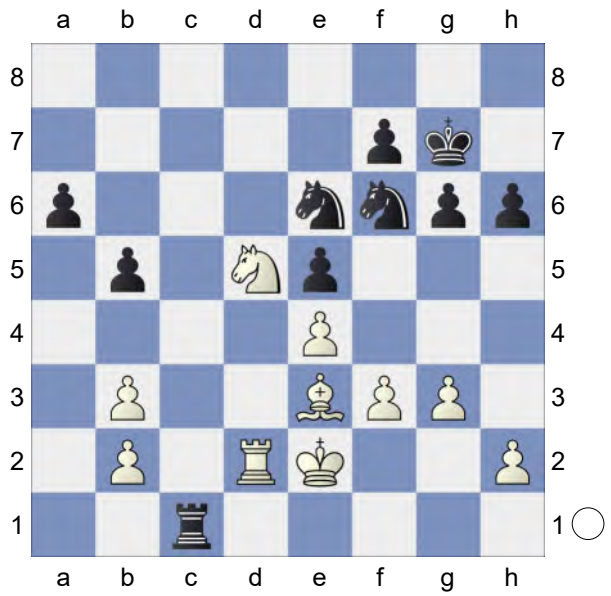


36.Nc3 Rxd2 37.Rxd2 Rc6
Inhibits Rd6. **38.Ke2** 0.01/20
[38.Nd5± 0.78/21]
38...Nf8 0.82/21
[38...Nc5= 0.01/20 remains equal.]

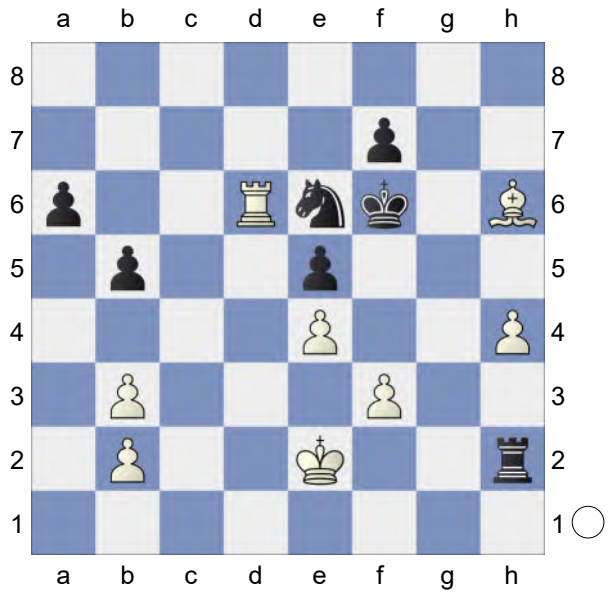


39.g3 0.28/23
[39.Na2!± 0.82/21]
39...Ne6 40.Nd5 Rc1

(Diagram)

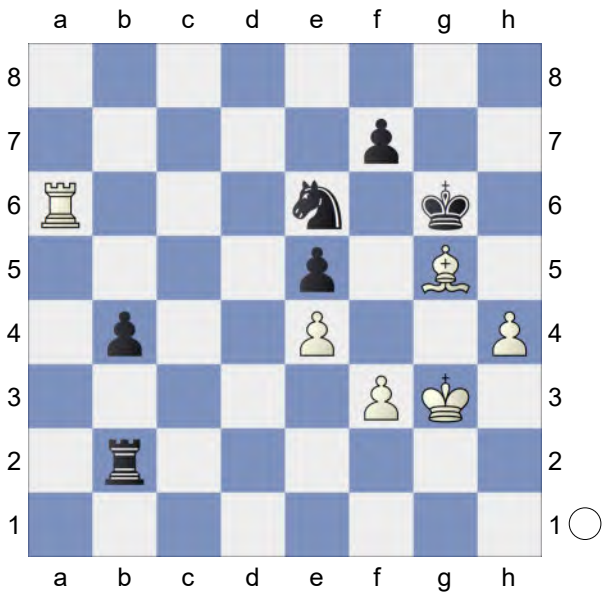


41.Nxf6 Kxf6 42.Bxh6 Endgame KRB-KRN **42...g5** Threatens to win with ... Kg6. **43.h4 gxh4 44.gxh4 Rh1** With the idea ...Nd4+. **45.Rd6 Rh2+**



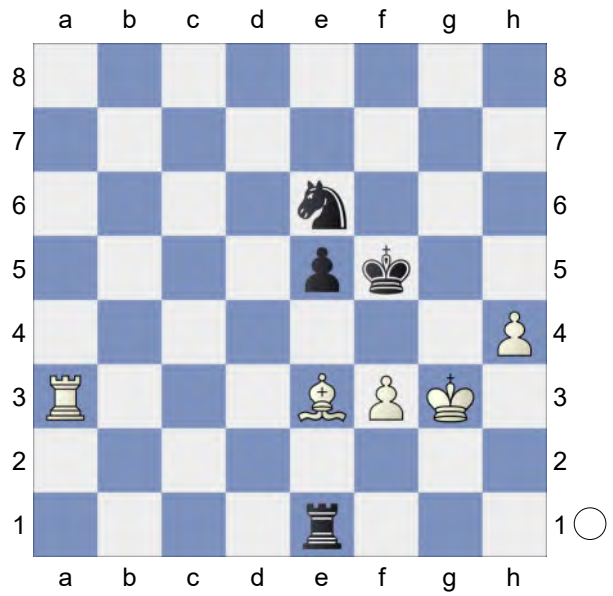
46.Kf1 Rxb2 And now ...a5 would win. **47.Rxa6 Rxb3 48.Bg5+ Kg6 49.Kf2 Rb2+ 50.Kg3 b4**

(Diagram)

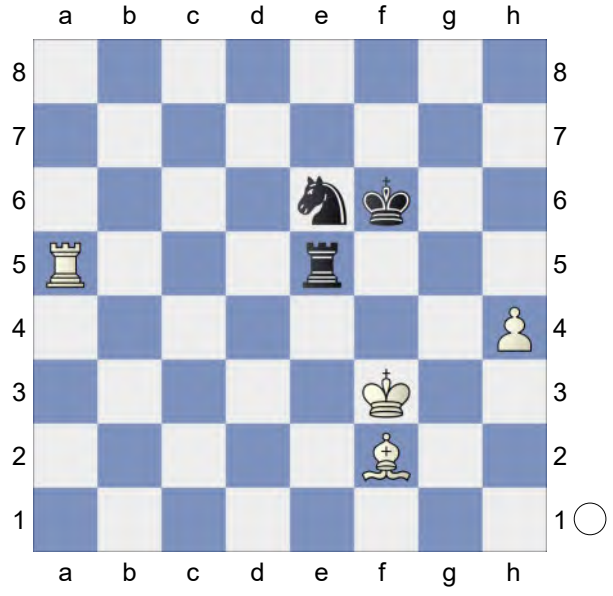


51.Rb6 next Be7 is good for White. **51...b3 52.Be3** -0.75/20
[52.Kg4= -0.01/23]
52...Re2 0.01/22
[52...Rb1∓ -0.75/20 ...b2 is the strong threat. 53.Kg4 b2]
Vorgänger: **53.Rxb3 f5** 0.32/21
[53...f6= 0.01/23]
54.exf5+± Kxf5 55.Ra3 0.01/25
[55.h5± 0.41/22 deserves consideration.]
55...Re1 0.35/23
[55...Ng7= 0.01/25]

(Diagram)

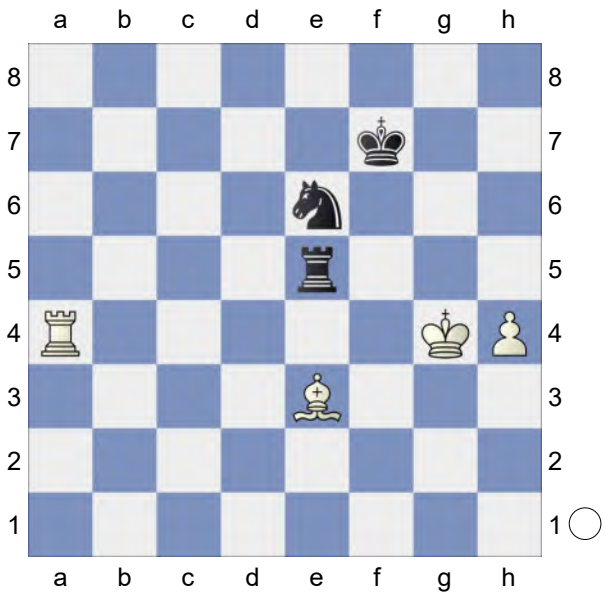


56.Bf2 0.01/22
[56.Rc3± 0.35/23]
56...Re2= 57.Ra8 e4 0.36/23
[57...Nf4= 0.01/21]
58.Ra5+ Kf6 59.fxe4 Rxe4 60.Kf3
0-1 (36) Vaibhav,S (2590)-Siva,M (2333) New Delhi 2019 **60...Re5**

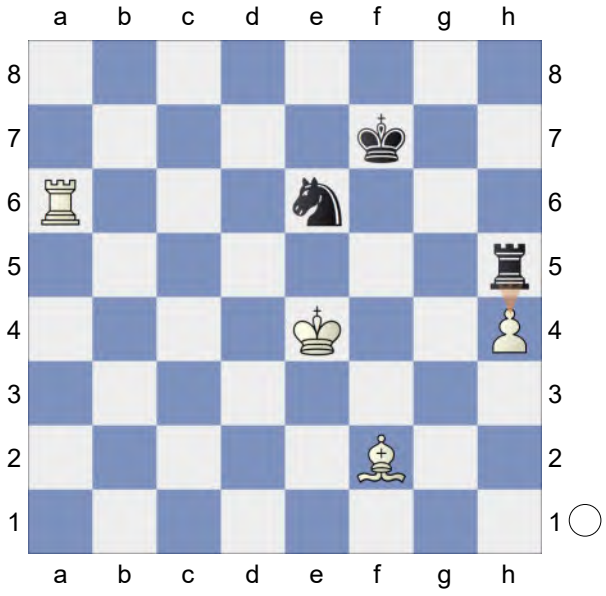


61.Ra4 Rf5+ 62.Kg3 Kf7 63.Be3 Re5 64.Kf3 Rf5+ 65.Kg4 Re5

(Diagram)

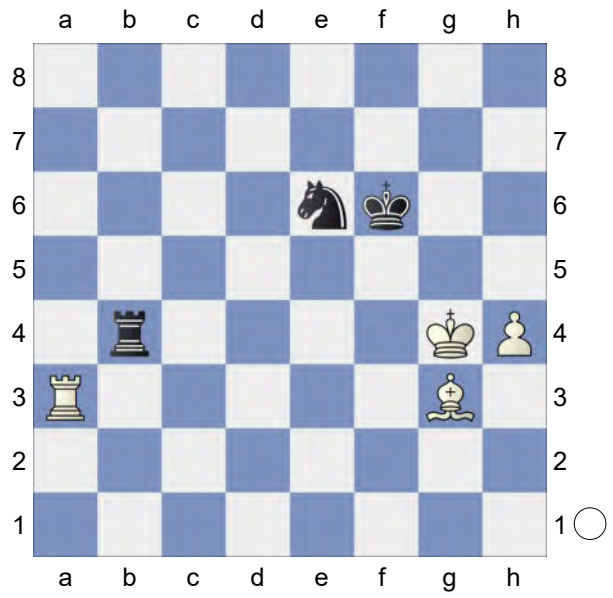


66.Ra7+ Kg6 67.Kf3 Rf5+ 68.Ke4 Rh5 69.Bf2 Kf6 70.Ra6 Kf7

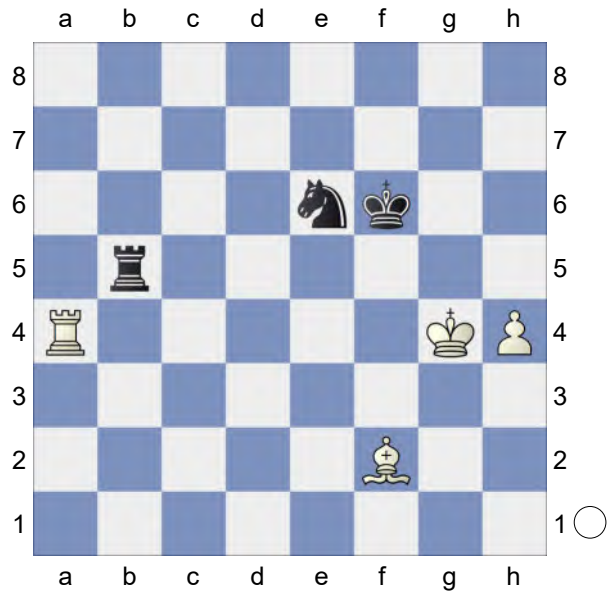


71.Ra7+ -0.01/19
[71.Rb6± 0.41/19]
71...Kf6 72.Bg3 Rb5 73.Ra3 Rb4+ 74.Kf3 Rb5 0.35/21
[74...Nd4+= 0.01/22 75.Kg2 Nf5]
75.Kg4 0.01/25
[75.Bf2± 0.35/21]
75...Rb4+

(Diagram)



76.Kf3 Rb5 77.Bf2 Rf5+ 78.Kg3 Rb5 79.Ra4 Rb3+ 80.Kg4 Rb5



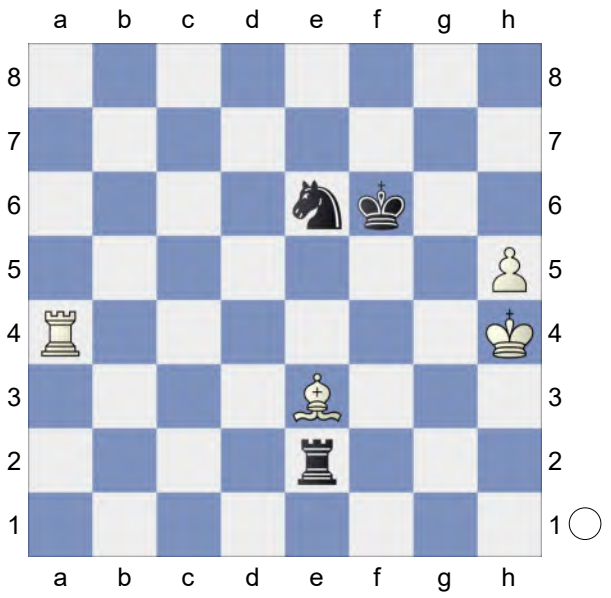
81.h5 Rg5+ 82.Kh4 Rf5 83.Be3 Rf3 84.Bd2 Rf2 85.Be3 0.01/21

[Better is 85.Bc3+± 0.52/21 Kf7 86.Kg3]

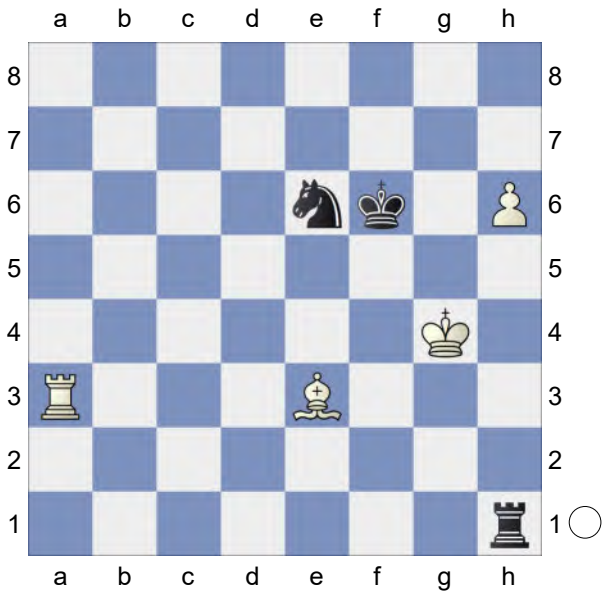
85...Re2 0.45/24

[85...Rf3= 0.01/21 is more appropriate.]

(Diagram)



86.Ra3± Rh2+ 87.Kg4 Rg2+ 88.Kf3 Rh2 89.h6 Rh3+ 90.Kg4 Rh1



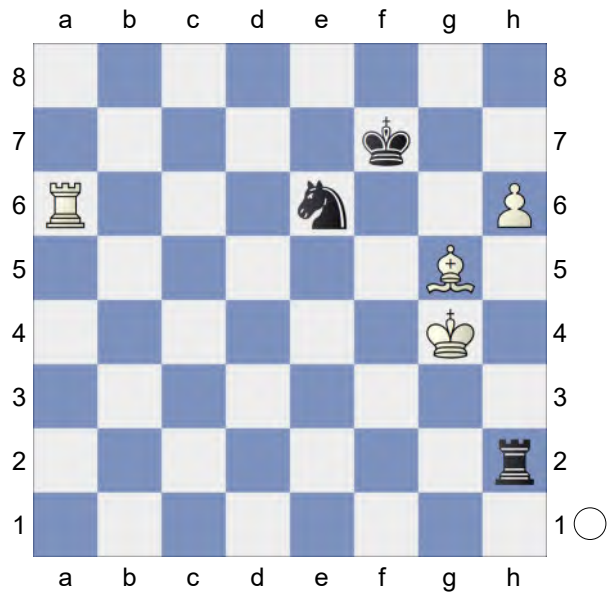
91.Ra6 Rh2 92.Bd4+ Kf7 93.Be3 -0.01/23

[93.Ra7+!± 0.46/22 might be stronger. Kg6 94.Be3]

93...Kf6= 94.Rb6

[94.Bg5+!? Kf7

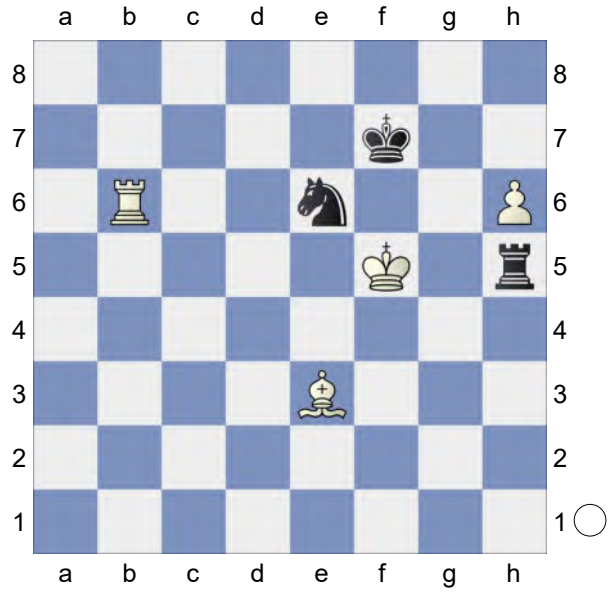
(Diagram)



95.Kg3!±]

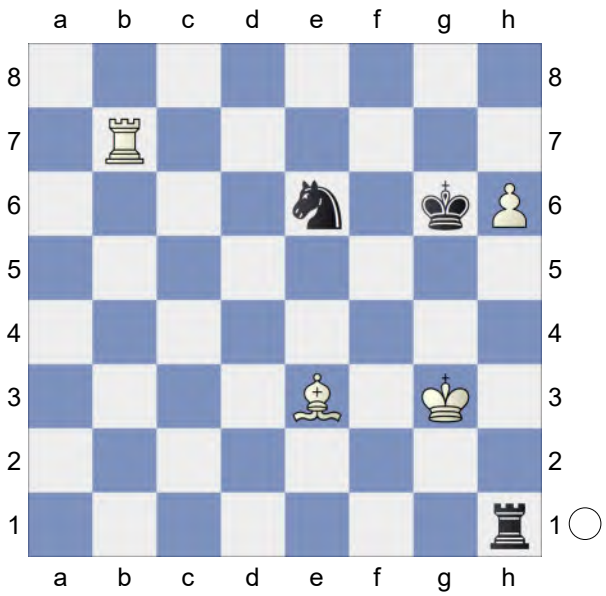
94...Kf7 95.Kf5 Rb7+ would kill now.

95...Rh5+



96.Ke4! Rh4+ 97.Kf3 Rh3+ 98.Kf2 Rh2+ 99.Kg3 Rh1 100.Rb7+ Kg6

(Diagram)



101.Re7 0.09/25

[101.Rb8± 0.47/22 was preferrable.]

101...Kf6 0.52/24

[101...Ng5= 0.09/25]

102.Re8 0.07/23

[102.Rd7± 0.52/24 is superior.]

102...Kf7 0.52/24

[102...Ng5= 0.07/23]

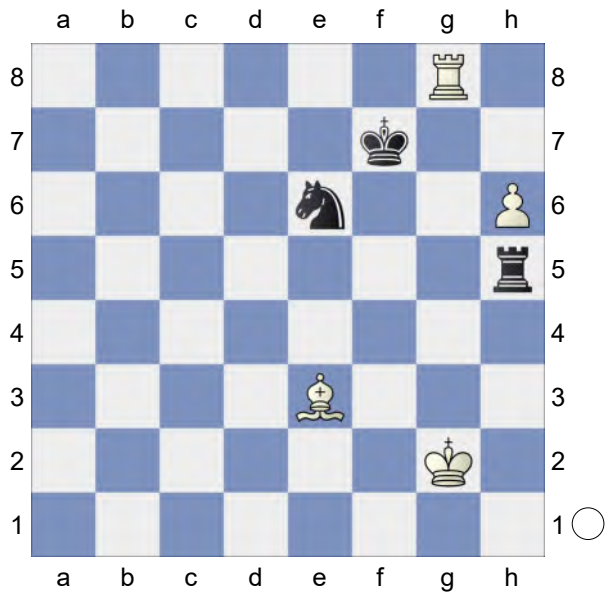
103.Rh8 Kg6 104.Kg2 0.19/26

[104.Rg8+± 0.52/24 feels stronger. Kh7 105.Rc8 *(105.Re8 Ng7±)*]

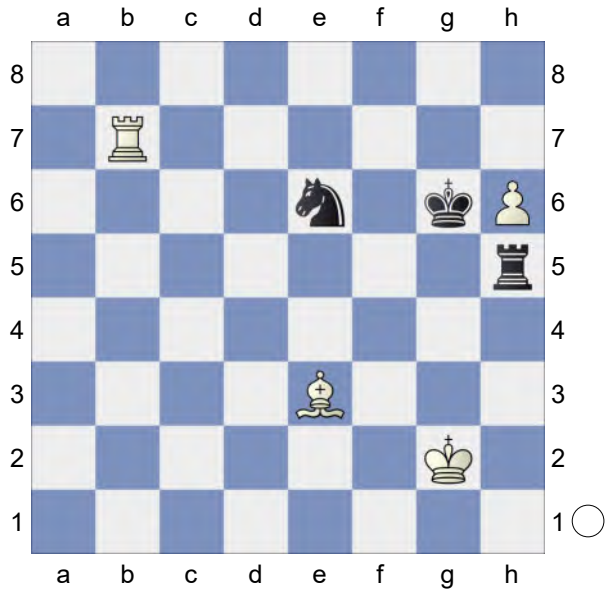
104...Rh5 105.Rg8+ Kf7 0.56/22

[105...Kh7= 0.25/24 106.Rg4 *(106.Re8 Ng5=)* 106...Rxh6]

(Diagram)

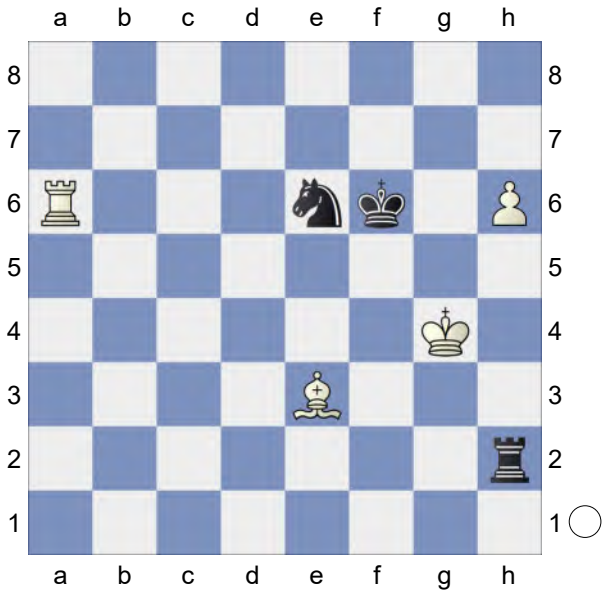


106.Ra8 Kg6 107.Ra6 Kf7 108.Ra7+ Kg6 109.Re7 0.01/22
[109.Kg3± 0.48/21]
109...Kf6 0.57/23
[109...Ng5= 0.01/22]
110.Rb7 Kg6



111.Kg3 0.01/20
[111.Rb6± 0.59/23 Kf7 112.Kf3]
111...Kf6 0.55/23
[111...Rh1= 0.01/20]
112.Rb6 Kf7 113.Ra6 Kf6 114.Kg4 0.01/23
[114.Bd2± 0.61/22]

114...Rh2!



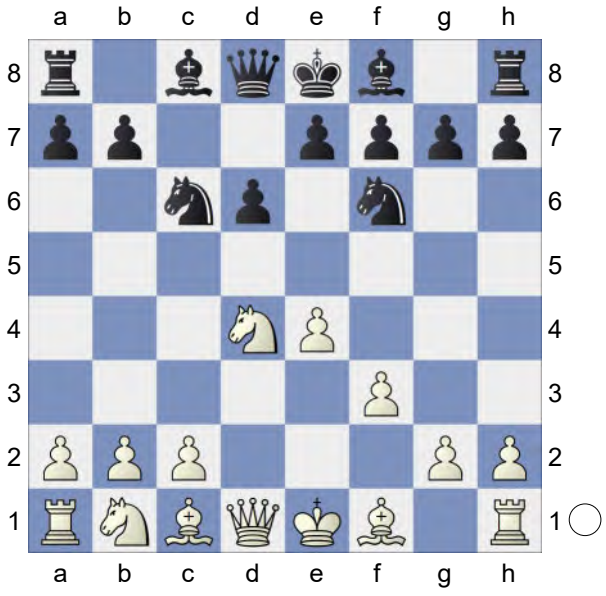
Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.16 (very precise) . Loss on time!?
0-1

164 **B55**
□ **Fernandez Romero,Ernesto** **2442**
■ **Vallejo Pons,Francisco** **2681**
95/148 Calvia 2005
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

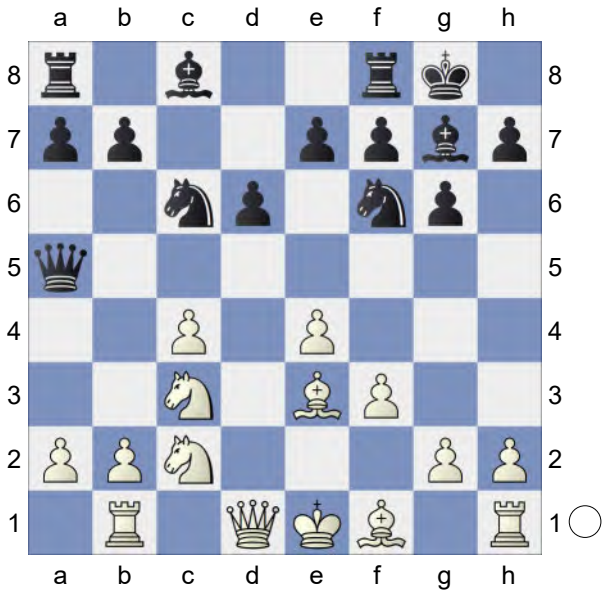
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.c4 Qb6 7.Nc2 g6 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.Rb1 0-0

[9...Ng4 is more complex. 10.Qd2 Bxc3 11.Qxc3 Qf2+]

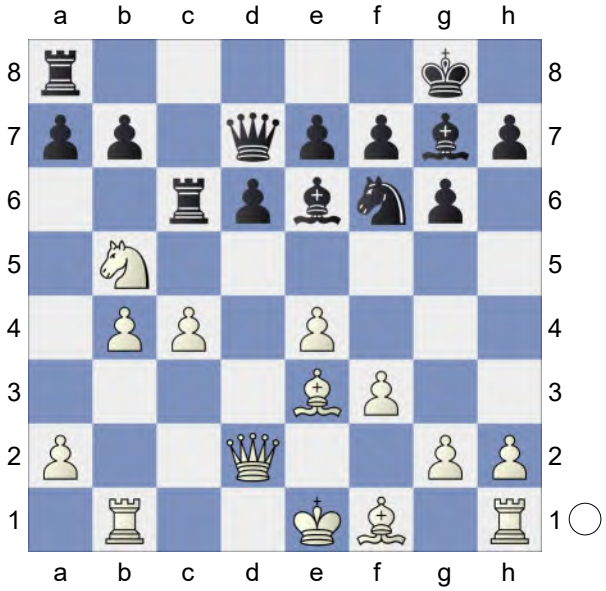
10.Be3 Qa5



11.Qd2 Be6 White has an edge. **12.b4 Qc7 13.Nb5 Qd7 14.Ncd4** -0.39/21

[14.Nbd4= -0.07/19]

14...Rfc8∓ 15.Nxc6 Rxc6



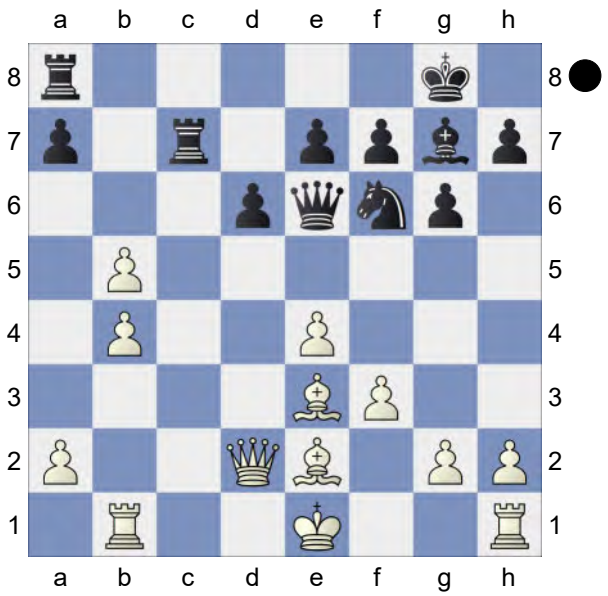
16.Nd4 Rc7! 17.Nxe6 -0.38/22

[17.Rc1= -0.01/20]

17...Qxe6 18.Be2 b5! 19.c5

[Wrong is 19.cxb5?

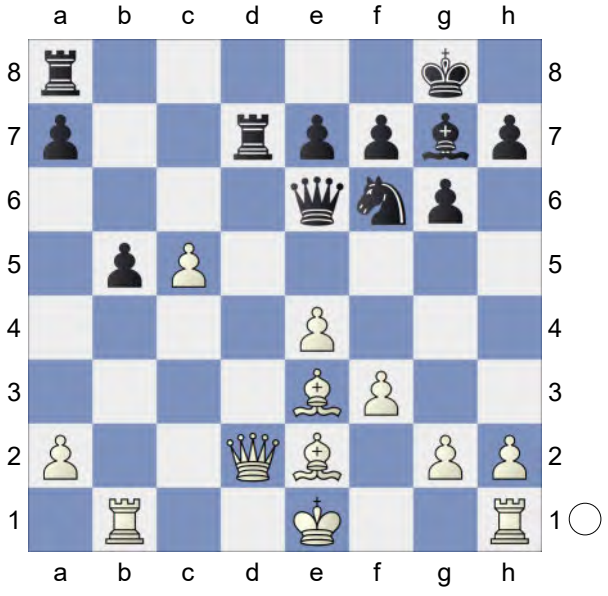
(Diagram)



Nxe4! 20.Qd3 *(20.fxe4? Bc3-+)* 20...Nc3-+]

19...dxc5 20.bxc5 Rd7 0.38/21

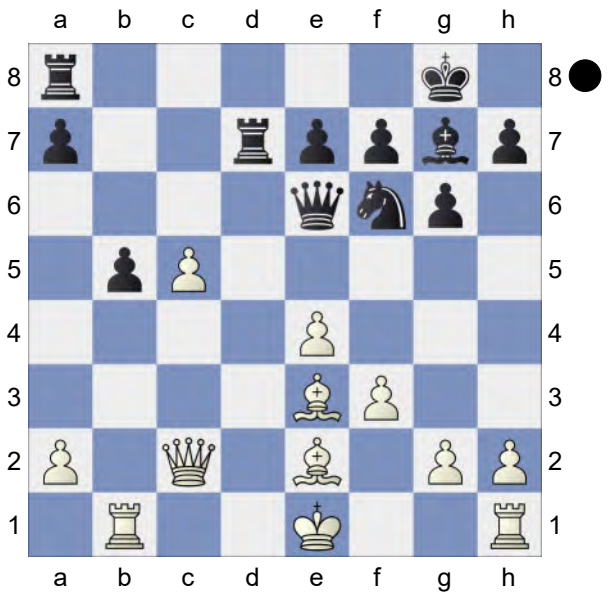
[Better is 20...a6= -0.27/20]



21.Qc2 -0.43/21

[21.Qc1!± 0.38/21]

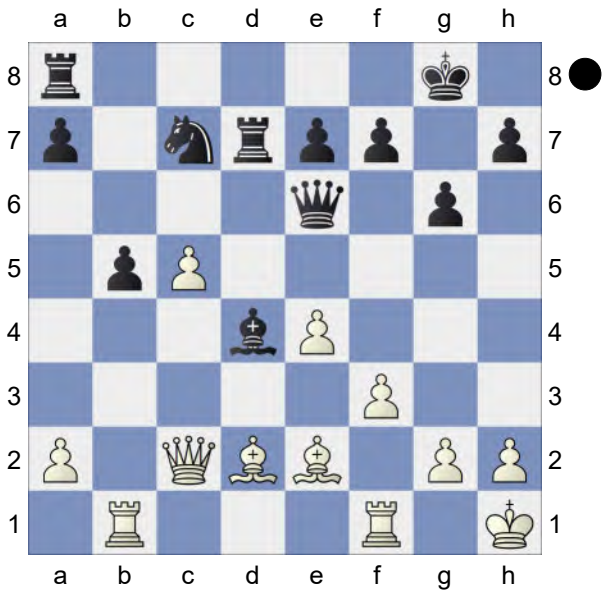
(Diagram)



21...Nd5! 22.Bd2 Nc7 23.0-0

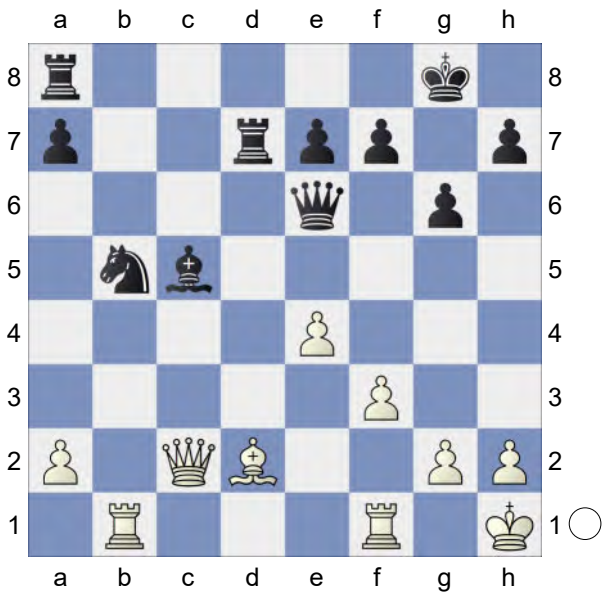
[Don't go for 23.Bxb5? Nxb5 24.Rxb5 Rad8-+]

23...Bd4+ 24.Kh1



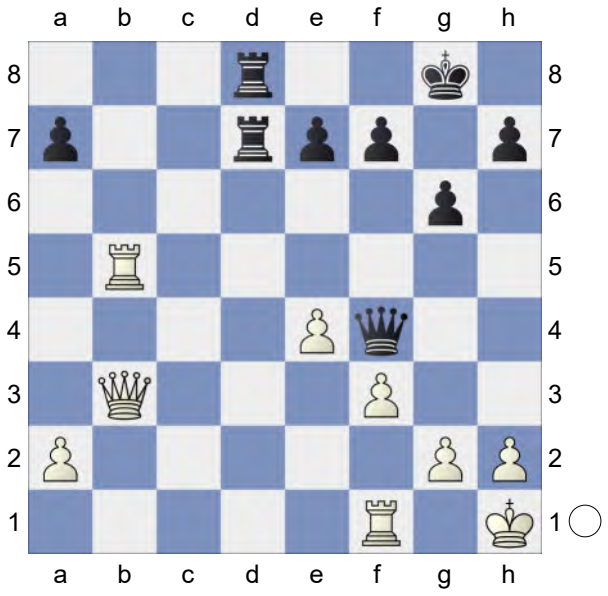
Bxc5! 25.Bxb5 Nxb5

(Diagram)



26.Rxb5 Bb6 27.Ba5 Bxa5 28.Rxa5 Rad8 29.Qb3 Qf6 30.Rb5 Qf4 -0.53/20

[Black should play 30...Rd3∓ -0.84/20 31.Rb8 Qd4 32.Rxd8+ Qxd8]

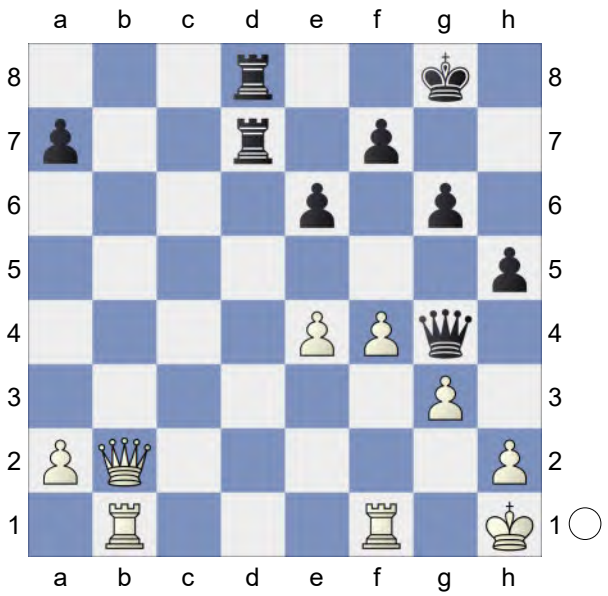


31.Qa3 e6 32.Rbb1 h5→ Black mounts an attack. **33.g3** -1.23/22

[33.h3∓ -0.58/20]

33...Qf6 34.Qb2 Qg5 35.f4 Qg4

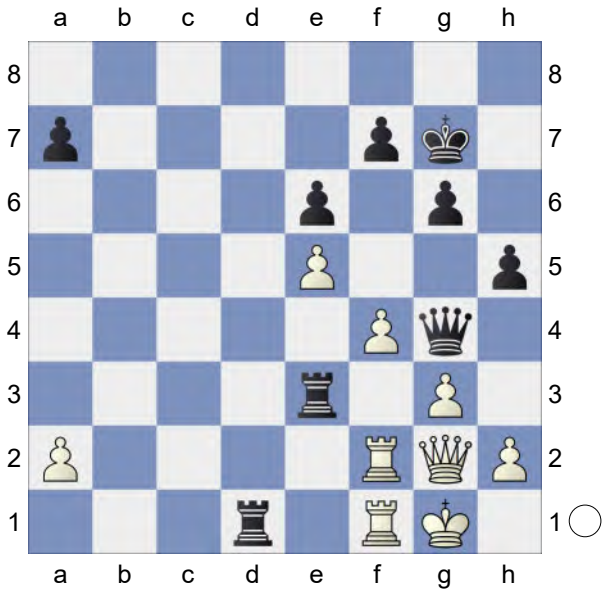
(Diagram)



Hoping for ...Rd2. **36.Qg2 Rd3 37.Rb2 Rd1 38.Rbf2** Strongly threatening h3. **38...R8d3** 0x0.0026334f8c71dp-1022s more active pieces. **39.Kg1 Re3 40.e5** -2.13/22

[40.f5∓ -1.28/22]

40...Kg7-+

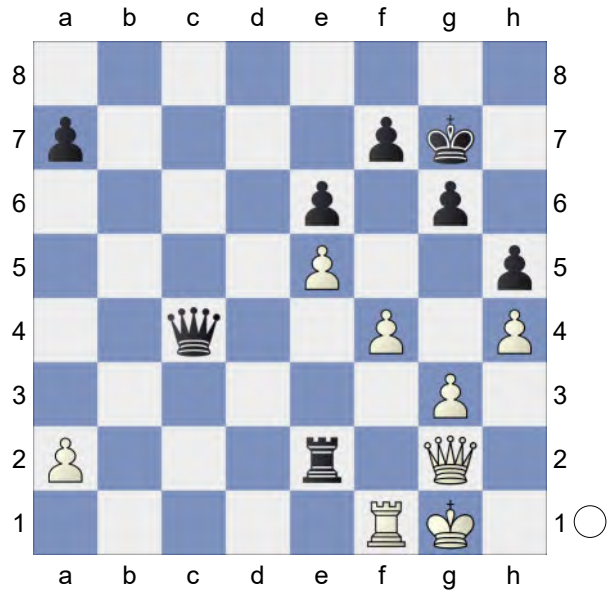


41.Rxd1? -3.71/27

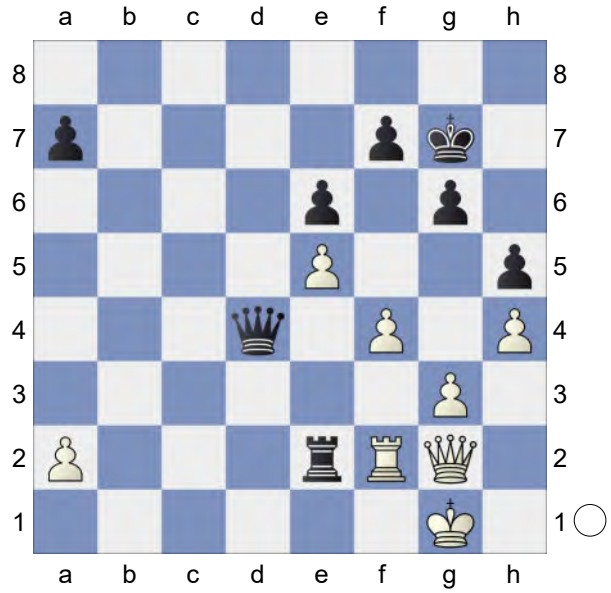
[41.f5 -2.13/20 exf5 42.Rf4 Rxf1+ 43.Qxf1]

41...Qxd1+ KQR-KQR **42.Rf1 Qd4 43.Qf2 Qe4** ...Re2 is the strong threat. **44.Qg2 Qc4** And now ...Re2 would win.

45.h4 Re2



46.Rf2 Qd4



Weighted Error Value: White=0.22 (precise) /Black=0.09 (flawless)
0-1

165 **B55**
□ **Garcia Ramos,Daniel** **2439**
■ **Vokhidov,Shamsiddin** **2568**
Titled Tuesday intern op 15th Nov Early ..
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

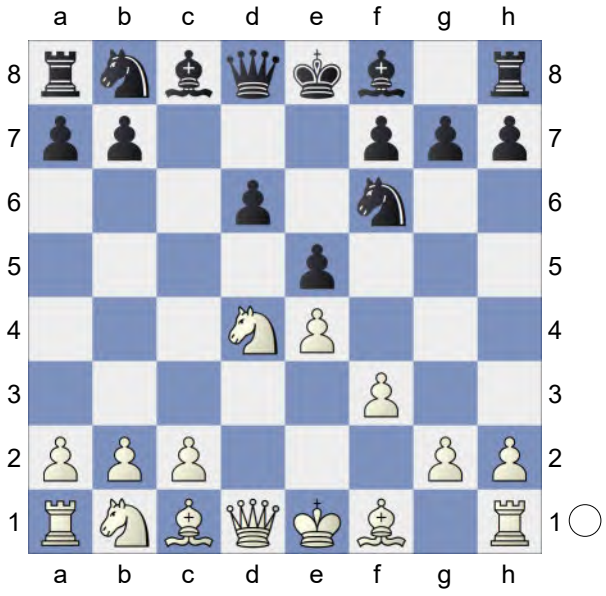
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060

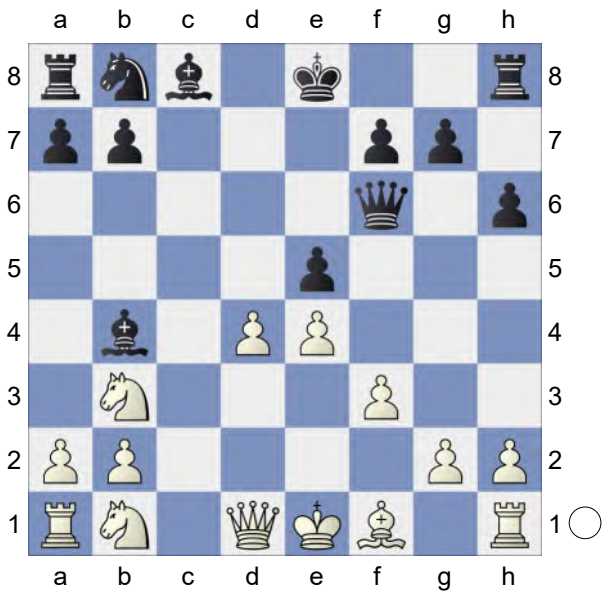
[Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4! 8.c3 h6!? 0.44/18 A promising side line. Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante.

[8...Nc6= 0.09/19 is superior.]

9.Bxf6± White is slightly better. **9...Qxf6 10.cxd4 Bb4+**



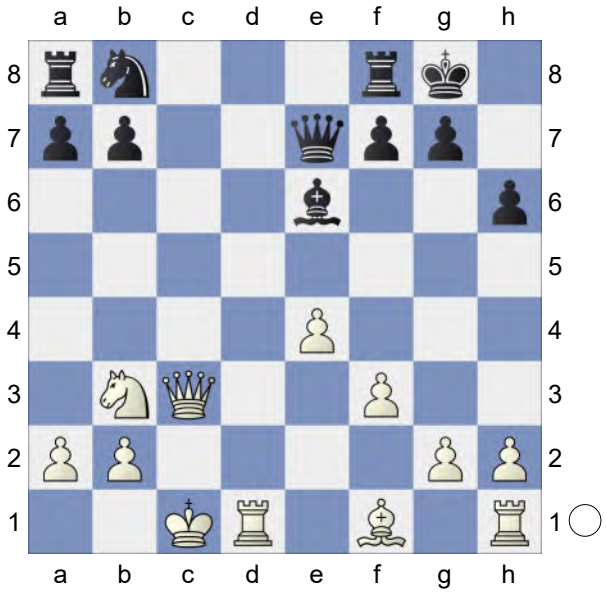
11.Nc3

[11.Ke2 feels hotter. 0-0 12.a3 Bd6 13.d5]

11...0-0 12.dxe5 Qxe5 13.Qd4! Qe7 14.0-0-0 Threatens to win with Nd5.

[14.Bc4 with more complications. Nc6 15.Qe3 Ne5 16.Bd5]

14...Bxc3 15.Qxc3 Be6



...Rc8 is the strong threat. **16.Kb1 Rc8 17.Qe3 Nc6**

[Not 17...Qc7 18.Rc1 Nc6 19.Bb5±]

18.Bb5N 0.04/21

[Vorgänger: 18.Be2 Nb4 19.Rc1! Nd5 20.Qd2 Rd8? 2.08/22 *(20...Nb4± 0.44/20)* 21.exd5+- Rxd5 22.Qe1 0.64/22 *(22.Bd3+- 1.97/22)* 22...Re5!± 23.Nd4 Black must now prevent Qf2. Rd8 24.Qc3 Rxd4 25.Qxd4 Rxe2 ½-½ (38) Vega Gutierrez,S (2385)-Topalov,V (2730) Salamanca 2021]

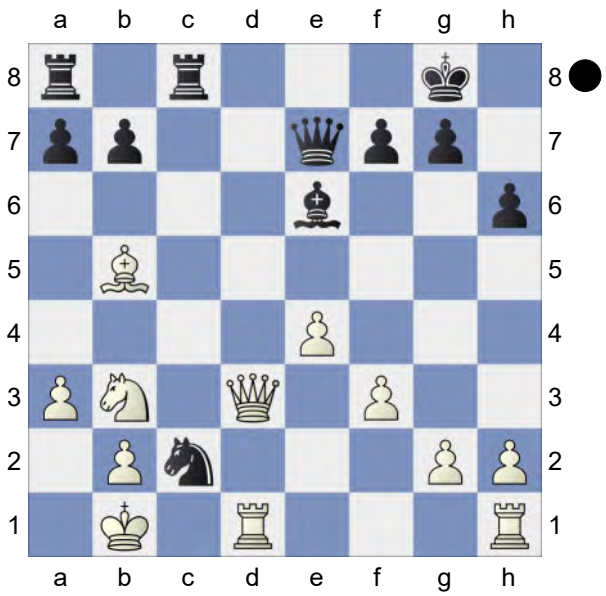
[18.a3± 0.43/22]

18...Nb4= 19.a3? -1.98/20

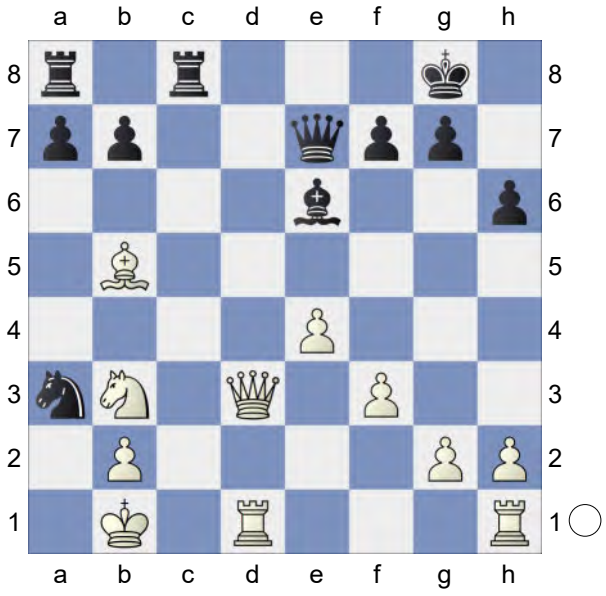
[19.Nc1!= -0.01/20 and White is okay.]

19...Nc2-+ 20.Qd3

(Diagram)

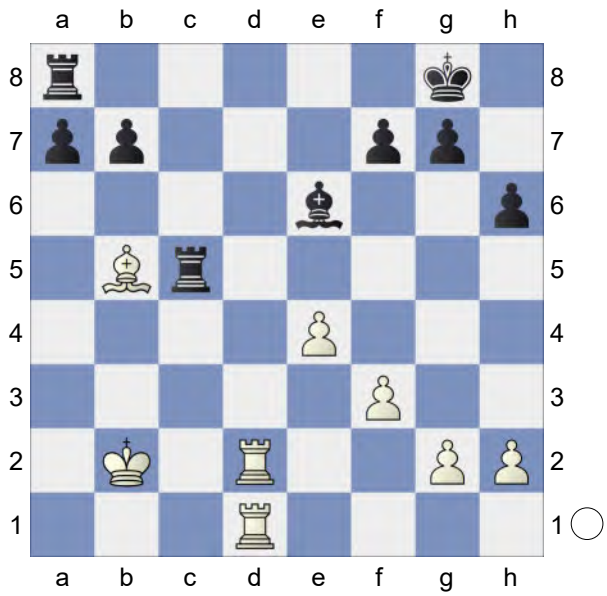


Nxa3+!

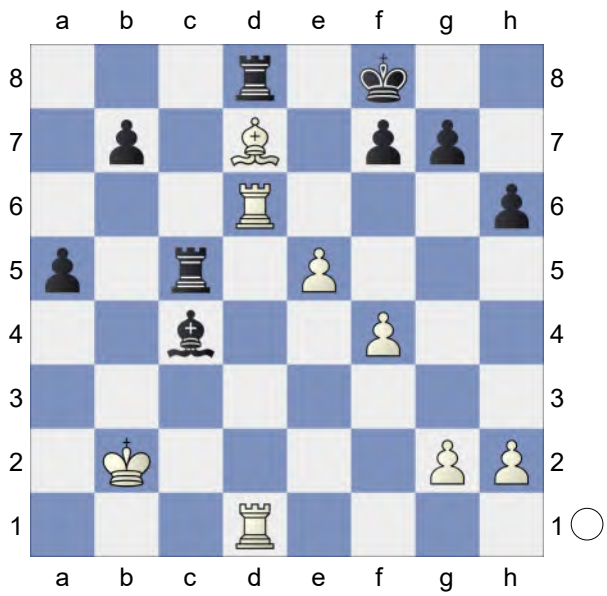


Demolition **21.bxa3 Qxa3 22.Rd2 Qxb3+** -1.31/21
[Resist 22...Bxb3 23.Rb2+-]
[22...a6-+ -1.99/24 23.Bd7 Bxd7 24.Qxd7 Qxb3+ 25.Rb2 Qc3]
23.Qxb3∓ Bxb3 24.Kb2 Be6 25.Rhd1 Rc5

(Diagram)

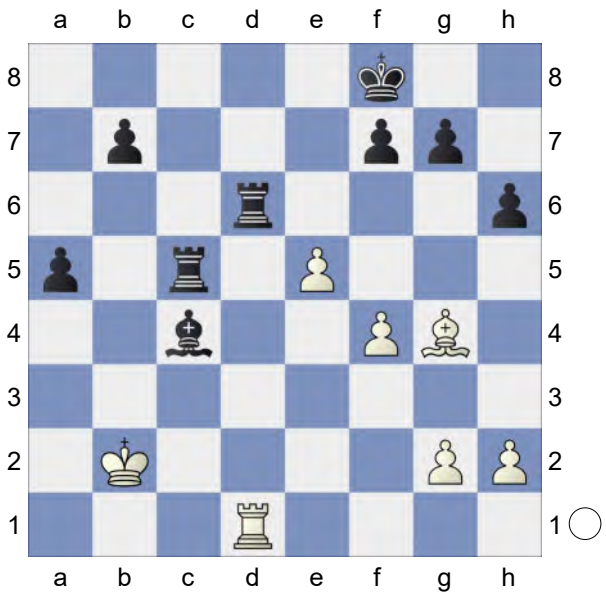


26.Bd7 Bc4 27.Rd6 Rd8 28.f4 a5 29.e5 Kf8? 1.54/22
[29...b5∓ -0.93/18 stays on course.]

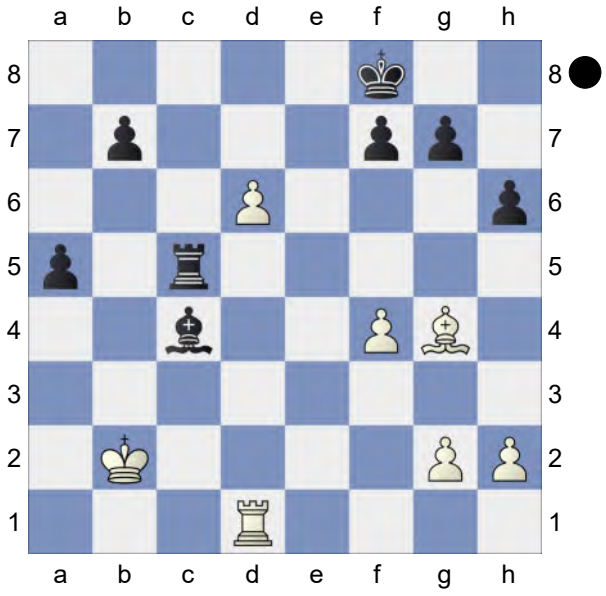


30.Bg4? -1.24/19
[30.Bc6!± 1.54/22 is forced if you want to stay better. Rxd6 31.exd6]
30...Rxd6

(Diagram)

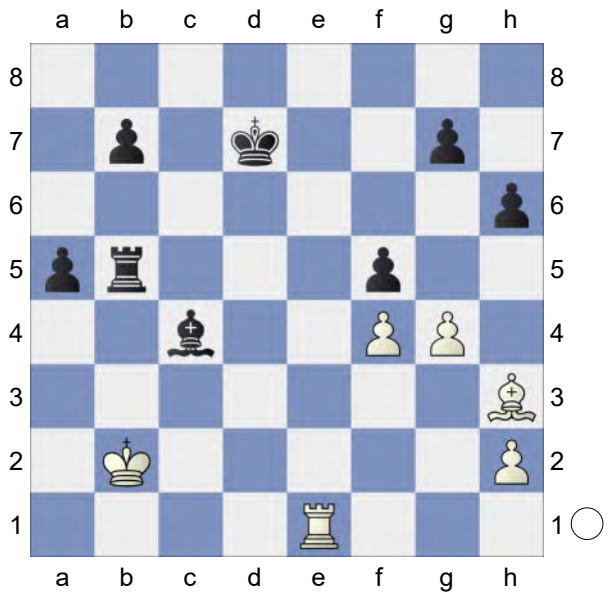


31.exd6 Endgame

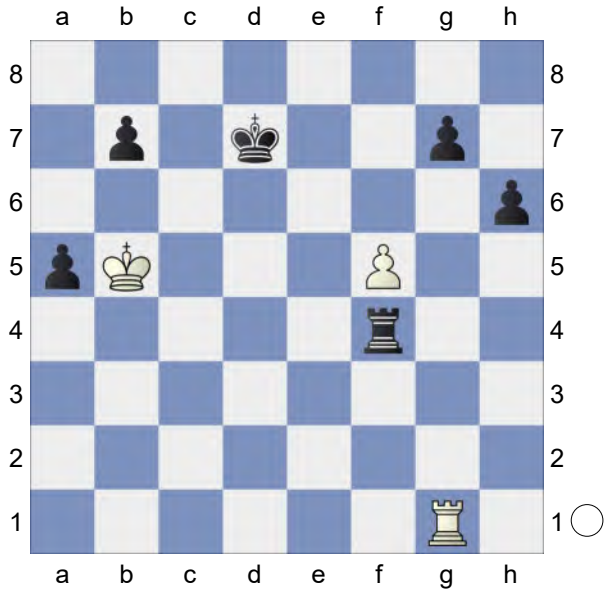


KRB-KRB **31...Ke8** -0.19/21
[31...Rd5!∓ -1.39/24 Strongly threatening ...Rxd1. 32.Kc3 Rxd1 33.Bxd1 Bb5]
32.Re1+= Kd8 33.d7? -2.40/21
[33.Re7!= -0.28/20 and White has nothing to worry.]
33...f5-+ 34.Bh3 -3.83/18
[⌓34.Bf3 -2.46/17]
34...Kxd7 35.g4 Rb5+

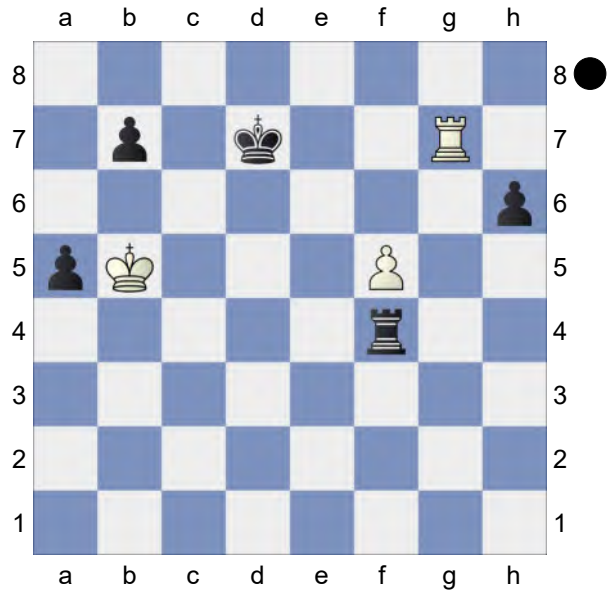
(Diagram)



36.Kc3 Rb3+ -2.42/23
[⌓36...Bf7 -4.57/21 37.Bf1 Rb3+ 38.Kd4 fxg4]
37.Kxc4 Rxh3 38.gxf5 Rxh2 -1.02/20 KR-KR
[38...Rf3-+ -2.24/20 39.Re4 a4]
39.Kb5? -3.75/22
[39.Rg1∓ -1.02/20 was the only chance.]
39...Rf2 -1.67/21
[⌓39...Rh5 -3.75/22 40.Re5 Rh4 41.Kxa5 Rxf4]
40.Rg1 Rxf4



41.Rxg7+



Kc8 -1.46/23

[⌓41...Kd8! -0.73/19 42.Kxa5 Rxf5+ 43.Kb6 Rf6+ 44.Kb5 b6]

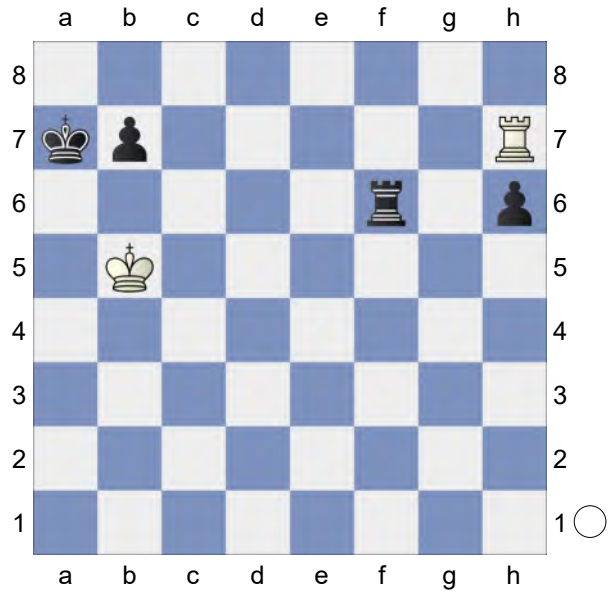
42.Kxa5 Rxf5+ 43.Kb6 Rf6+ 44.Kb5 -1.98/21

[44.Kc5∓ -1.07/22 might work better.]

44...Kb8 45.Rh7 -2.45/23

[45.Kc5∓ -1.35/19 is a better defense.]

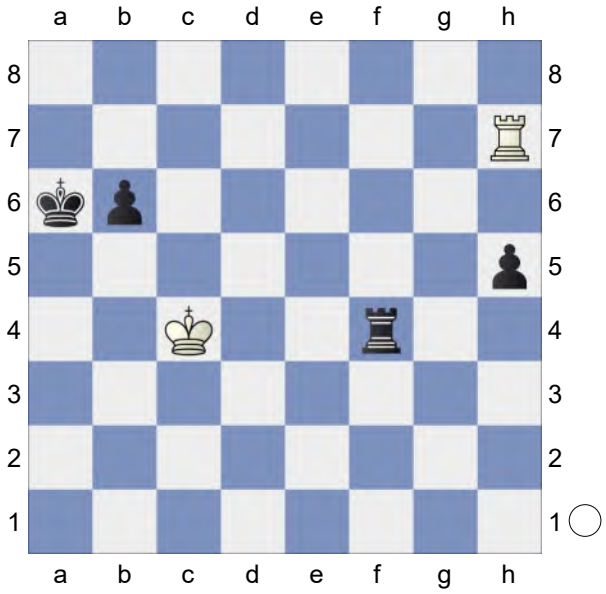
45...Ka7



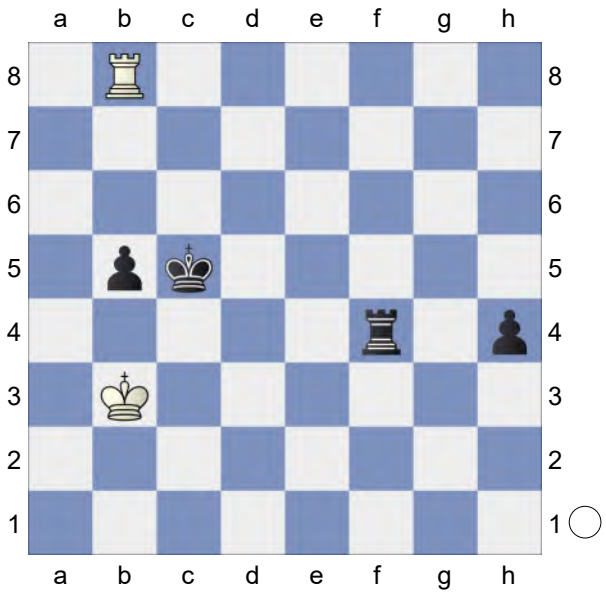
46.Ka5 Rf5+ 47.Kb4 h5 Hoping for ... Ka6. **48.Ka4?** -5.25/30

[48.Rh6 -2.47/24]

48...Ka6 49.Kb4 b6 50.Kc4 Rf4+

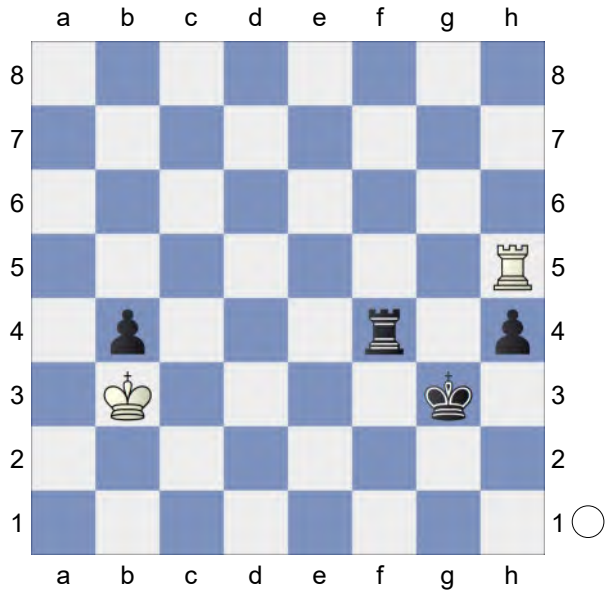


51.Kb3 h4 52.Rh5 b5 53.Rh8 Ka5 54.Ra8+ Kb6 55.Rb8+ Kc5

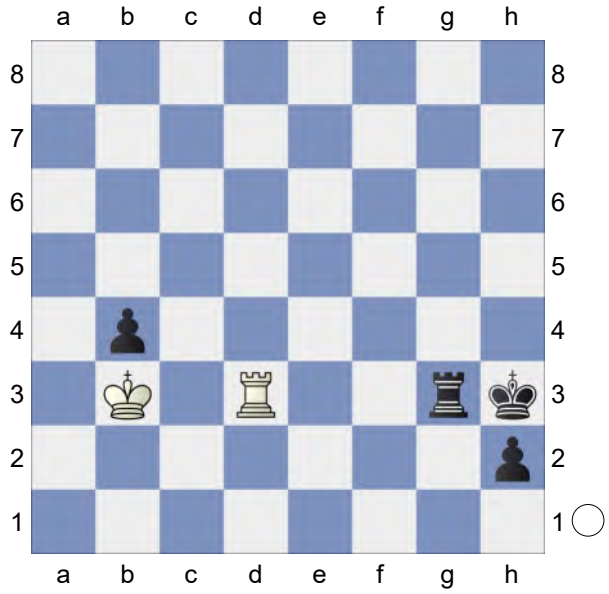


56.Rc8+ Kd4 57.Rh8 Ke3 aiming for ... Kf3. **58.Rh5 b4 59.Ka4 Kf3 60.Kb3 Kg3**

(Diagram)



61.Rh8 h3 (-> ...h2) **62.Rg8+ Rg4 63.Rd8 h2 64.Rd1 Kh3 65.Rd3+ Rg3**



Weighted Error Value: White=0.57/ Black=0.28 (precise)

0-1

166 **B55**

□ **Amilal,Munkhdalai** **2437**

■ **Palczert,Matyas** **2340**

Budapest One Week GM-B (6) 25.08.23

[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

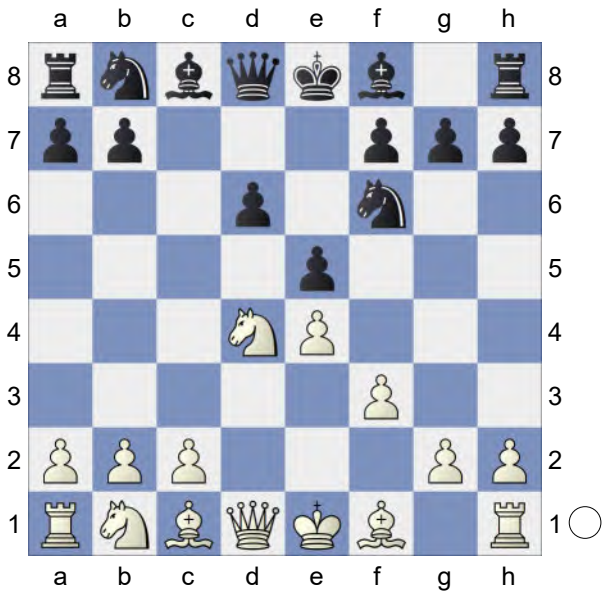
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

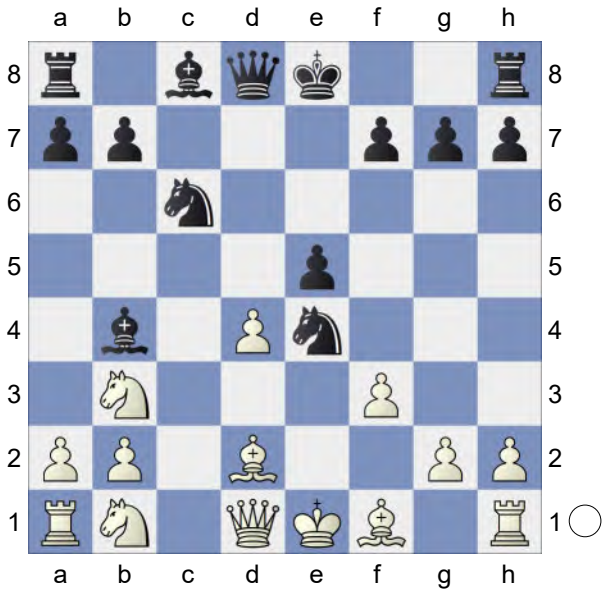
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060

[Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

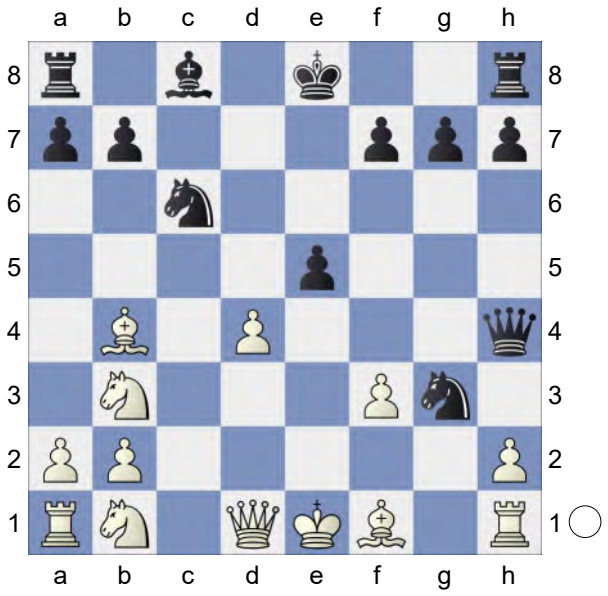


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4! 8.c3 Nc6 9.cxd4! The position is equal. is currently scoring better than 9.Bb5. wohl besser als 9.Lb5. **9...Bb4+ 10.Bd2 Nxe4**



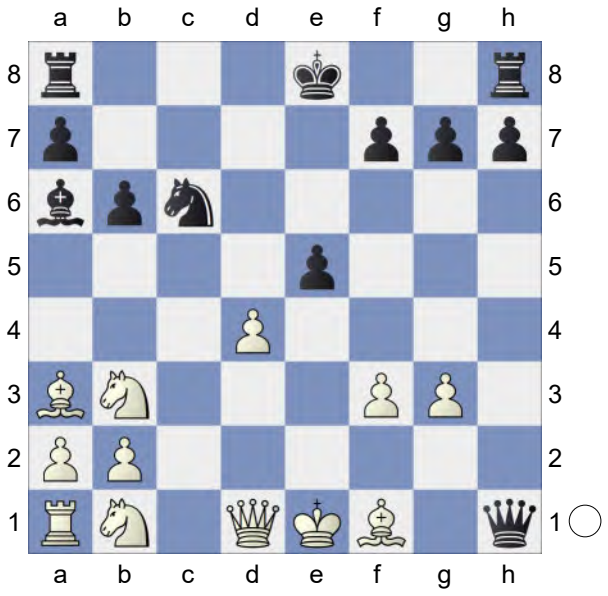
11.Bxb4 Qh4+ 12.g3 Nxg3

(Diagram)



13.hxg3 Qxh1 14.Bc5 b6 15.Ba3 Threatens to win with Qe2. **15...Ba6** 0.90/22

[15...Bh3± 0.42/21 is superior. 16.N1d2 Qg1]



Inhibits Qe2. **16.N1d2!± Qg1N**

[Vorgänger: 16...Rc8 1.82/23 16…Qg1 0.71 17.Kf2 Qh2+ 18.Bg2 h5 …h4 is the strong threat. 19.Qh1 Qxh1 20.Rxh1 Strongly threatening Ne4. Nxd4 21.Re1 Hoping for Nxd4. Nxb3 22.Rxe5+ Kd8 1-0 Alexakis,D

(2460)-Tilicheev,V (2509) Primorsko op 2021 (7)]

[16...Nxd4? 17.Nxd4 0-0-0 18.Qc2+ Kb8 19.Nc6+ Ka8 20.Nxd8 Rxd8 21.Qc7+-]

17.Qc2 Qxg3+ 1.36/5

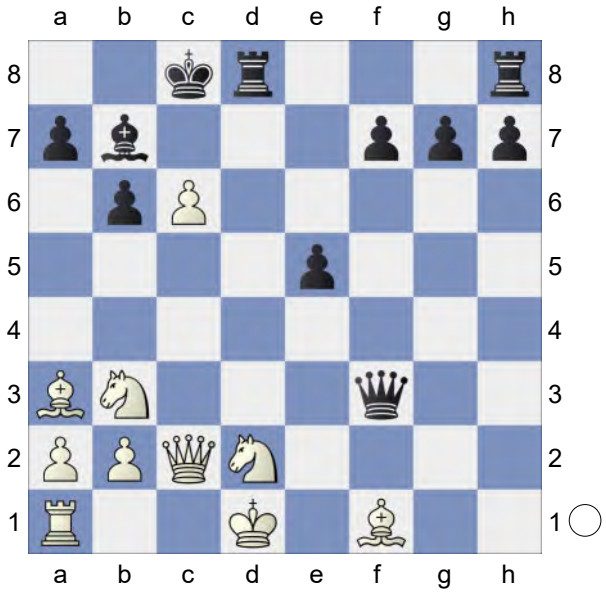
[17...Nxd4? 18.Nxd4 Qe3+ 19.Kd1+-]

[⌓17...Rc8 0.74/24 18.Qf5 Rc7]

18.Kd1± Bb7 19.d5 0-0-0 20.dxc6 1.06/23

[White should play 20.Qf5++- 2.06/22 Kb8 21.dxc6 *(21.Rc1? Rxd5 22.Qg4 Qxg4-+)* 21...Bxc6 22.Kc2 *(22.Qxf7 Rd7∓)*]

20...Qxf3+



21.Kc1 Qxc6 22.Qxc6+ Bxc6 23.Kc2↑ White is really pushing. **23...f5** 2.36/22

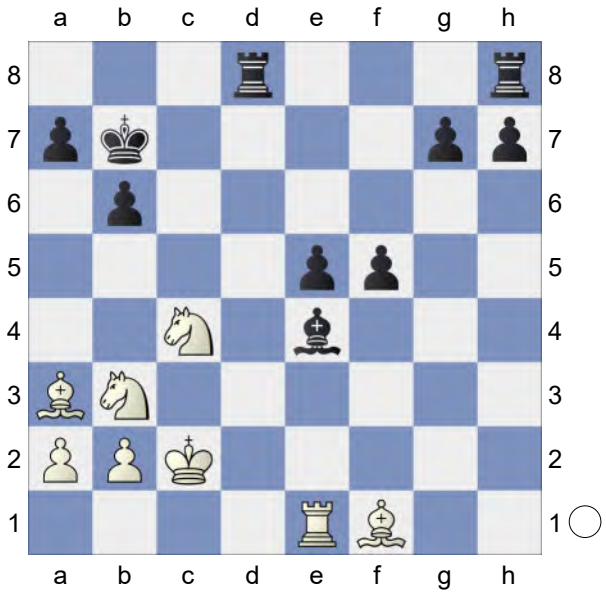
[23...f6± 1.16/20 24.Be7 Rde8]

24.Nc4+- Kb7 25.Re1

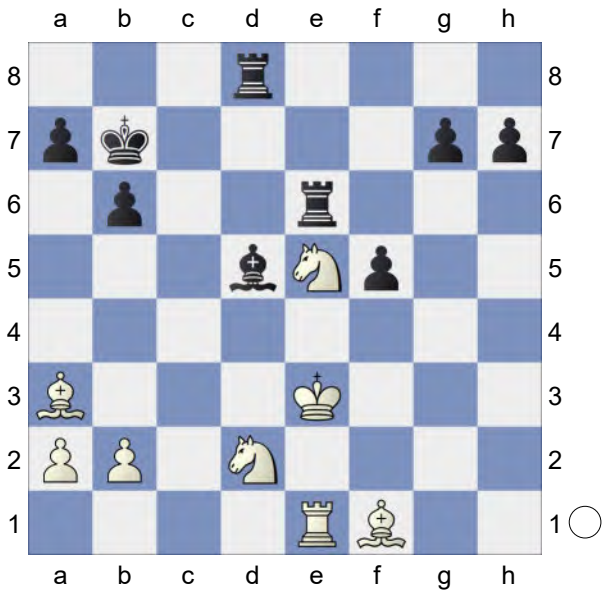
[25.Nxe5 Be4+ 26.Kc3 Rd5±]

25...Be4+

(Diagram)



26.Kc3 Rc8 27.Kd2 And now Nd6+ would win. **27...Rhd8+ 28.Ke3 Rc6** Prevents Nd6+. **29.Nbd2 Bd5 30.Nxe5 Re6**



31.Kf4 Bxa2 32.Ndf3 g6 33.Bg2 Bd5 4.67/22

[⌓33...Kb8 3.20/21 34.Bf1 Rd5]

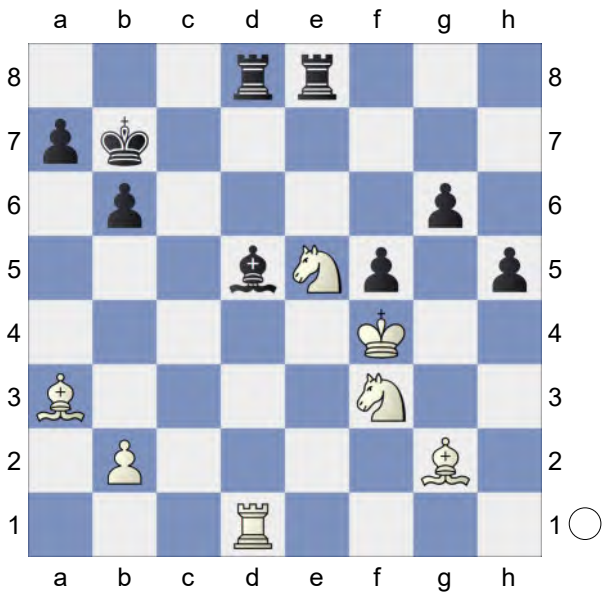
34.Rh1 2.66/22

[⌓34.Nf7 4.67/22 Rd7 35.Rxe6 Bxe6 36.N7e5]

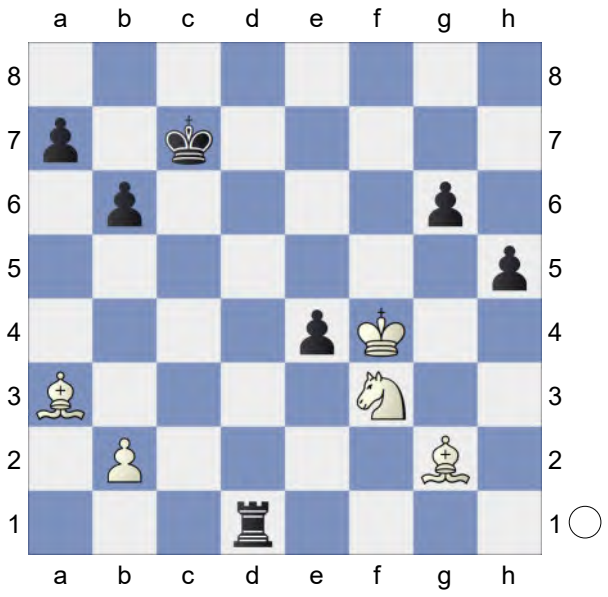
34...h5 35.Rd1 The board is on fire.

35...Ree8

(Diagram)

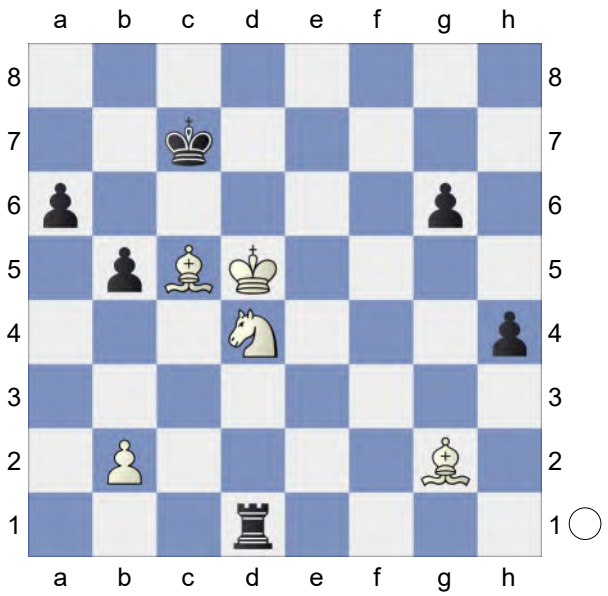


36.Rd4 Active counter play! **36...Be4** White must now prevent ...Rxd4. **37.Rxd8 Rxd8 38.Nf7 Rd1 39.Nd6+ Kc7 40.Nxe4 fxe4**

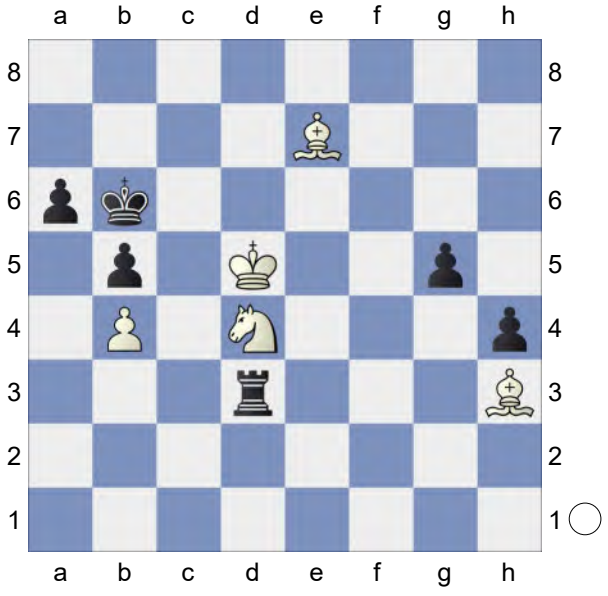


41.Kxe4 b5 42.Nd4 a6 43.Kd5 h4 44.Bd6+ Kb6 45.Bc5+ Kc7

(Diagram)

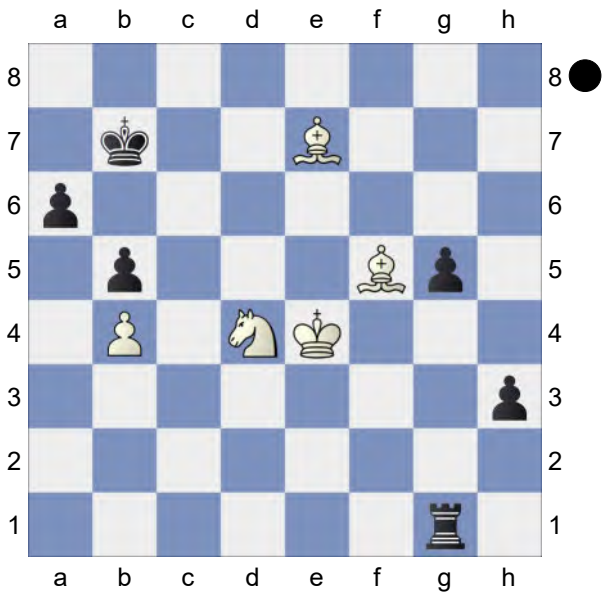


46.b4 Rd2 47.Bf1 g5? 4.98/22
[47...Rd1 2.95/20 is a better defense.]
48.Bd6+ Kb6 49.Be7 Rd1 50.Bh3 Rd3? 6.45/23
[50...Rh1 3.41/22]



51.Bf5 Rg3 52.Bc5+ Kb7 53.Bd6 Rg1 54.Be7 h3 55.Ke4?? -10.29/23
[Not 55.Bxh3 g4 56.Bxg4 Rxg4=]
[55.Bd6+- 2.89/23]

(Diagram)

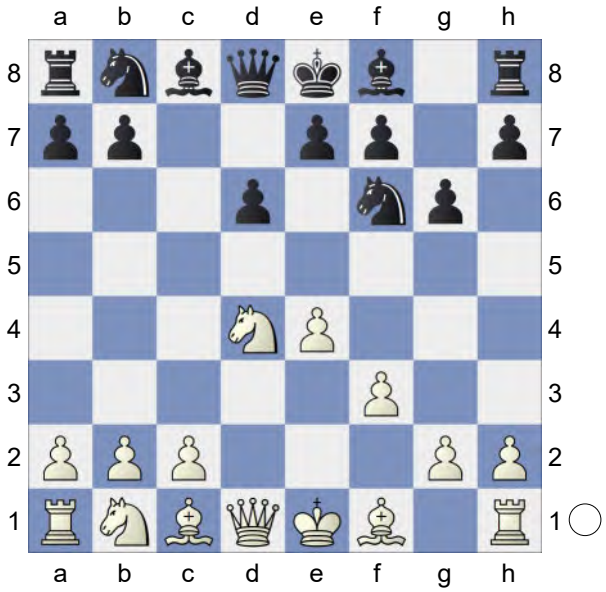


Quite a comeback for Black.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.34. An unexpected result.
½-½

167 **B38**
□ **Bokros,Albert** **2435**
■ **Rajlich,Vasik G** **2377**
Budapest FS04 GM-A (9) 10.04.2002
[Kitty Kat]

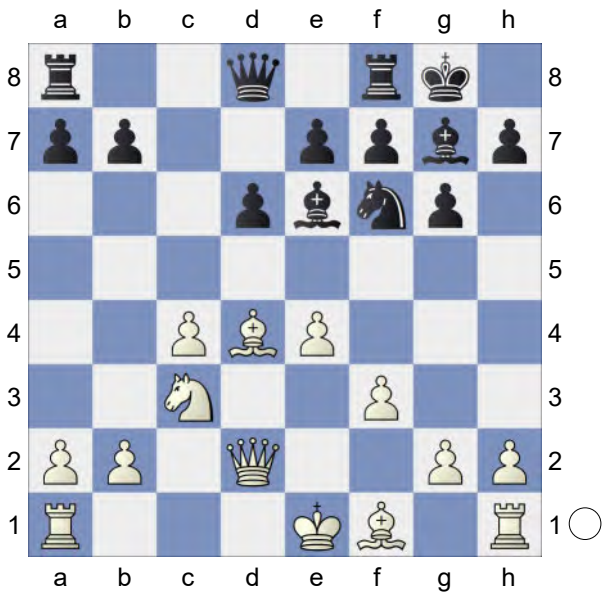
B38: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind with 5...Bg7 and 7...0-0
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 g6N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

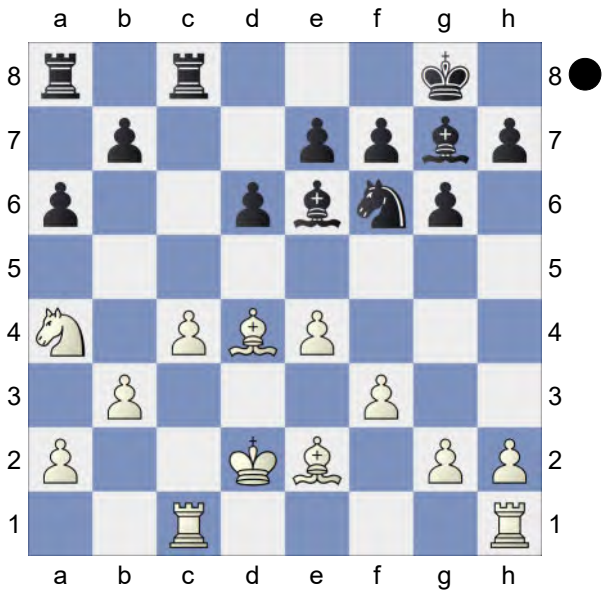


6.c4 Bg7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 Nc6 9.Qd2 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Be6

(Diagram)

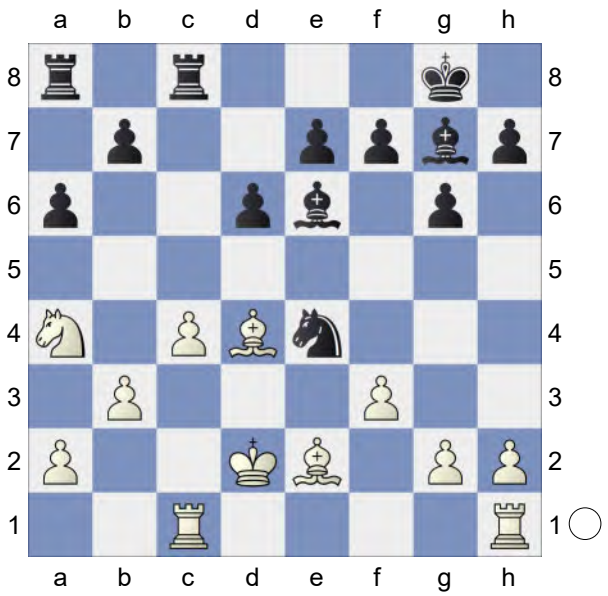


11.Rc1 Qa5 12.Be2 Rfc8 13.b3 The position is equal. **13...a6 14.Na4 Qxd2+ 15.Kxd2**



Nxe4+!

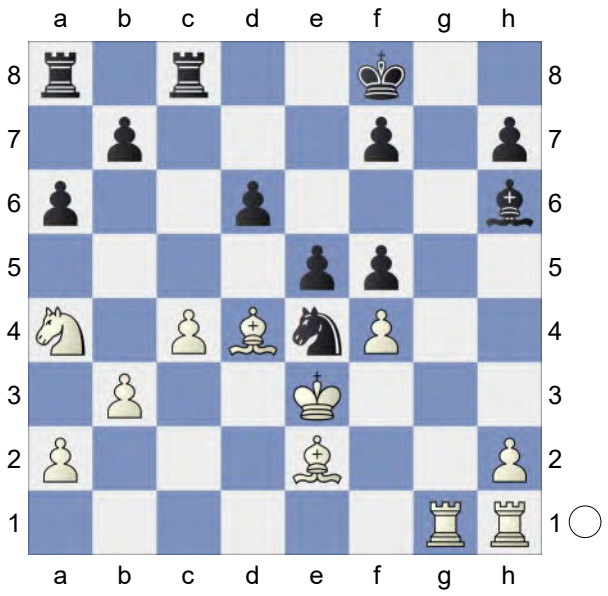
(Diagram)



16.Ke3 Strongly threatening Bxg7. **16...Bh6+ 17.f4!⇄** White has counterplay

[17.Kxe4 Bf5+ 18.Kd5 e6+ 19.Kxd6 Rc6+ 20.Ke5 f6+ 21.Kxf6 e5+ 22.Kxe5 Re6+ 23.Kd5 Rd8+ 24.Kc5 Bf8#]

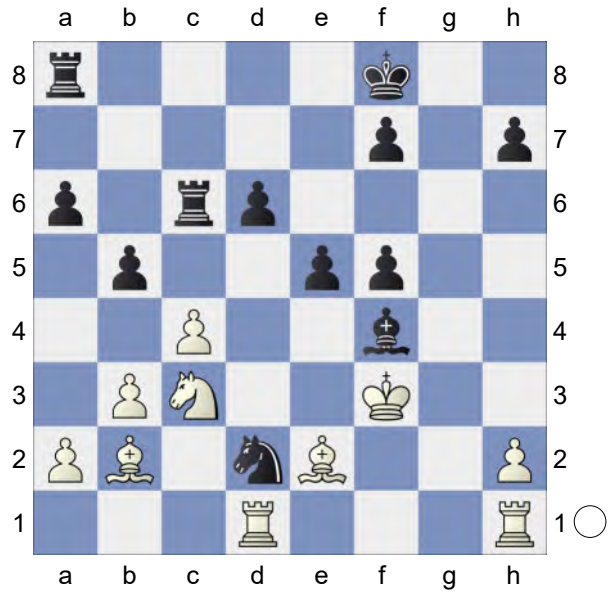
17...Bf5 ...e5 is the strong threat. **18.g4 e5 19.gxf5 gxf5 20.Rcg1+ Kf8**



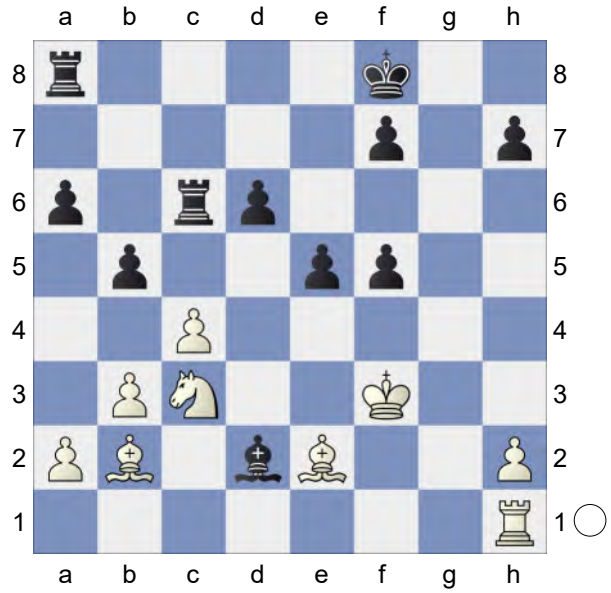
21.Bb2 Black must now prevent Nb6. **21...Bxf4+ 22.Kf3 Rc6** Prevents Nb6. **23.Rd1** 0.27/20 Chess con chili.

[23.Nc3± 1.18/21]

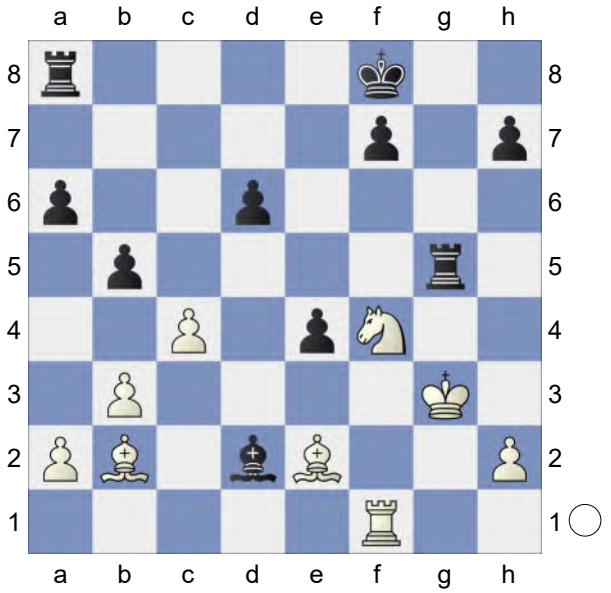
23...b5!= 24.Nc3 Nd2+



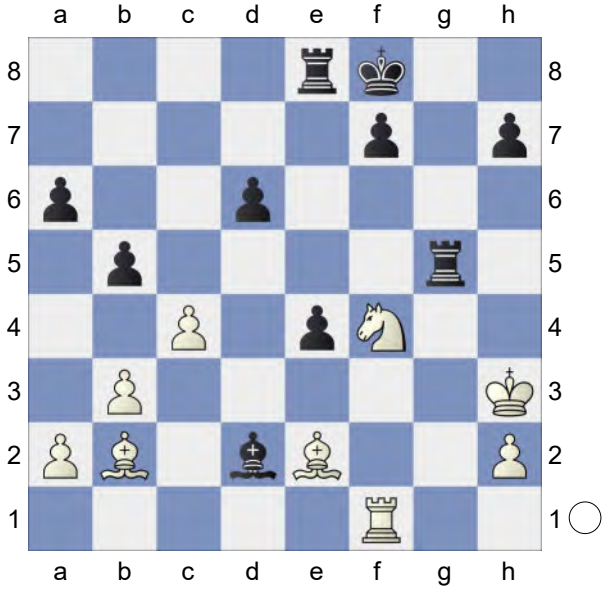
25.Rxd2! Bxd2



26.Nd5 e4+ 0.43/21
[26...Re8= 0.01/19 is more appropriate.]
27.Kg3 White wants to play Rf1.
27...Rc5 0.93/21
[27...bxc4= 0.14/20 keeps the balance. 28.Bxc4 Re8]
28.Rf1 0.60/21
[28.Rd1± 0.93/21 f4+ 29.Kh3 Rxd5 30.cxd5]
28...f4+ 1.08/22
[28...bxc4± 0.60/21 is superior. 29.Bxc4 f4+ 30.Nxf4 Rg5+ 31.Kh4 Rf5]
29.Nxf4± &Bianco is more active.
29...Rg5+



30.Kh3! Hoping for Ne6+. **30...Re8** 1.64/21
[30...Bxf4± 1.13/22 31.Rxf4 Re8]



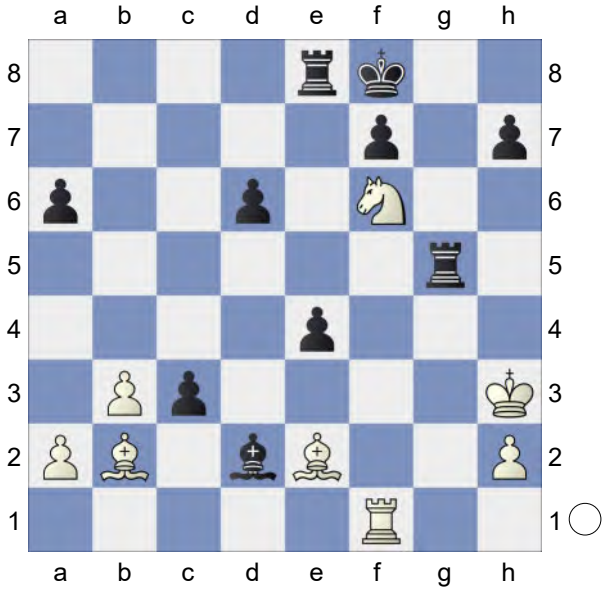
Prevents Ne6+. **31.Nd5** 1.22/20
[31.Nh5+- 1.64/21]
31...bxc4 1.63/23
[31...Re6± 1.22/20 32.Nf6 *(32.Bf6*

Rg6±) 32...Rg6]

32.bxc4 1.21/22

[But not 32.Bxc4?! Rh5+ 33.Kg3 Rg5+ 34.Kh3 Rh5+ 35.Kg3 Rg5+ 36.Kh4 Rg6±]

[32.Nf6+- 1.63/23 c3



33.Bxc3! *(33.Nxh7+ Kg7±)* 33...Bxc3 34.Nxh7+ Kg7 35.Nxg5]

32...Re6 (-> . . . R h 6 +) **33.Bf6** White has strong compensation. This bishop pair is nice. **33...Rg6** **34.Bh4** 0.01/21

[34.Rf5± 1.11/19]

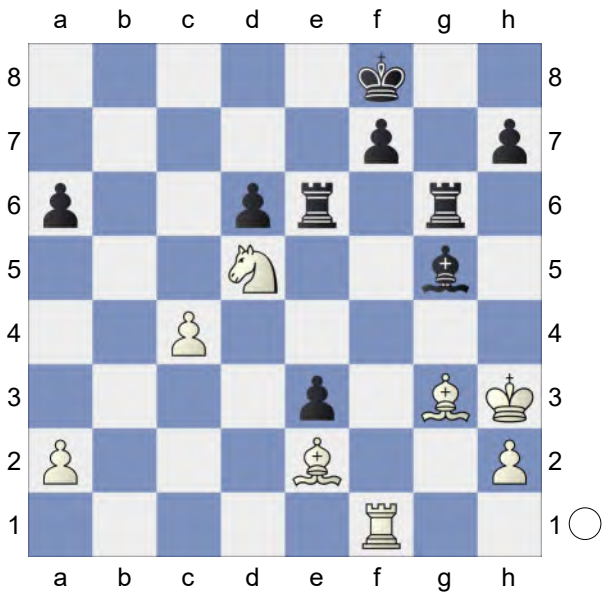
34...Bg5? 2.14/23 This costs Black the game.

[34...Rh6= 0.01/21 35.Bg4 Re5]

35.Bg3 e3 2.54/22

[⌓35...Rg7 1.66/21]

(Diagram)



36.Rb1+- Re4 37.Rb6 f5 38.Bxd6+ Ke8 2.50/21

[⌓38...Kf7 1.97/21 39.Rb7+ *(39.Rxa6? Rh4+ 40.Kg2 Bf4+ 41.Kf1 Bxd6-+)* 39...Ke6]

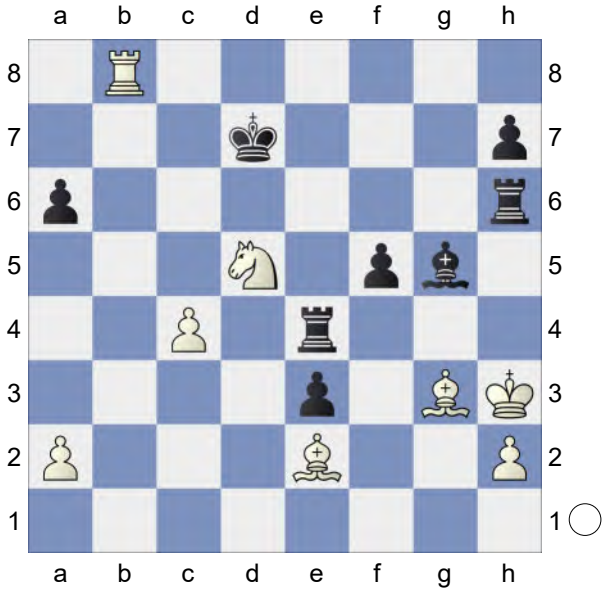
39.Rb8+

[Avoid the trap 39.Rxa6? Rh4+ 40.Kg2 Bf4+ 41.Kf1 Bxd6-+]

39...Kd7 2.70/21

[⌓39...Kf7 1.86/20 40.Bg3 Rge6]

40.Bg3 Rh6+



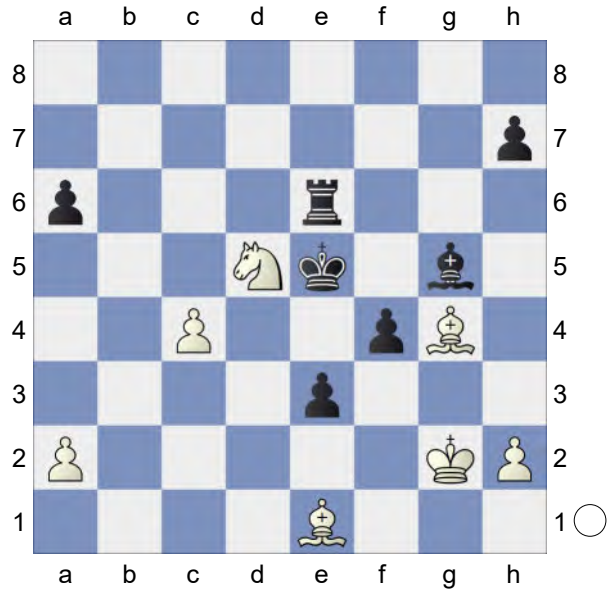
41.Kg2 f4 42.Be1 Ree6? 5.61/20

[42...Rd4 3.42/20 was necessary.

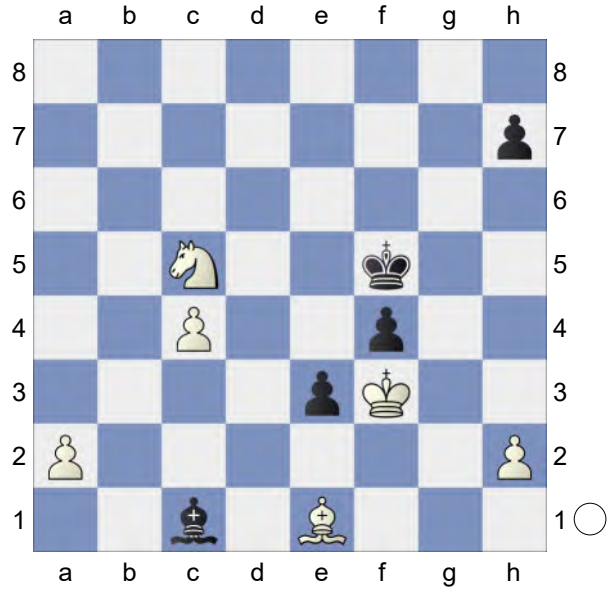
43.Bc3 Rd2]

43.Bg4 White is clearly winning.

43...Kd6 44.Rb6+ Ke5 45.Rxe6+ Rxe6

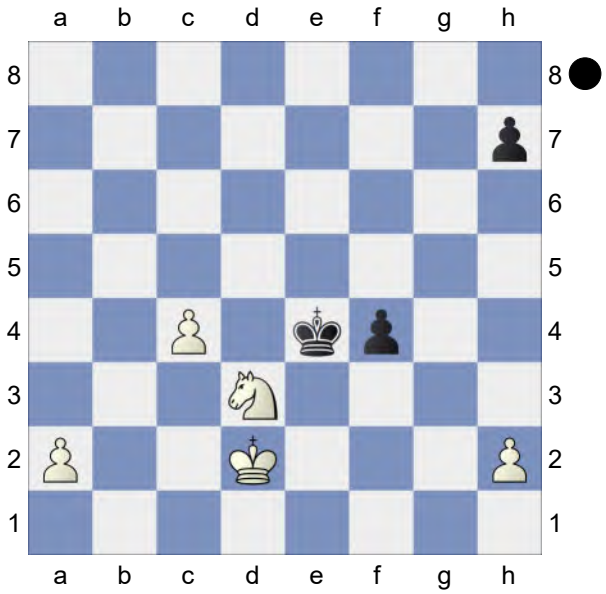


46.Bxe6 Kxe6 47.Kf3 Kf5 48.Nc7 Bf6 49.Nxa6 Bb2 50.Nc5 Bc1



51.Nd3 Bd2 52.Bxd2 exd2 53.Ke2 Ke4 54.Kxd2

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.22 (precise) /Black=0.45

1-0

168	**B38**
☐ **Budnikov,Oleg**	**2393**
■ **Zagorovskyi,Dmytro**	**0**
Kiev Blitz Marathon (53)	23.04.2023
[Kitty Kat]	

B38: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind with 5...Bg7 and 7...0-0

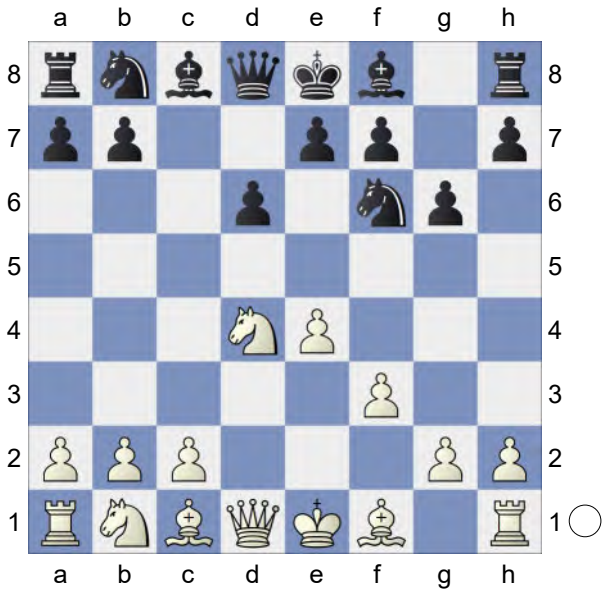
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 g6N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53))

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4*

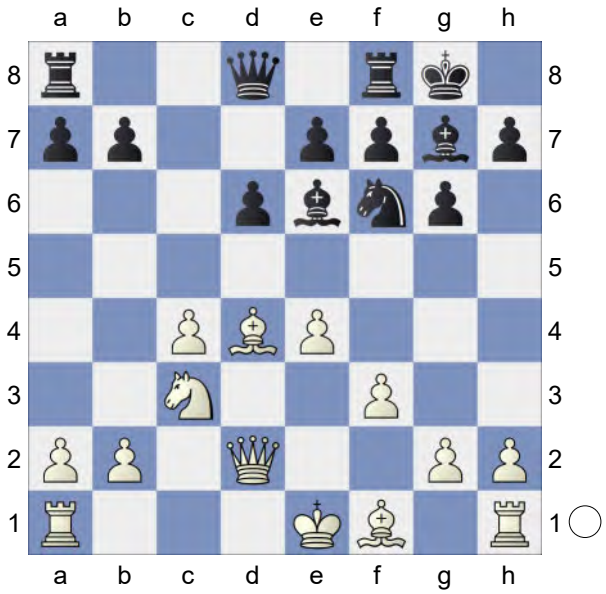
16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.c4 Bg7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 Nc6 9.Qd2 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Be6

(Diagram)

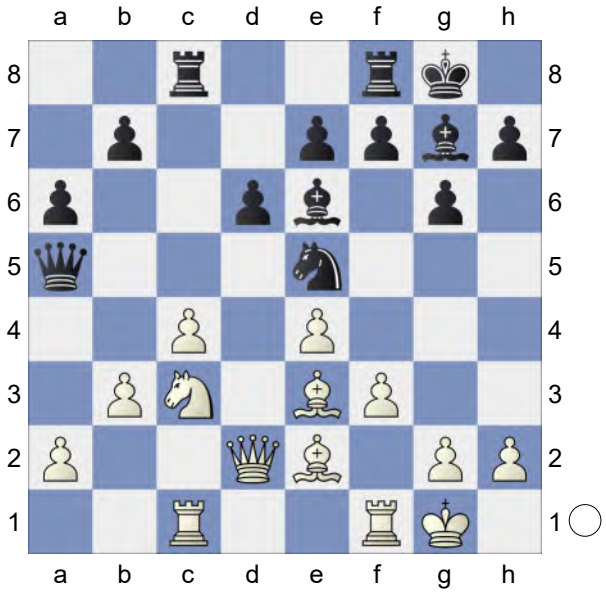


11.Rc1! outshines the older 11.Be2. erfolgreicher als das alte 11.Le2. **11...a6 12.b3 Rc8 13.Be2** White is slightly better. **13...Nd7 14.Be3 Ne5N**

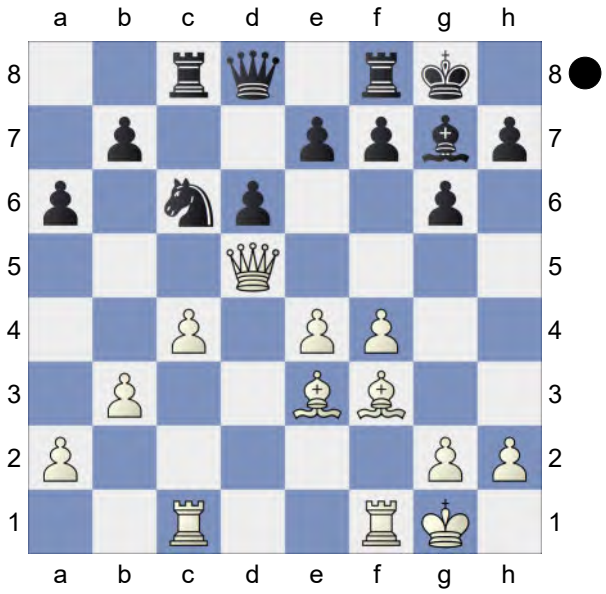
[Vorgänger: 14...Qa5 15.Nd5 Qxd2+ 16.Kxd2 Bxd5 17.cxd5 Bb2 18.Rxc8 Rxc8 19.Rb1 Bc3+ 20.Kd1! Threatens to win with Rc1. Be5 1-0 (45) Forgacs,A (2227)-Fajdetic,H (2151) Chess.com INT 2023]

15.0-0 Qa5 0.99/19

[15...Nd7± 0.67/18]

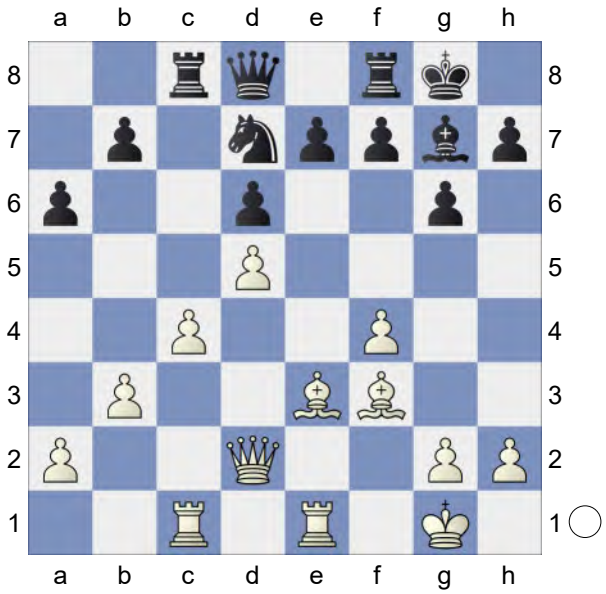


16.Nd5± Qd8 17.f4 Nc6 1.58/19
[⌓17...Nd7 0.85/19]
18.Bf3 1.13/19
[⌓18.Nb6 1.58/19]
18...Bxd5 1.56/22
[⌓18...Nb8 1.13/19]
19.exd5 1.04/20
[Inferior is 19.Qxd5

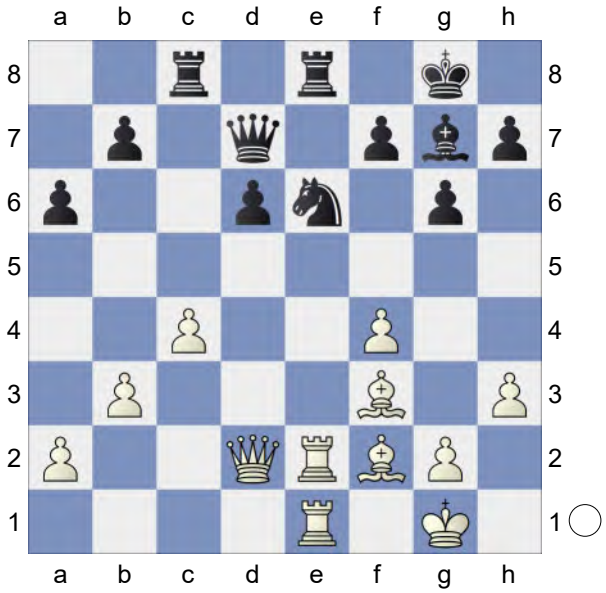


Bd4! 20.Bxd4 e6=]
[White should play 19.cxd5 1.56/22 Nb8 20.Bg4]
19...Nb8 **20.Rfe1**
0x0.00209a826646dp-1022s more active pieces. The black rooks are badly placed. **20...Nd7**

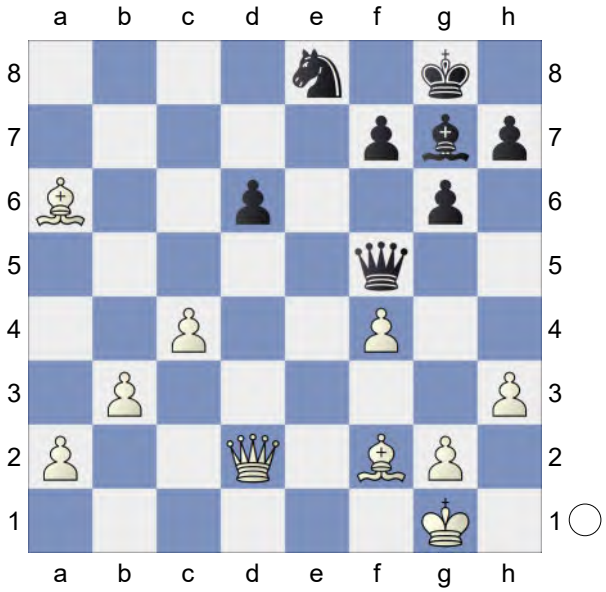
(Diagram)



21.Bf2↑ White has good play. **21...Nc5** 1.42/19
[21...b5± 0.69/19]
22.Re2 0.86/19
[⌓22.b4 1.42/19 Na4 23.c5]
22...Qd7 1.45/20
[⌓22...b6 0.86/19]
23.Rce1 0.68/20
[White should try 23.b4± 1.45/20 Na4 24.c5]
23...Rfe8± 24.h3 e5 1.68/21
[24...b5± 0.78/20]
25.dxe6 Nxe6

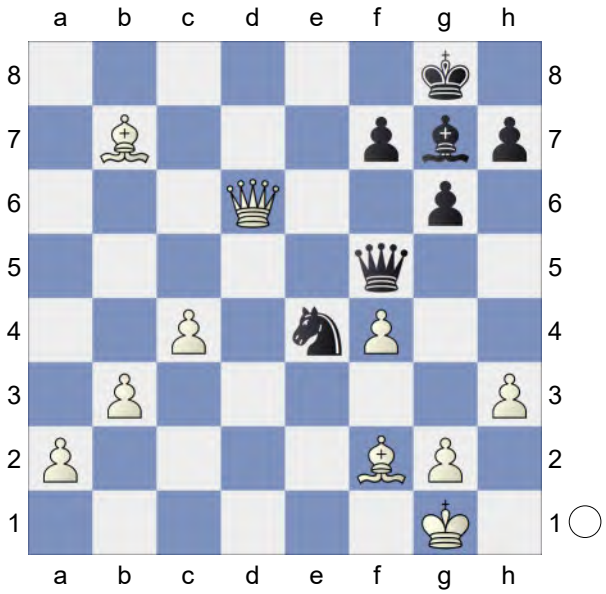


26.Bd5 0.73/19
[Better is 26.Re4 1.35/19]
26...Nc7 2.23/21 Black cannot hold the game after this.
[26...b5± 0.73/19 was called for.]
27.Bxb7+- This bishop pair is nice.
27...Rxe2 28.Rxe2
[Resist 28.Qxe2 Re8 29.Qd2 Rxe1+ 30.Bxe1 Ne6]
28...Re8 29.Rxe8+ Nxe8 30.Bxa6 Qf5

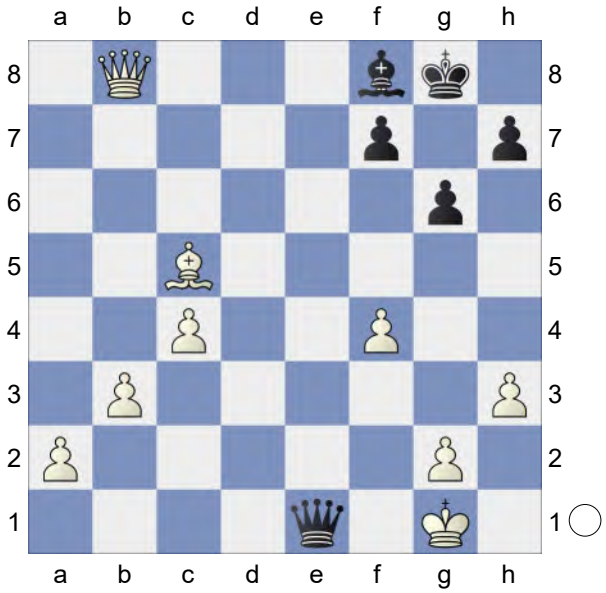


31.Bb7 Nf6 32.Qxd6 Ne4? 12.49/22
[32...h5 3.88/20 33.c5 h4 34.Bxh4 Nh5]

(Diagram)

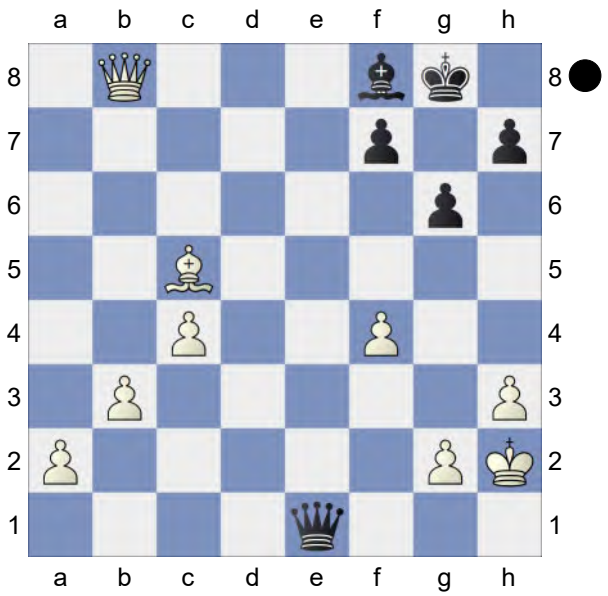


33.Qb8+ Bf8 34.Bxe4 Qxe4 35.Bc5 Qe1+



36.Kh2

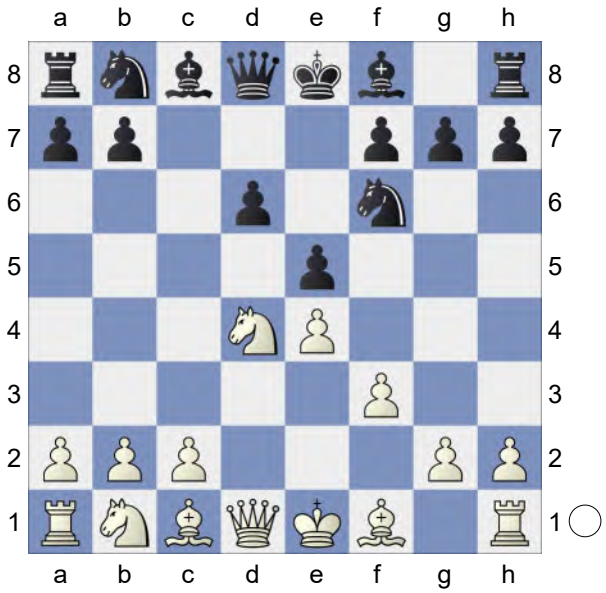
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.75
1-0

169 **B55**
□ **Maltsevskaya,Aleksandra** **2388**
■ **Fernandez,Daniel** **2498**
European Ch 03.2023
[Daniel Fernandez]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 dxe4?! 0.59/18
Opting for simplicity over correctness.
[7...d4 is much more theoretically defensible, but I couldn't remember subtleties of the line 8.c3 Nc6 9.cxd4 Bb4+ 10.Bd2 Nxe4 . Perhaps why I

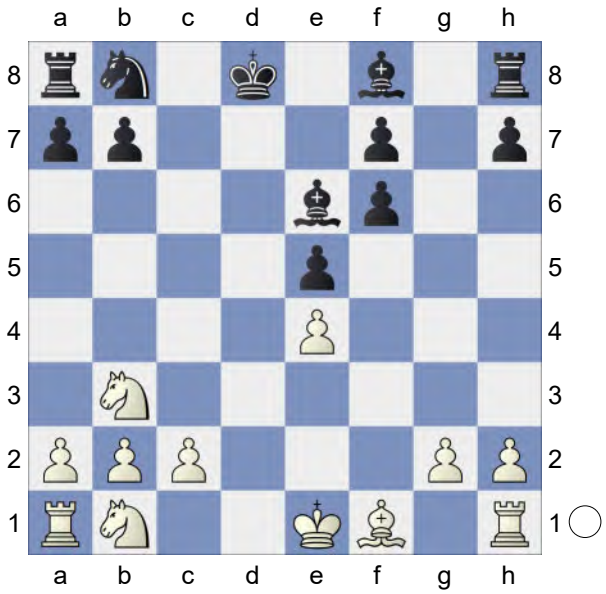
am not a chess professional!]
[7...d4= 0.09/19]

8.Qxd8+± Kxd8 9.Bxf6+ 0.04/20
[9.Nc3! By getting this in first, White makes sure ...Bb4 doesn't accomplish much. Be6 I would still have played this move, most likely. *(9...exf3 10.0-0-0+ Bd7 11.gxf3± This is known to be pretty dangerous for Black.)* 10.0-0-0+ Kc7 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.fxe4 Nd7 *(12...h5* returns to the game.*)* 13.Nd5+ Bxd5 14.Rxd5±]
[9.Nc3!± 0.57/20]

9...gxf6= 10.fxe4 It is not so simple to create winning chances in positions like this, but I had a stab at it.
[10.Nc3 accomplishes a bit less now, because the bishop was a useful attacking piece. Black doesn't need to fear for their life after exf3 11.0-0-0+ Bd7 12.gxf3 Kc8= when White has compensation, but nothing more.]

10...Be6?! 0.55/18
[10...Bb4+! interrupts White's development enough to be annoying. Basically, the knight cannot stay on c3 and this means my king will feel much happier on c7. Black has instant equality after 11.c3 Bf8⇄ .]
[10...Kc7= -0.03/18]

(Diagram)



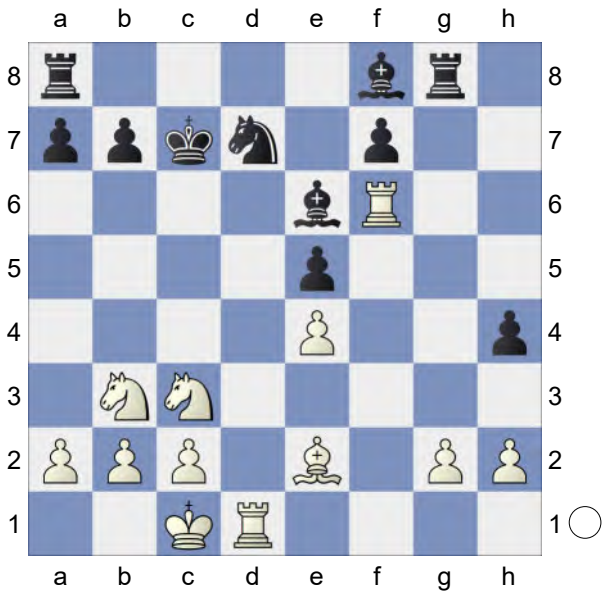
11.Nc3± h5!? Rather than rush with piece development I decided to push to h4 to catalyse either ...Bf4 or ...Rg8 in future. **12.0-0-0+ Kc7 13.Be2**
[One opening point from this game is that even if Black gets fancy, White doesn't need to. Optimal is still 13.Nd5+ Bxd5 14.Rxd5 with a light square bind.]

13...h4 14.Rhf1 Rg8?! Objectively maybe not so bad, but it is definitely a bluff of sorts.
[14...Nd7 15.Nd5+ Bxd5 16.exd5±]

15.Rxf6? 0.01/23 It is of course highly tempting to take a pawn, especially if you feel your opponent won't respond in kind, but White had better.
[15.Nd5+ Bxd5 16.exd5 Rxg2 17.d6+!±]
[15.Nd5+± 0.70/20 Bxd5 16.Rxd5]

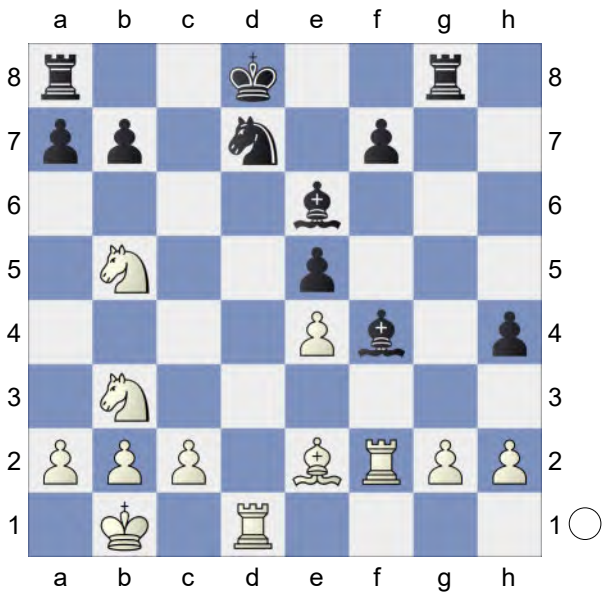
15...Nd7 0.60/19
[15...Rxg2 is the consistent follow-up of the previous move, but I assessed that Black has close to zero winning chances in the line: 16.Nd5+ Bxd5 17.Rxd5 Be7 18.Rxf7 Nc6 19.Bb5 Rf8 20.Rxf8 Bxf8 21.Bxc6 Bh6+ 22.Kd1 bxc6 23.Rxe5 Rxh2 24.Rh5

Be3=]
[15...Rxg2= 0.01/23 16.Nd5+ Kc8]



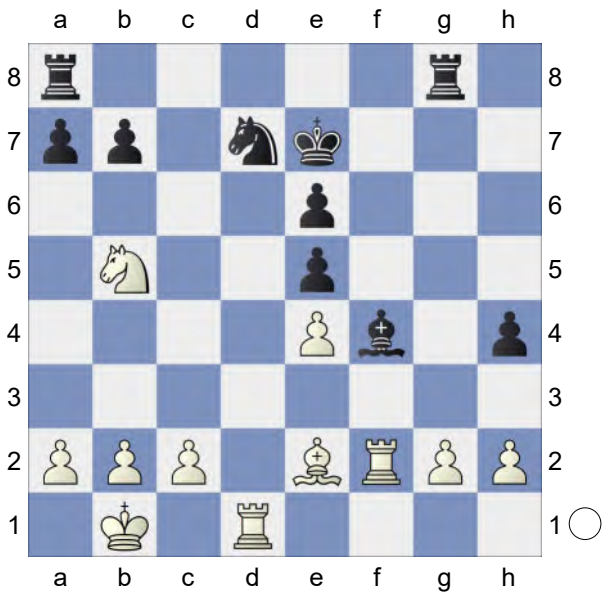
16.Nb5+ Pair of Knights! **16...Kd8**
17.Rf2 &Bianco is much more active. The black rooks are badly placed.
17...Bh6+
[17...a6 was also an interesting way to play. 18.Nd6 Kc7 *(18...Bxd6!? 19.Rxd6 Ke7 20.Rd3 b5)* 19.Nxf7 0.01/21 *(19.Nf5± 0.43/21)* 19...Be7!⇄]
18.Kb1 Bf4 1.13/20
[⌓18...Be3 0.80/20 19.Rf3 Bb6]

(Diagram)



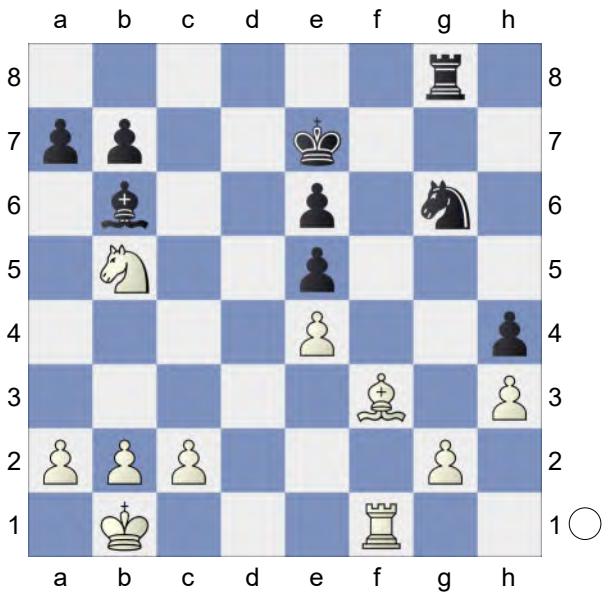
19.Nc5 0.51/22 One of two logical ways to activate the knight and question the f4-bishop.
[19.N3d4! is a much better implementation.]
[19.N3d4!± 1.13/20 Ke7 *(19...Rb8 20.g3)* 20.Nc7!]
19...Ke7 I am lucky to be able to play this. **20.Nxe6**
[20.Nxd7 0.32/23 20.Nxb7 0.80 Rad8! is my point, and if 21.Nc5 -0.55/21 *(*Better is *21.Nc7!±* 0.39/22 *)* 21...Rxd1+∓ 22.Bxd1 Be3 Black isn't worse.]
20...fxe6

(Diagram)



21.h3 Be3 22.Rf3 Bb6⩲ Despite the apparently poor structure Black has full compensation due to the well centralised pieces and the kingside bind.
23.Rdf1 0.01/17
[23.Nd6 Rf7+ would kill now. Bd4 24.Nxb7 Rxg2∞]
[23.Rfd3± 0.41/22 Nc5 24.R3d2]
23...Raf8= 24.Rxf8 Nxf8 25.Bf3⇄ White has counterplay
[25.Bg4!= Now White maintains the balance easily. Later, it becomes more difficult.]
25...Ng6

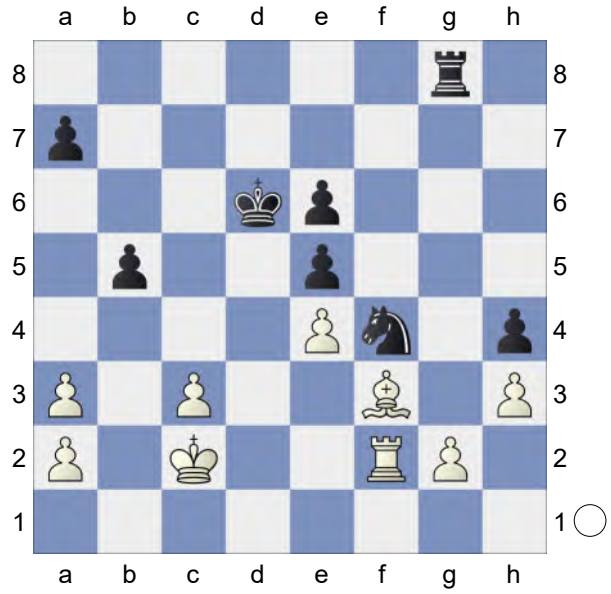
(Diagram)



26.Na3 Bc5 27.c3? Allowing a ghastly weakening of the queenside pawns as well.
[27.Nc4 b5 28.Nd2 Nf4 29.c3 Be3 30.Rd1! Nxg2 31.Bxg2 Rxg2 32.Nf3 Rg3 -0.02/25 *(Black should try 32...Bf4∓* -0.55/21 *)* 33.Nxh4!]
27...Bxa3 28.bxa3∓ Endgame KRB-KRN **28...Nf4 29.Rf2?!** -0.65/26 White's last inaccuracy in this game, but one that could have given me serious winning chances even a pawn down.
[29.Rg1! Nd3 30.Kc2 -0.58/26 *(30.a4!=* -0.19/23 is more appropriate.) 30...Nc5!∓ 31.Kd2∓ is defensible.]
[29.Rg1= -0.11/24]
29...b5? -0.01/24 Missing the chance. It really isn't clear what Black should improve first: rook, king, knight or queenside structure. Unfortunately only one way offers very serious winning chances.
[29...Nd3! 30.Re2 To prevent ...Ne1. Nc5∓ White is in huge trouble, Black's king is just strolling in along the dark squares and White has barely any counterplay.]

[29...Nd3∓ -0.65/26 30.Rd2 Nc5]

30.Kc2= Kd6



31.Kb3 Kc5 32.Rd2 Rg3 33.Rd7 -0.41/25

[33.Rd8= -0.01/23 is superior.]

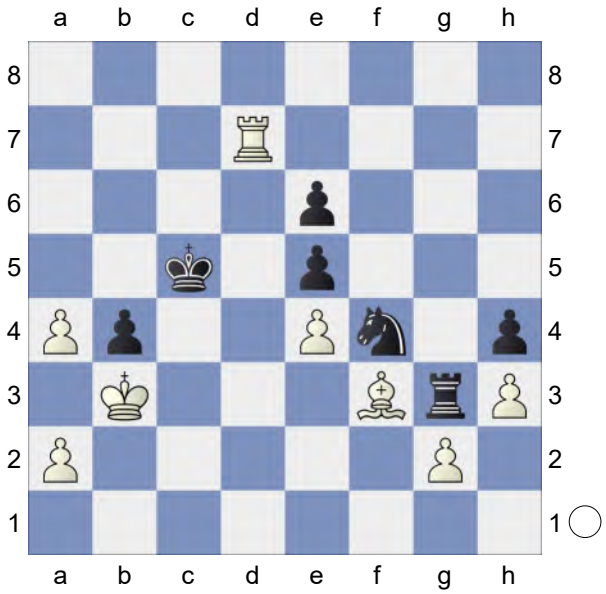
33...a5∓ 34.a4! b4 0.52/24

[34...Nxg2!? There was some potential to keep playing for a win here. 35.Bxg2 *(35.Bg4?? -2.27/22* 35.Bxg2 -0.47 *b4)* 35...bxa4+ 36.Kxa4 Rxg2 37.a3 -0.83/24 *(37.Rc7+ Kd6; 37.Rc7+∓* -0.51/26 *Kd6 38.Rh7)* 37...Re2∓ 38.Kb3 Rxe4 39.a4 Re3 40.Ra7 Kd5 -0.49/22 *(40...Rxh3∓* -1.05/22 Threatens to win with ...Rh1. *41.Rxa5+ Kd6 42.Ra6+ Kd5 43.Ra5+ Ke4)* 41.Rxa5+∓ Ke4 42.Ra6 Rxh3 -0.33/20 *(42...Kf5∓* -0.71/22 *43.Rd6 Rxh3)* 43.Rxe6=]

[Black should play 34...Nxg2∓ -0.40/26 35.Bxg2 bxa4+ 36.Kxa4 Rxg2 37.Rc7+ Kd6]

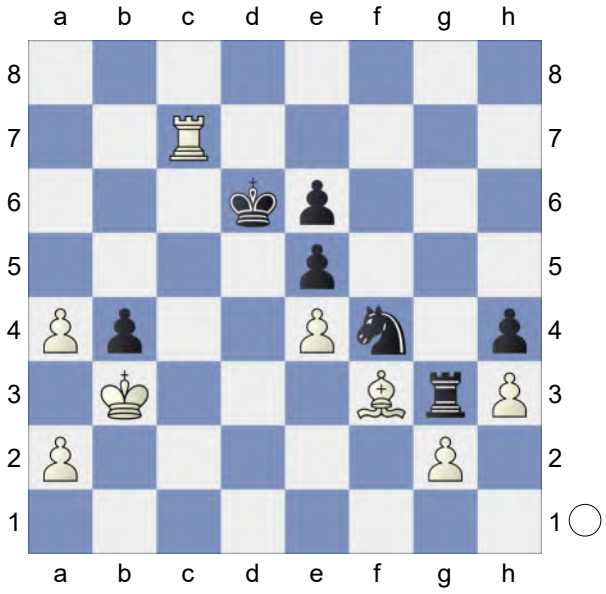
35.cxb4+± axb4

(Diagram)



36.Rc7+ Kd6?! 0.99/27

[36...Kb6± 0.59/26 37.Rc2 Nxh3]



Creating losing chances, which thankfully my opponent doesn't capitalise on. **37.Rf7** -0.01/22

[37.Rc2! Nxg2 38.Rxg2 Rxf3+ 39.Kxb4 Rxh3 1.51/24 *(⌓39...Kc6* 1.14/22 *)* 40.Rc2! causes Black to have some fear.]

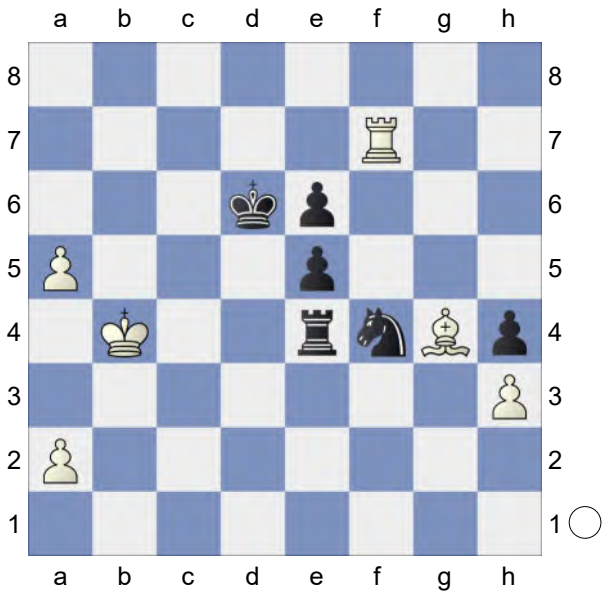
[37.Rc2± 0.99/27]

37...Nxg2 The position is equal.

38.Kxb4 Nf4 39.Bg4 Re3

[But not 39...Nxh3 40.Bxh3 Rxh3 41.a5±]

40.a5 Rxe4+



41.Kb5 Nd5! 42.a3 Against Rb4+. And now a6 would win. **42...Nc3+** There were ways to continue, but I sensed enough danger of defeat that I didn't feel like it anymore.

[42...Nc7+!? 43.Kb6 Re1 0.73/23 *(43...Nd5+=* -0.01/22 *44.Kb7 Re1)* 44.a6± Rb1+ 45.Ka5 Hoping for a7. *(45.Ka7* -0.24/20 45.Ka5 0.70*)* 45...Rb5+ 46.Ka4 Rb6 47.Be2! aiming for a7. Nxa6 48.Ka5 Rb3 49.Kxa6 Strongly threatening Rf3. Rxa3+ 50.Kb5 Black must now prevent Bg4. Rxh3 51.Kc4=]

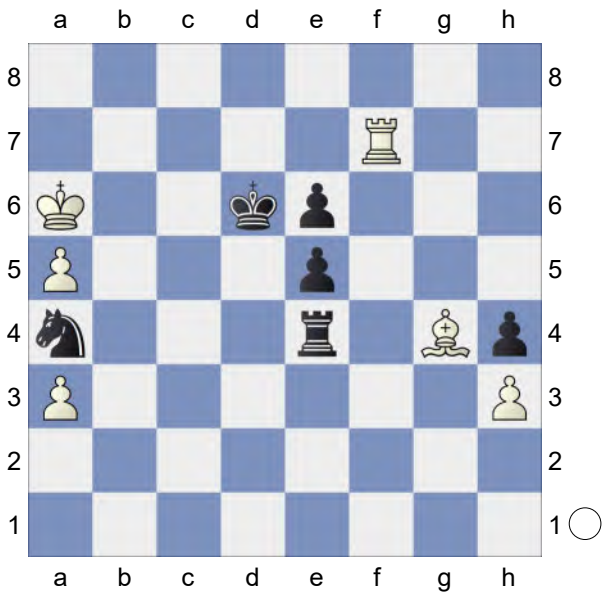
[42...Re3 is the other logical way of playing on.]

43.Ka6 Na4 44.Kb5

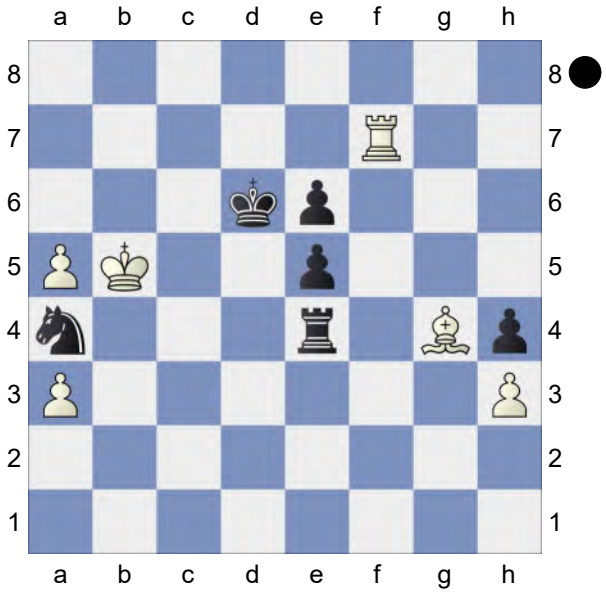
[44.Ka7?! -0.39/21 44.Rf8 0.01 Re3↑ -0.01/19 *(44...Nc5!∓* -0.39/21 *)*]

44...Nc3+ 45.Ka6 Na4

(Diagram)



46.Kb5



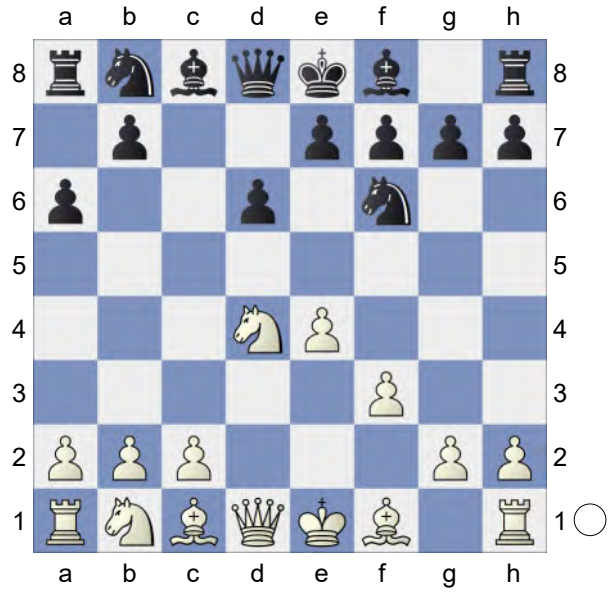
Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.19 (very precise)

½-½

170 **B55**
□ **Boci,Mateo** **2312**
■ **Bacrot,Etienne** **2640**
Titled Tuesday intern op 04th Feb Early ..
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6



6.c4 g6N

[6...e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7

A) 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 *(14...Nfd7 15.b3 Nxb6 16.Rfc1 Re8 17.Nc2 Ned7 18.Bf1 Bf6 19.Bd4 Bg5 20.Be3 Bf6 21.Bd4 Bg5 22.Be3 Be7 23.Bd4 h5 24.Qf2 Bh4 25.g3 Bf6 26.Rd1 d5 27.exd5 exd5 28.Nxd5 Nxd5 29.cxd5* Flores Quillas,D (2200)-Lu,M (2442) Pereira 2022 1-0 (67)) 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13. ♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson];

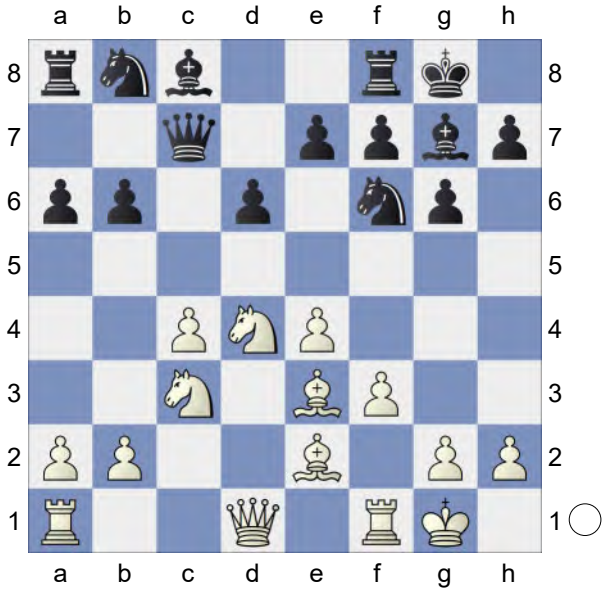
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 *(16...Bc7 17.Nde2 Kh8 18.Bd4 Bc6 19.Be3 Ne5 20.b3 h6 21.Nd4 Bb7 22.Be2 Ng6 23.Qg1 Rfe8 24.Nc2 d5 25.exd5 exd5 26.Bxb6 Bf4 27.Rb1 Nh5 28.Bf1 Re5 29.Ne2 Rxe2 30.Bxe2 Qe5 31.Bd3* Bezgodov,A (2546)-Alavkin,A (2471) Saint Petersburg 92/278 2004 CI1-130 [Bezgodov, Alexei] ½-½ (40) *)* 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Ba8 21.Rb1 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein, Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Be3 Qc7!?

Leaves trodden paths.Verlässt die ausgetretenen Pfade. **9.Be2** White is slightly better.

[9.Nd5 keeps more tension. Qd8 10.Qd2 0-0 11.Be2]

9...0-0 10.0-0 b6



11.Rc1 e6 12.b3N

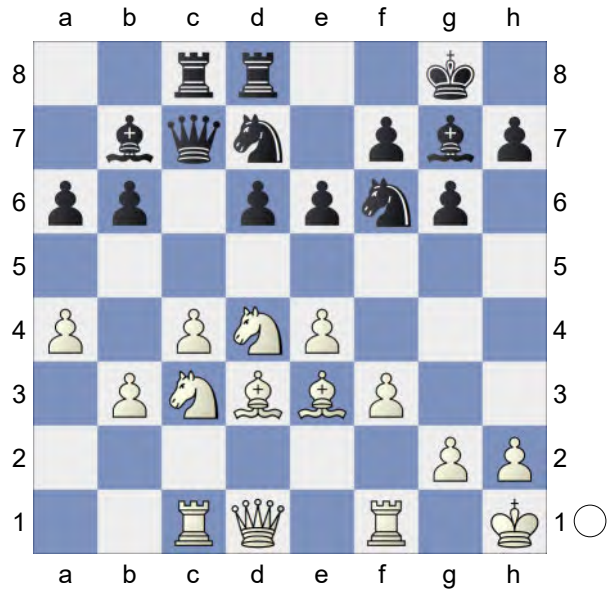
[12.b4 Nbd7 13.Qd2 Rd8 14.Rfd1 Bb7 15.Nb3 Ne8 16.Bf1 0.59/19

(16.a4± 0.94/17) 16...Rab8 1.09/20 *(*Better is *16...Qc6± 0.59/19)* 17.a4± Ba8 18.Qf2 0.45/18 1-0 Teodoro,E (2215)-Morrison,R (2330) Ontario op 1993 (2) *(18.Rb1± 0.80/17)*]

12...Bb7 13.a4 Nbd7 14.Kh1 Rfd8 15.Bd3 -0.13/19

[15.Qd2 0.20/16 was preferrable.]

15...Rac8



16.Bb1 Qb8 17.Qe2 Re8 18.f4 -0.89/21

[18.Qd2= -0.22/20]

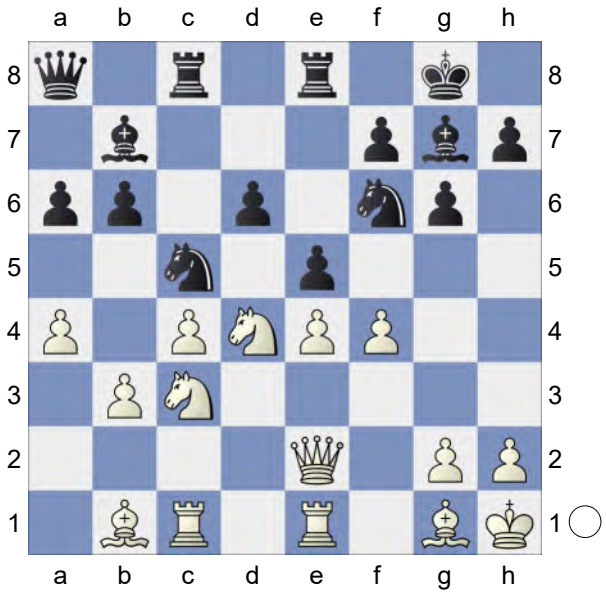
18...Qa8 19.Bg1 Nc5 20.Rfe1 -0.82/21

[20.e5∓ -0.49/19 dxe5 21.fxe5]

20...e5

[20...Nh5 is interesting. 21.b4 Bxd4 22.Bxd4 Nb3]

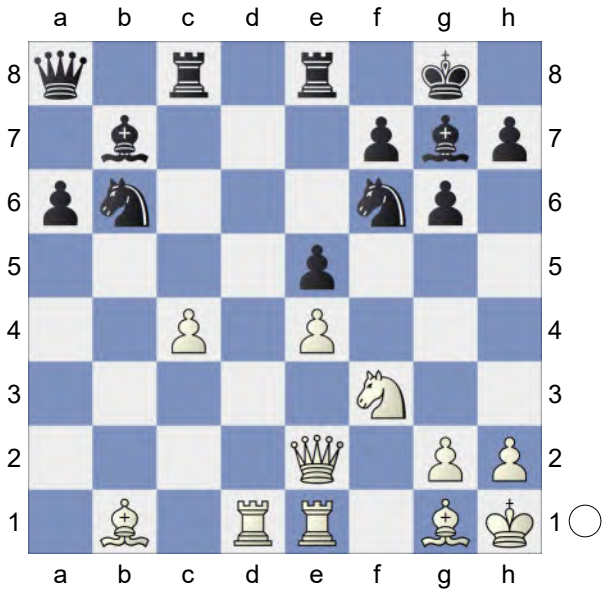
(Diagram)



21.fxe5 dxe5 22.Nf3 Nxb3 Threatens to win with ...b5. **23.Rcd1 Nc5** &Nero is more active. **24.Nd5** -1.45/19

[24.Bc2∓ -0.61/17]

24...Nxa4 aiming for ...Bxd5. **25.Nxb6 Nxb6**



26.Bxb6 Nh5 -0.33/18

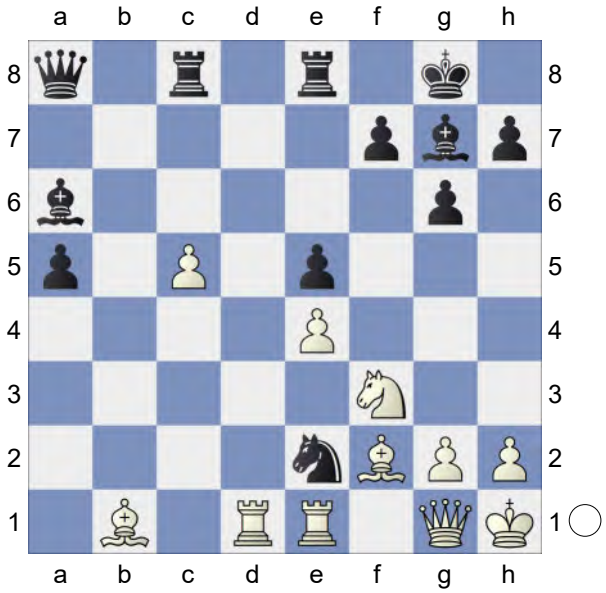
[Black should try 26...Bf8∓ -1.25/19 White must now prevent ...a5. 27.Nd2 a5]

27.Bf2 -1.24/18

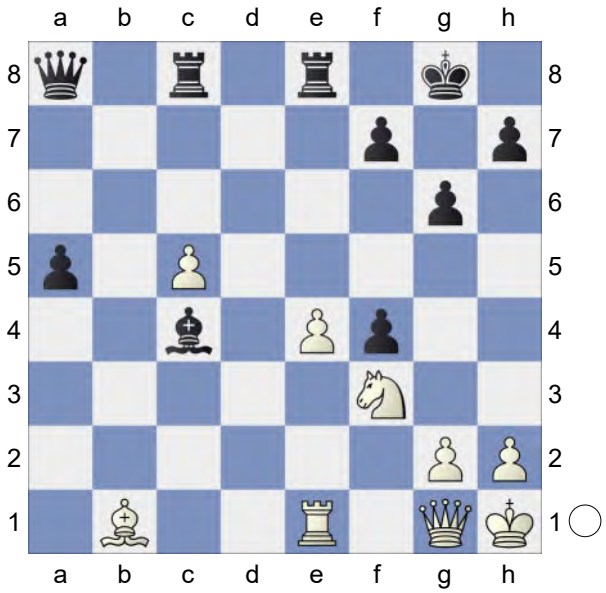
[27.Ba2∓ -0.33/18]

27...Nf4 28.Qf1 a5↑ White is under

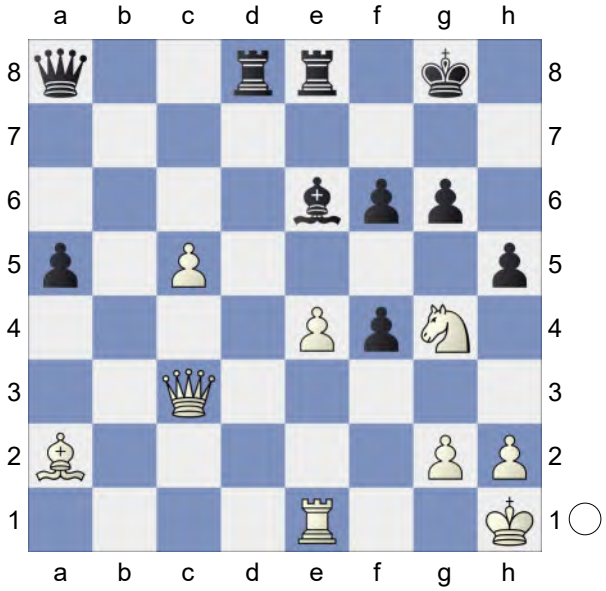
strong pressure. **29.c5?** -3.26/18
[29.Be3∓ -1.18/18]
29...Ba6-+ 30.Qg1 Ne2



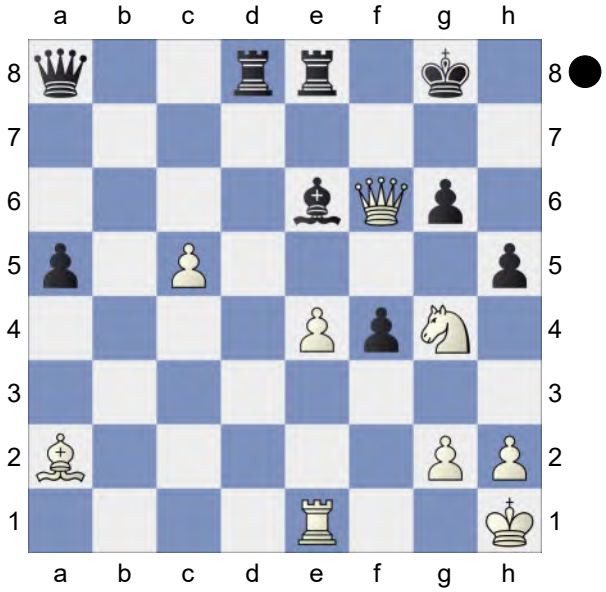
31.Rxe2 Bxe2 32.Rc1 Bh6 33.Re1 -4.74/21
[⌓33.Be3 -3.26/20 Bxf3 34.gxf3 Bxe3 35.Qxe3]
33...Bc4 34.Bg3 Bf4 35.Bxf4 exf4



36.Qd4 Bb3 37.Ne5 -4.21/21
Inhibits Qc6.
[37.Qc3 -2.97/20 was necessary. a4 38.h4]
37...Be6 38.Ba2 -6.08/22
[⌓38.Nd3 -3.82/17]
38...Rcd8 39.Qc3 f6? 0.01/20
[39...Bxa2-+ -5.45/19 40.Ng4 Re6]
40.Ng4!= h5 0.60/21
[40...Bxa2= 0.06/22 41.Qxf6 h5 42.Qxg6+ Kf8 43.Qh6+ Ke7 44.Qg7+ Ke6 45.Qe5+ Kd7 46.Nf6+ Kc6]

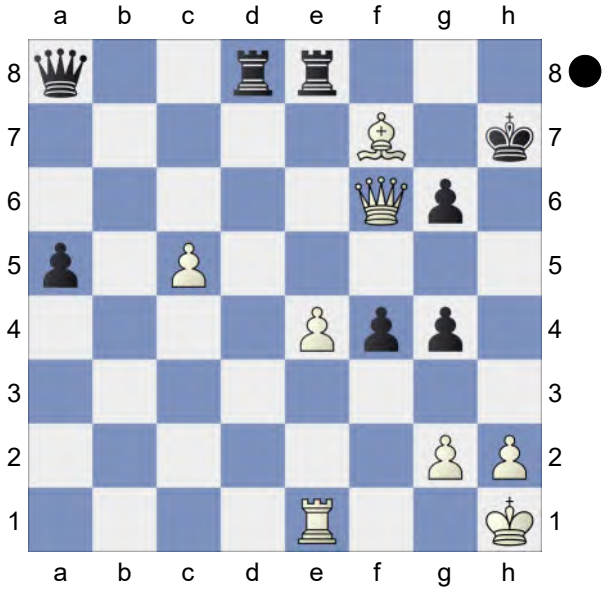


41.Qxf6 -0.64/23

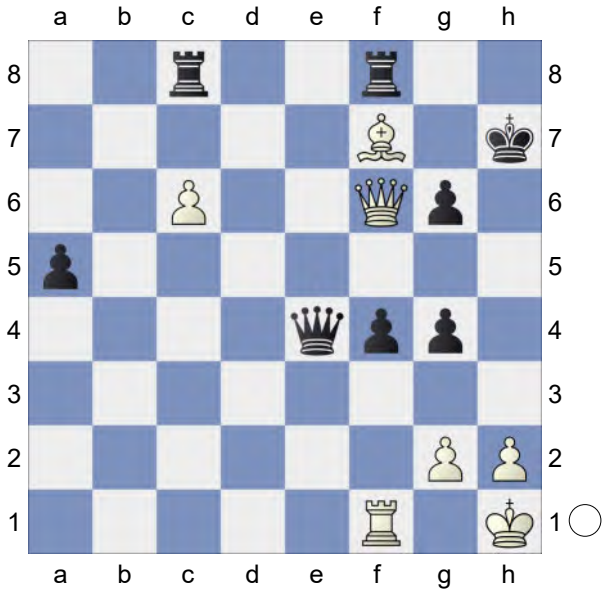


Kh7? 1.09/24 **42.Bxe6±**
White threatens Qf7+ and mate.
42...hxg4 43.Bf7? -1.60/22

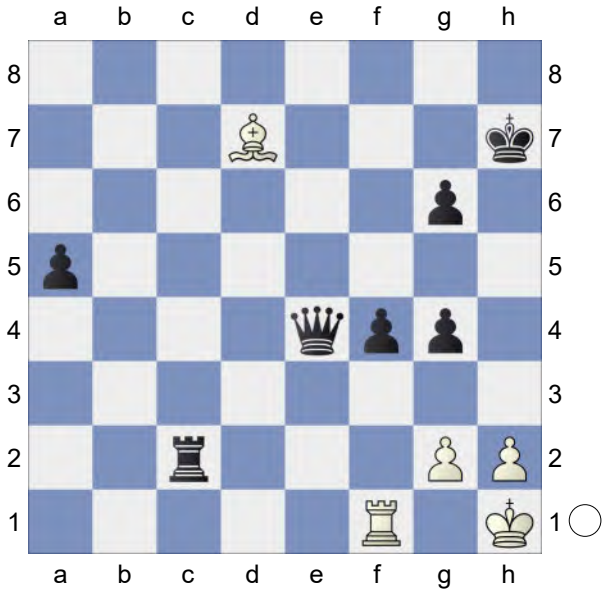
[Much worse is 43.Bxg4?! Rxe4 44.Rg1 *(44.Qh4+ Kg7∓)* 44...Rf8 45.Qh4+ Kg7=]
[43.c6!± 1.42/20 Hoping for Bf7. Rd6 44.Bg8+! Rxg8 45.Qxd6]



43...Qxe4!∓ 44.Rf1 -5.87/23
[44.Qh4+∓ -1.39/21 was the crucial defense. Kg7 45.Bxe8]
44...Rf8-+ 45.c6 Rc8 -0.01/23
[Black should play 45...f3-+ -6.29/24 46.gxf3 gxf3]



46.Be6? -#8/18 **Rxf6** Black mates.
47.Bxc8 Rxc6 48.Bd7 Rc2



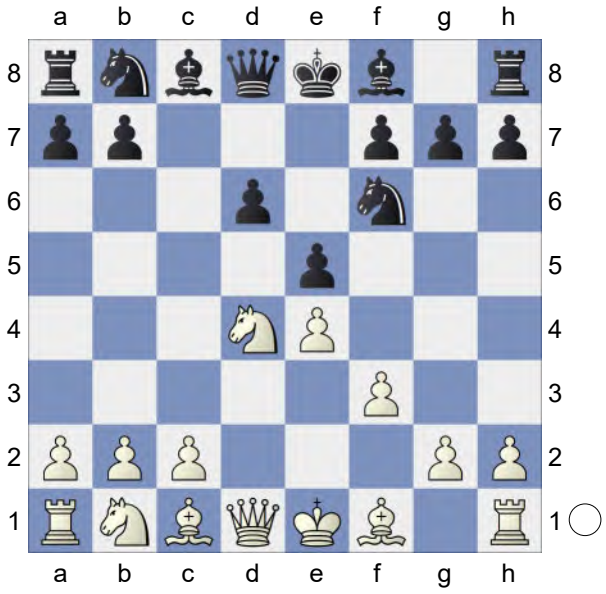
Weighted Error Value: White=0.77/ Black=0.48
0-1

171 **B55**
□ **Boci,Mateo** **2312**
■ **Daskevics,Vadims** **2445**
Titled Tuesday intern op 28th Jan Early b..
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53))

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

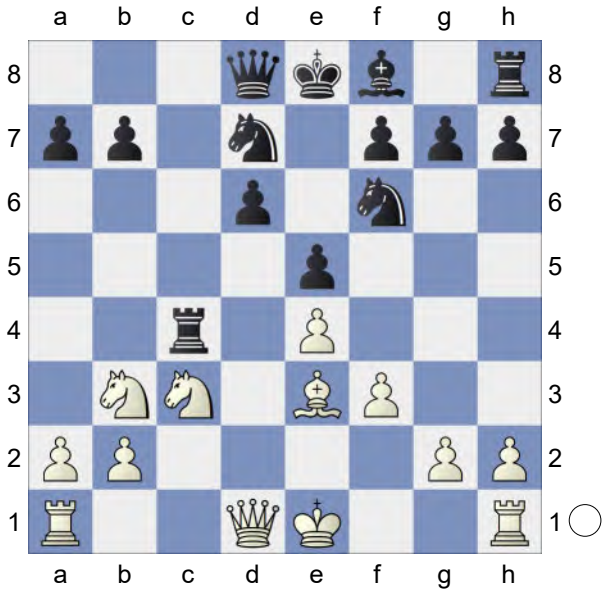
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 Nbd7

[Don't play 7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]

8.Nc3 Rc8 9.Be3! 9.Be3 scores better than 9.Nd5.9.Le3 punktet besser als 9.Sd5. **9...Bxc4 10.Bxc4** White has an edge. **10...Rxc4**



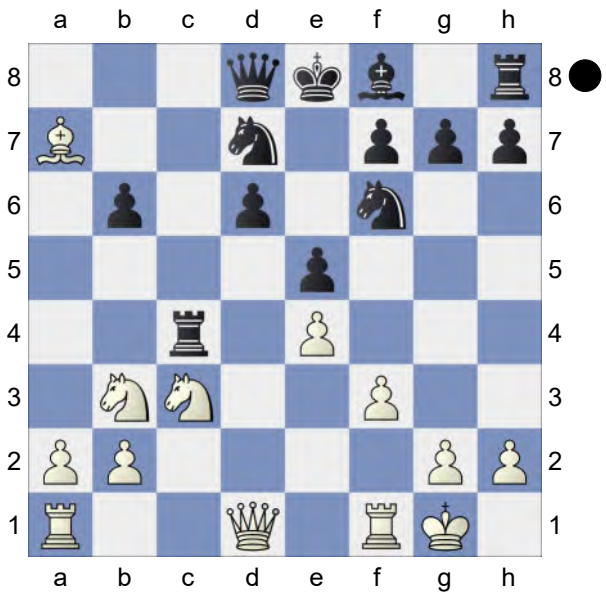
11.Bxa7 -0.90/22

[11.Qd3± 0.37/18 keeps the upper hand. Rc8 12.Bxa7]

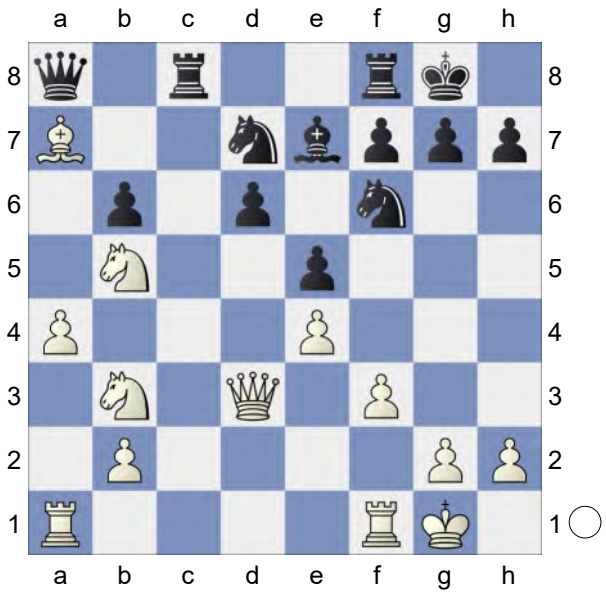
11...b6 12.0-0N

[12.Qd3 Rc7 -0.15/21 *(12...Rb4∓* -0.59/20 *)* 13.Qa6 -0.59/22 *(13.Nb5=* -0.15/21 deserves consideration. *Rb7 14.Qc3)* 13...Qa8!∓ 14.Nb5 Rc6 15.Rc1 Rxc1+! 16.Nxc1 Hoping for Nc7+. Qc6 Inhibits Nc7+. 17.0-0 -1.40/23 *(⌓17.Nc3* -0.84/21 *)* 17...d5∓ 18.exd5 Nxd5 -1.03/21 ½-½ Abdulov,O (2405)-Ivic,V (2510) TUR-chT 1st League 2019 (1.4) *(⌓18...Bc5+* -1.34/21 *19.Kh1 Nxd5)*]

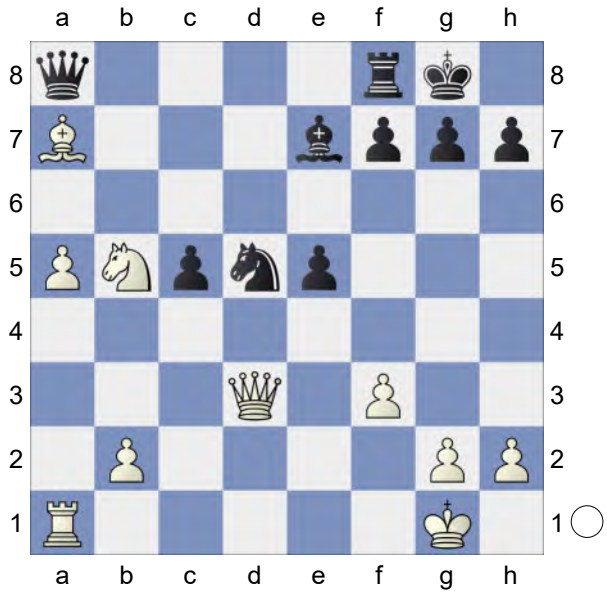
(Diagram)



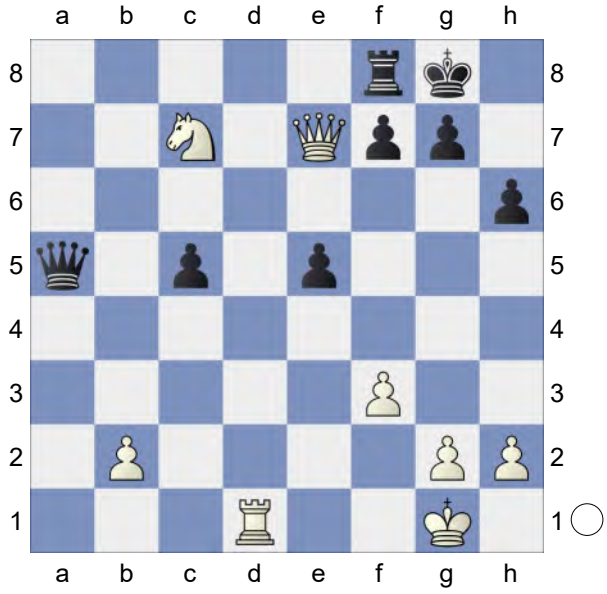
12...Qa8 -0.35/20
[12...Rxc3!∓ -0.86/20 13.bxc3 Qc7 14.Bxb6 Qxb6+ 15.Kh1 Be7]
13.Nb5∓ Be7 14.Qd3 Rc8 15.a4 0-0!



16.Rfc1 -0.70/20
[⩲16.a5 -0.36/19 d5 17.exd5]
16...Nc5 -0.14/22
[Black should try 16...d5∓ -0.70/20 17.exd5 Nxd5]
17.Nxc5= Rxc5 0.85/21
[17...dxc5= -0.01/21 18.a5 *(18.Bxb6 Qa6∓)* 18...bxa5]
18.Rxc5 bxc5 19.a5 d5 20.exd5 Nxd5

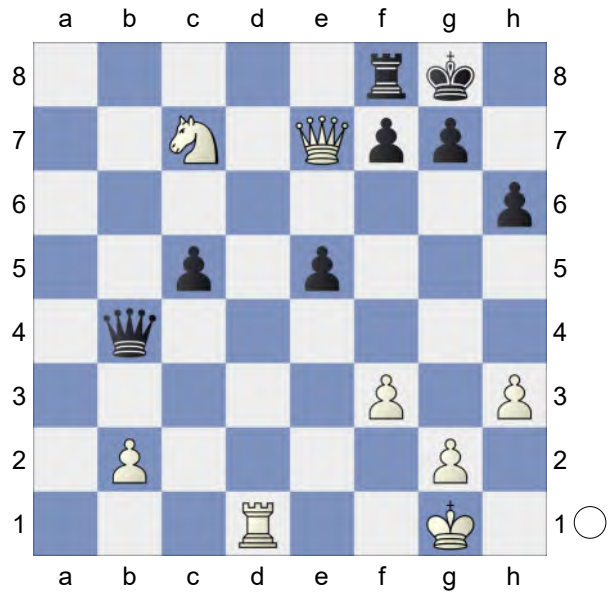


21.Rd1 Nc7 Threatens to win with ... Rd8. **22.Nxc7?** -0.95/20 &Bianco is much more active.
[22.Bb6± 1.12/23 and life is bright. Rd8 23.Qf1 Rxd1 24.Qxd1]
22...Qxa7∓ 23.Qd7 Bd8 5.00/23 This costs Black the game.
[23...c4+!∓ -0.81/22 keeps the pressure on. 24.Kh1 Bc5]
24.Qxd8+- Qxa5 25.Qe7 h6

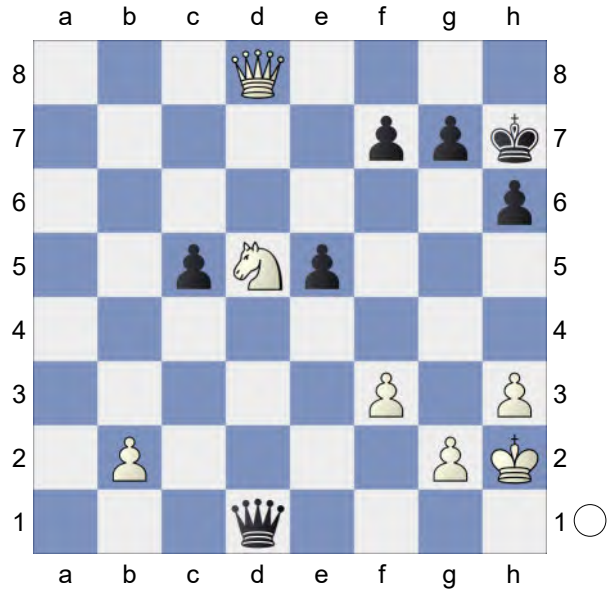


26.h3 Strongly threatening Ne6!
[But not 26.Qxe5 Qa4+-]

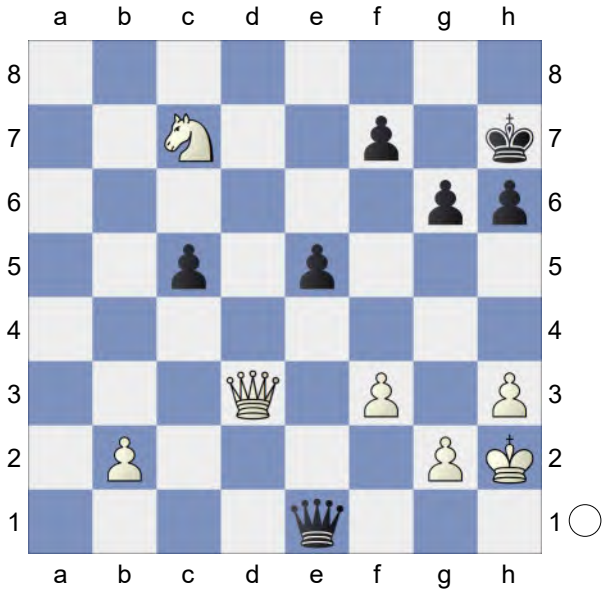
26...Qb4 9.80/23
[⌓26...e4 4.74/20 27.fxe4 Qb6]



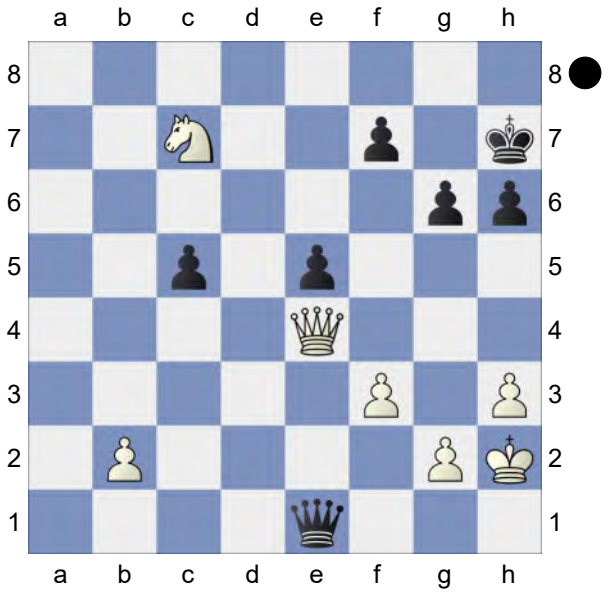
27.Rd8? 3.64/21
[27.Ne6! 9.80/23 fxe6 28.Rd7 Qd4+ 29.Rxd4 exd4 30.Qxc5]
27...Qe1+? 11.82/5
[27...Rxd8 3.64/21 28.Qxd8+ Kh7 29.Qd3+ Kg8]
28.Kh2 Rxd8 29.Qxd8+ Kh7 30.Qd3+ 5.47/22
[⌓30.Nd5 16.27/24 Intending Ne7 and mate. Qd1



31.Nf6+! gxf6 32.Qxd1]
30...g6



31.Qe4 6.52/22
[⌓31.Qd7 16.59/28 Kg8 32.Qd8+ Kh7 33.Qf8 Qh4 34.Qxf7+ Kh8 35.Ne6 Qf4+ 36.Nxf4]

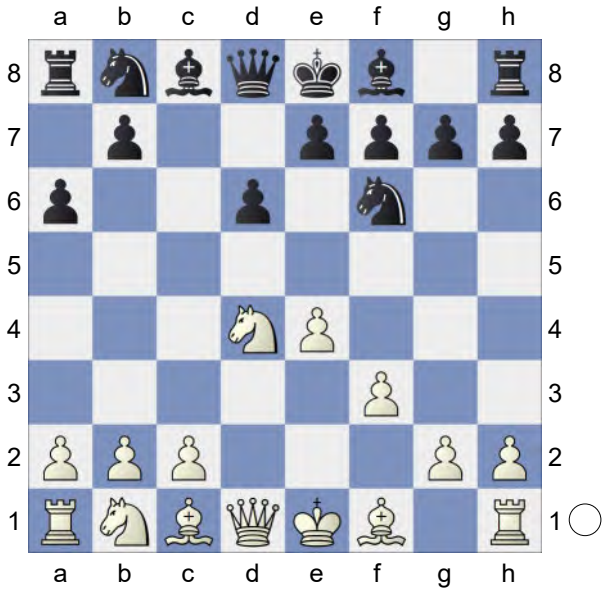


Weighted Error Value: White=0.69/ Black=0.70
1-0

172 **B38**
□ **Wiersma,Eelke** **2292**
■ **Idrizaj,Abedin** **2237**
EU-Cup 39th Vrnjacka Banja (3.5)
[Kitty Kat]

B38: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind with 5...Bg7 and 7...0-0

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6



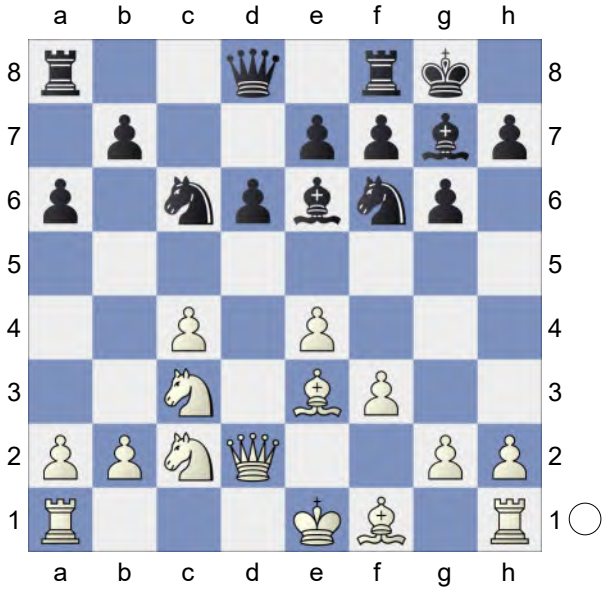
6.c4 g6N

[6...e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7

A) 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 *(14...Nfd7 15.b3 Nxb6 16.Rfc1 Re8 17.Nc2 Ned7 18.Bf1 Bf6 19.Bd4 Bg5 20.Be3 Bf6 21.Bd4 Bg5 22.Be3 Be7 23.Bd4 h5 24.Qf2 Bh4 25.g3 Bf6 26.Rd1 d5 27.exd5 exd5 28.Nxd5 Nxd5 29.cxd5* Flores Quillas,D (2200)-Lu,M (2442) Pereira 2022 1-0 (67)*)* 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson];

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 *(16...Bc7 17.Nde2 Kh8 18.Bd4 Bc6 19.Be3 Ne5 20.b3 h6 21.Nd4 Bb7 22.Be2 Ng6 23.Qg1 Rfe8 24.Nc2 d5 25.exd5 exd5 26.Bxb6 Bf4 27.Rb1 Nh5 28.Bf1 Re5 29.Ne2 Rxe2 30.Bxe2 Qe5 31.Bd3* Bezgodov,A (2546)-Alavkin,A (2471) Saint Petersburg 92/278 2004 CI1-130 [Bezgodov, Alexei] ½-½ (40) *)* 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Ba8 21.Rb1 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein, Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2! outshines the older 9.Be2.erfolgreicher als das alte 9.Le2. **9...Nc6 10.Nc2 Be6**

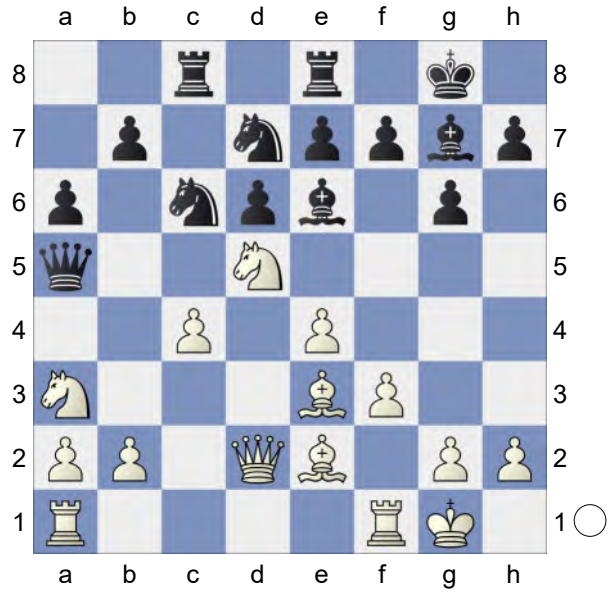


11.Be2 Rc8 12.Nd5 White has an edge. **12...Nd7 13.Na3 Re8N**

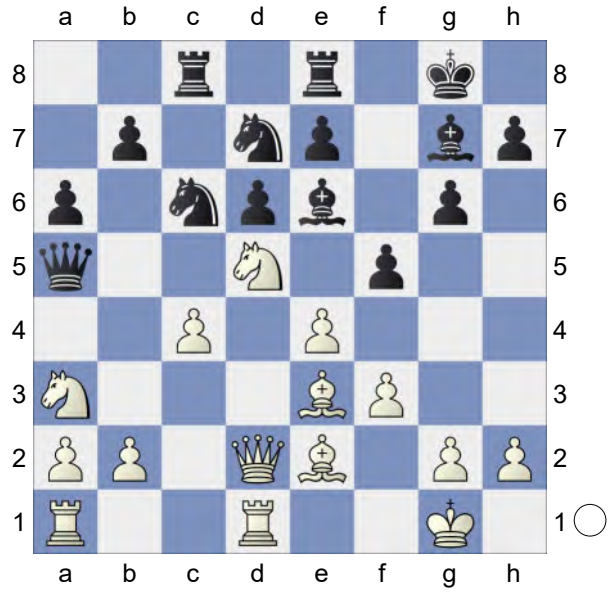
[13...f5 14.exf5! Bxf5 15.0-0 Rf7 16.Rad1 Qa5 17.Qxa5 Nxa5 18.b3 Nc6 19.Bd3 -0.15/20 *(19.g4± 0.48/18 Be6 20.Nc2)* 19...Bxd3= 20.Rxd3 1-0 Meissner,F (2382)-Aumueller,N

(2056) Arber op 11th 2024 (4)]

14.0-0 Qa5

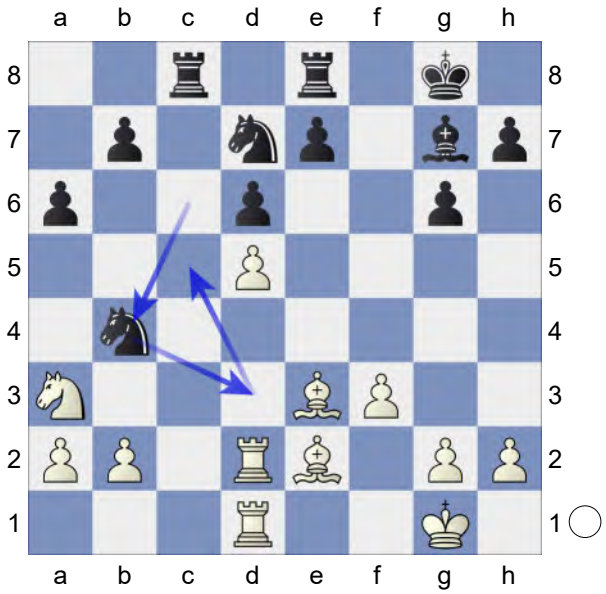


aiming for ...Qxd2. **15.Rfd1 f5**



16.exf5 Bxf5 17.Rac1 Be6 18.Rc2 Qxd2 19.Rcxd2 Bxd5 20.cxd5 Nb4

(Diagram)

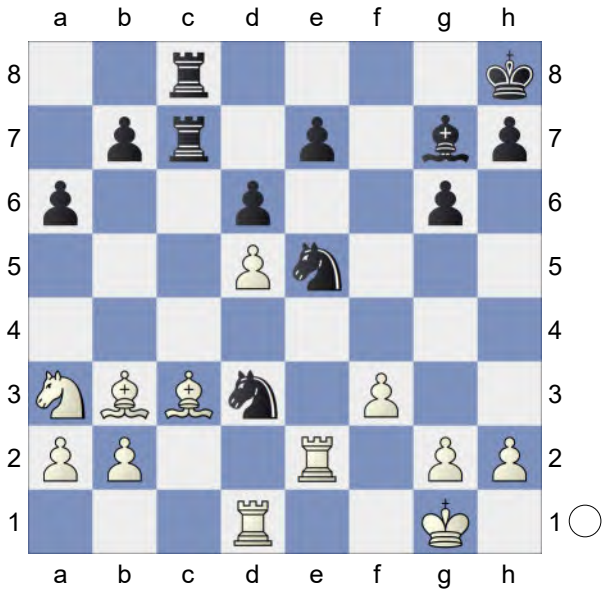


21.Bc4 -0.58/22

[21.Nc4= 0.01/21]

21...Rc7 22.Bb3 Rec8 23.Re2 Ne5 24.Bd2 Nbd3 25.Bc3 Kh8 0.01/21

[25...b5∓ -0.33/19 is superior.]



26.Nc2 Nc5 27.Nd4 Bf6 0.48/22

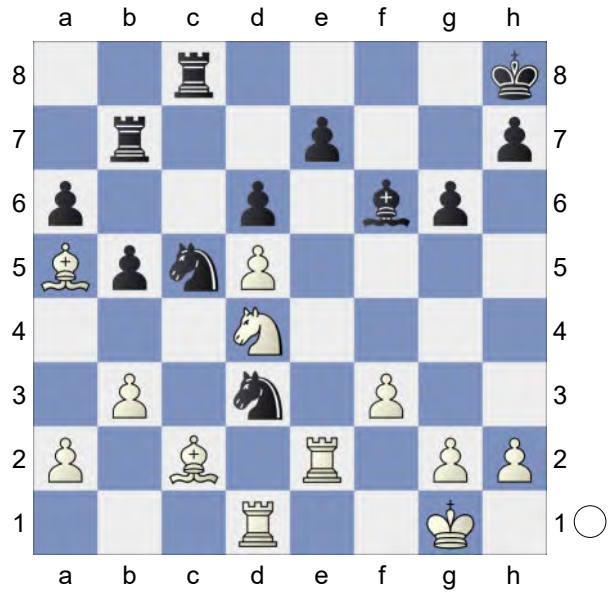
[27...Kg8= 0.10/21]

28.Bc2 0.10/21

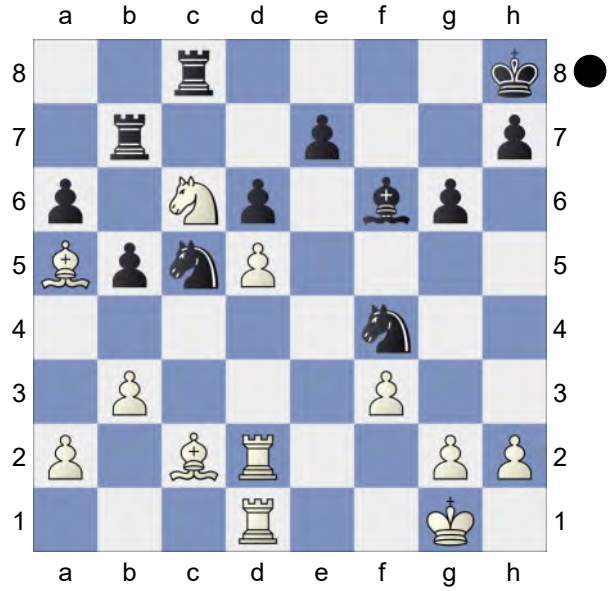
[28.f4!± 0.48/22 Ned3 29.g3 Nxb3 30.axb3 *(30.Nxb3 Nc5±)* 30...Rxc3 31.bxc3 Rxc3 32.Ne6]

28...b5 29.Ba5 Rb7 30.b3 Prevents

Nc4. **30...Ned3**

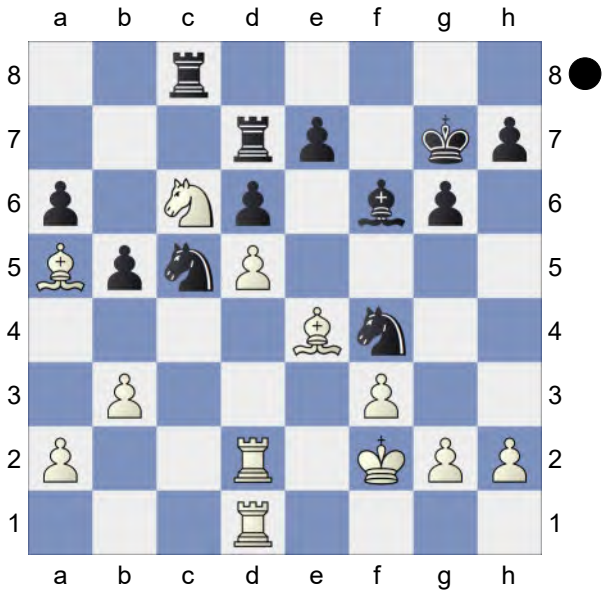


31.Nc6 Nf4 32.Red2 -0.52/21
[32.Ree1= 0.15/24]



32...Rd7 0.58/22
[Black should try 32...Nxd5!∓ -0.52/21
33.Rxd5 *(33.Nd8 Ne3∓)* 33...Rxc6]
33.Be4± This bishop pair is nice.
33...Kg7 34.Kf2

(Diagram)

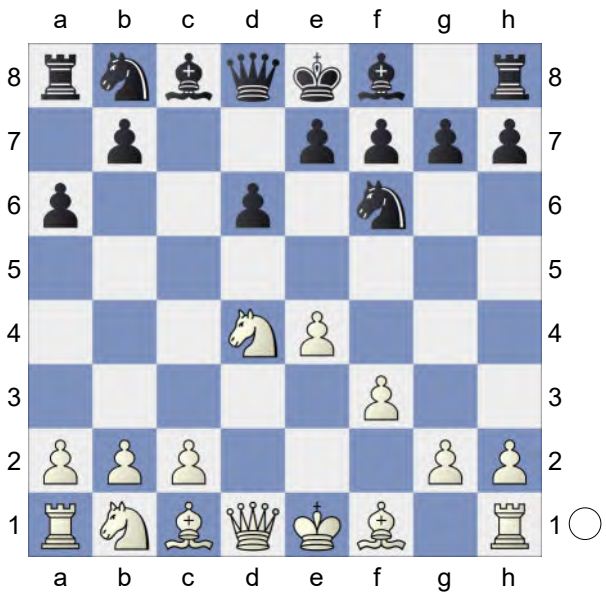


Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.16 (very precise)
½-½

173 **B38**
□ **Timerkhanov,Alexander** **2278**
■ **Bashilin,Roman** **2289**
Titled Tuesday intern op 17th Sep Early ..
[Kitty Kat]

B38: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind with 5...Bg7 and 7...0-0
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6

(Diagram)



6.c4 g6N

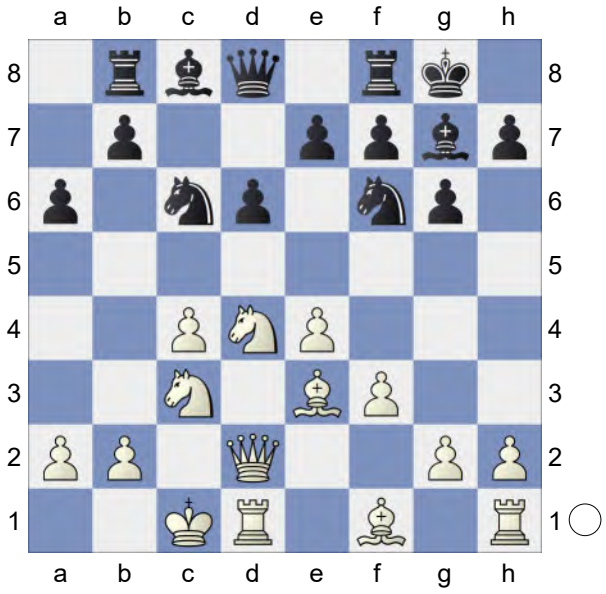
[6...e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7

A) 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 *(14...Nfd7 15.b3 Nxb6 16.Rfc1 Re8 17.Nc2 Ned7 18.Bf1 Bf6 19.Bd4 Bg5 20.Be3 Bf6 21.Bd4 Bg5 22.Be3 Be7 23.Bd4 h5 24.Qf2 Bh4 25.g3 Bf6 26.Rd1 d5 27.exd5 exd5 28.Nxd5 Nxd5 29.cxd5* Flores Quillas,D (2200)-Lu,M (2442) Pereira 2022 1-0 (67)*)* 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson];

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 *(16...Bc7 17.Nde2 Kh8 18.Bd4 Bc6 19.Be3 Ne5 20.b3 h6 21.Nd4 Bb7 22.Be2 Ng6 23.Qg1 Rfe8 24.Nc2 d5 25.exd5 exd5 26.Bxb6 Bf4 27.Rb1 Nh5 28.Bf1 Re5 29.Ne2 Rxe2 30.Bxe2 Qe5 31.Bd3* Bezgodov,A (2546)-Alavkin,A (2471) Saint Petersburg 92/278 2004 CI1-130 [Bezgodov, Alexei] ½-½ (40) *)* 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Ba8 21.Rb1 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein, Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2! now scores much better than the old 9. Be2. punktet besser als das ältere 9.Le2.

9...Nc6 10.0-0-0 Rb8



11.g4 Qa5 12.Kb1N White is slightly better.

[12.h4 Nxd4 13.Bxd4 Bd7 0.68/18 *(13...b5=* 0.21/20 *)* 14.h5± gxh5 2.20/20 *(14...Rfe8±* 0.72/18 *)* 15.g5 1.17/22 *(15.gxh5+-* 2.20/20 And now h6 would win. *Ne8 16.Bh3 Bxh3 17.Rdg1)* 15...Ne8± 16.Rxh5 Qh2 is the strong threat. Bxd4 17.Qxd4 Ng7 ½-½ Onokienko,O-Khudoley,J UKR-ch sf U14 Girls 2007 (4)]

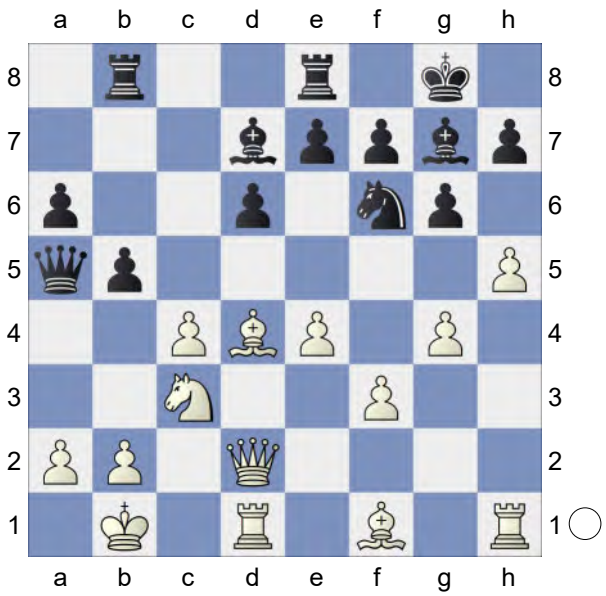
12...Re8 0.68/20

[12...Be6 0.32/19 is superior.]

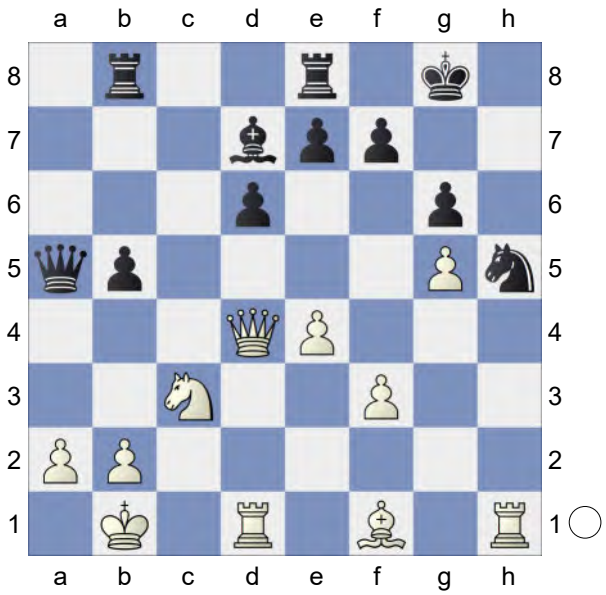
13.h4 Bd7 1.02/20

[13...h5± 0.53/19]

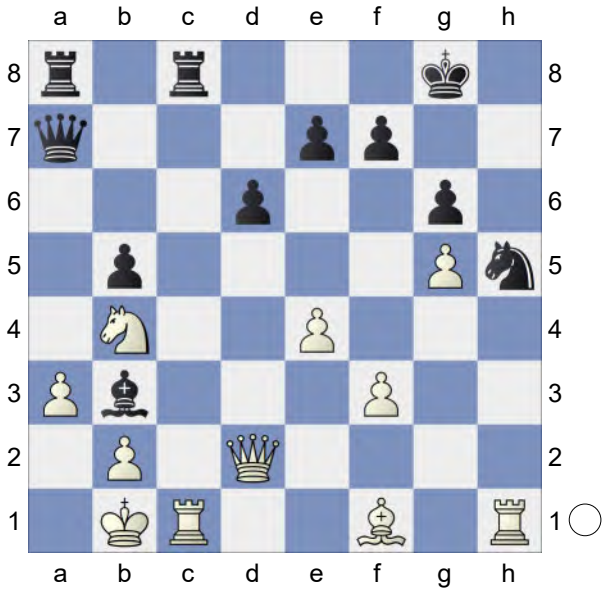
14.h5 Nxd4 15.Bxd4 b5



16.cxb5 axb5 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.g5 Nh5 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Qd4+ Kg8

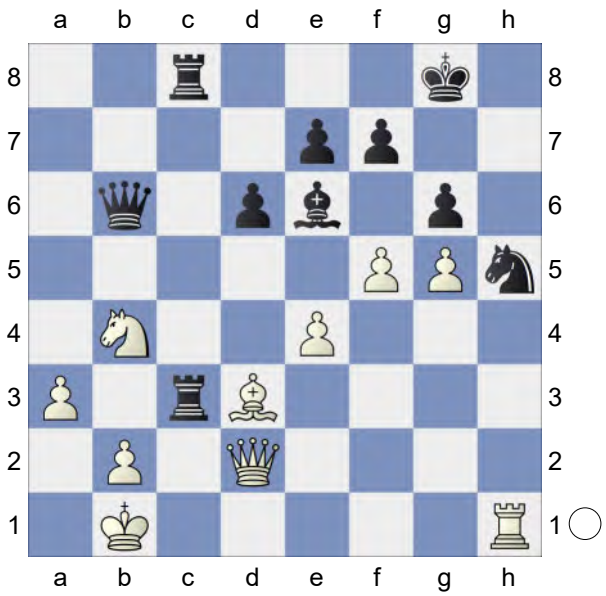


21.Nd5↑ White has the initiative.
21...Ra8 0.74/21
[21...Be6= 0.23/19]
22.a3± Be6 23.Nb4 0.24/19 0x0.00209a826646dp-1022s more active pieces.
[23.Rh4± 1.00/21]
23...Qa7 1.52/21
[23...Rec8= 0.24/19 remains equal.]
24.Qd2 0.54/18
[24.Bxb5± 1.52/21 Rec8 25.Qxa7 Rxa7 26.a4]
24...Bb3 1.16/22
[24...Qa4± 0.54/18]
25.Rc1
[Don't take 25.Bxb5 Reb8 26.Bc6 *(26.Nc6 Qb7=)* 26...Rxb4 27.Qxb4 Bxd1 28.Rxd1 Rb8]
25...Rec8 1.61/22
[25...Qb7± 1.11/18]

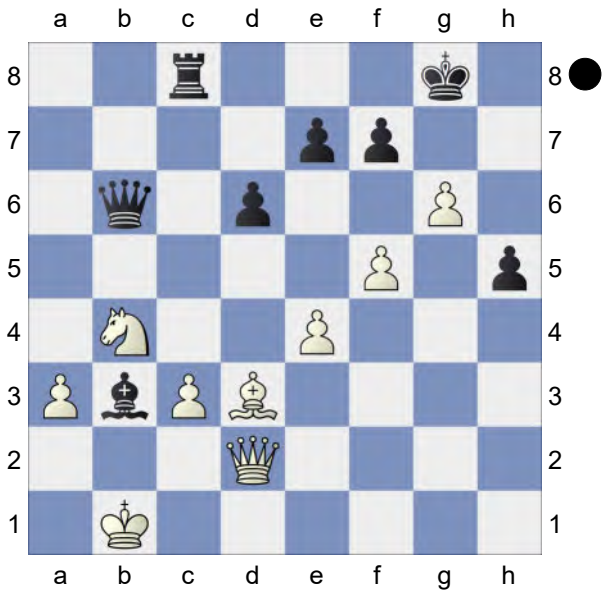


26.Bxb5+- Qb6 2.08/22
[26...Rxc1+± 1.47/18 27.Rxc1 Qa5]
27.Bd3? 0.57/20
[White should play 27.Bc6+- 2.08/22 Ra7 28.Bd5 Rxc1+ 29.Rxc1]
27...Rc5 1.30/17
[27...e5!± 0.57/20]
28.Rc3 Be6 29.f4 Rac8 30.f5 Rxc3

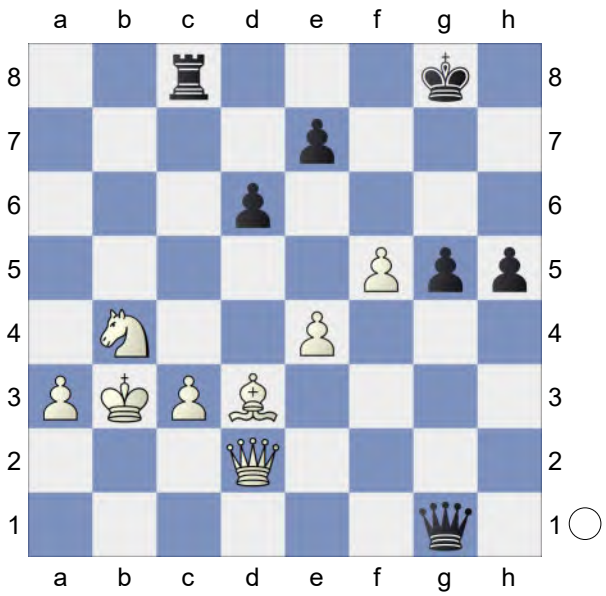
(Diagram)



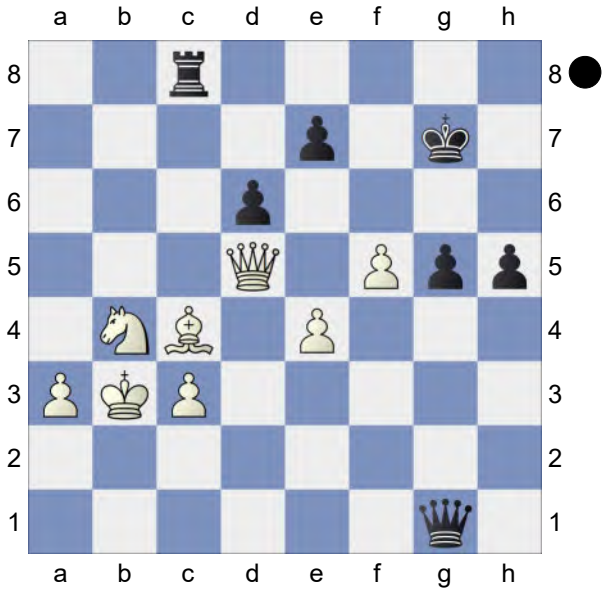
31.bxc3 Bb3 1.39/20
[31...Ng3? 32.Rh6 Qg1+ 33.Kb2+-]
[⩲31...Bd7 0.95/20]
32.Rxh5? -1.15/21 **gxh5∓ 33.g6**



Qg1+? 2.10/21 Black cannot hold the game after this.
[33...Kg7!∓ -1.21/21 stays on course. Threatens to win with ...Qg1+. 34.Kb2 *(34.Qg5 f6∓)* 34...Ba4 35.gxf7 Qg1]
34.Kb2+- The board is on fire. **34...fxg6**
35.Kxb3 aiming for Qh6. **35...g5** 2.68/21
[⩲35...h4 1.94/18]

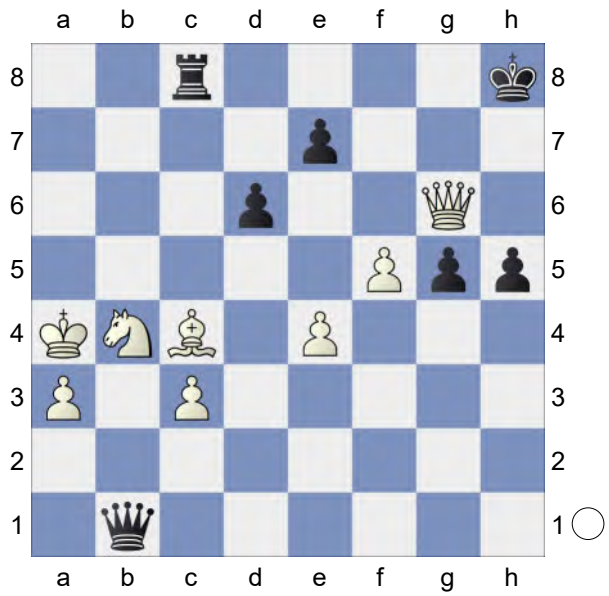


36.Bc4+ Kg7? 4.18/18
[36...Kh8 2.21/21 keeps fighting.]
37.Qd5

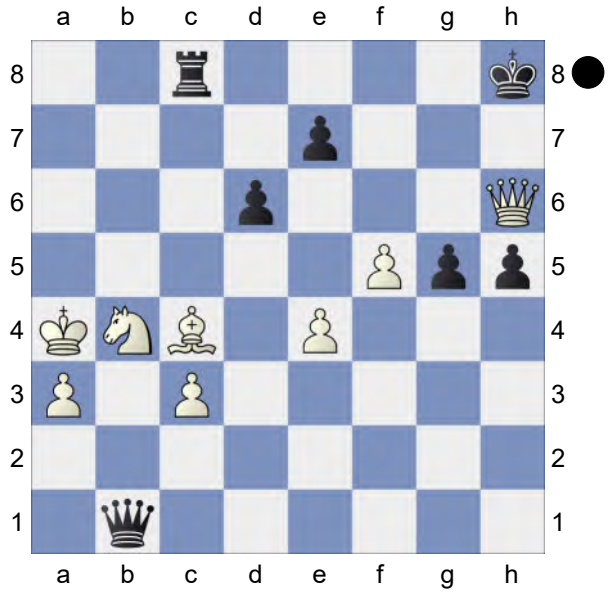


Qf7+ would kill now. **37...Qb1+ 38.Ka4**
Intending Qf7+ and mate. **38...Kh6**
39.Qe6+ White mates. **39...Kh7**
40.Qg6+ Kh8

(Diagram)



41.Qh6#



Weighted Error Value: White=0.42/ Black=0.77

1-0

174 **B55**

□ **Apoorv,Kamble** **2264**

■ **Vokhidov,Shamsiddin** **2670**

Titled Tuesday intern op 07th Jan Early b..

[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

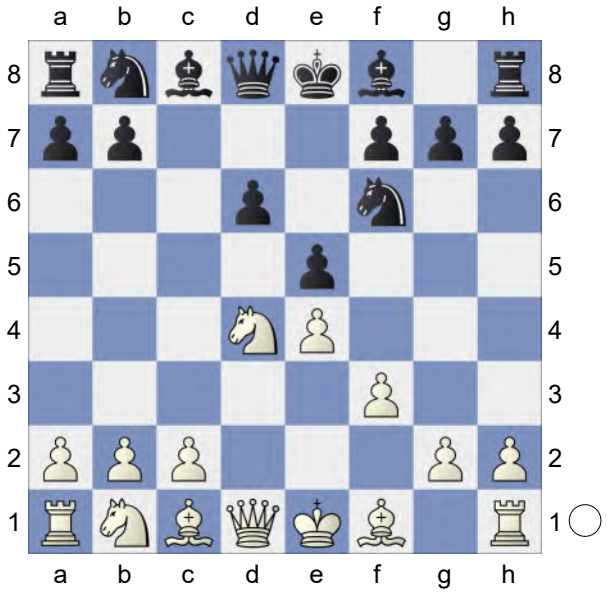
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

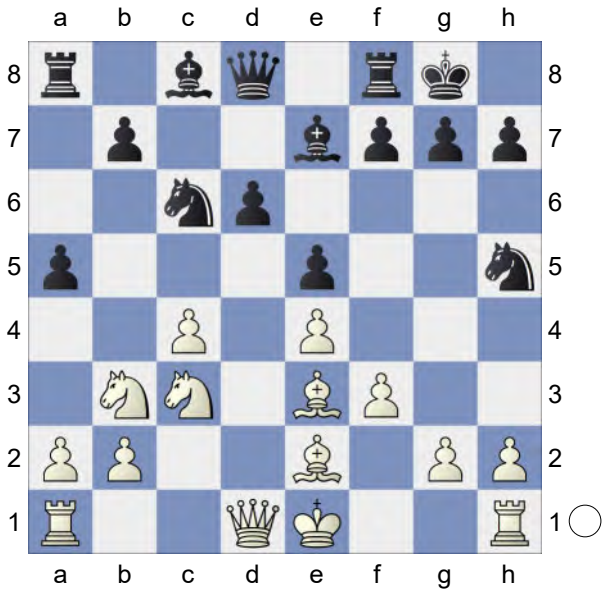
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060

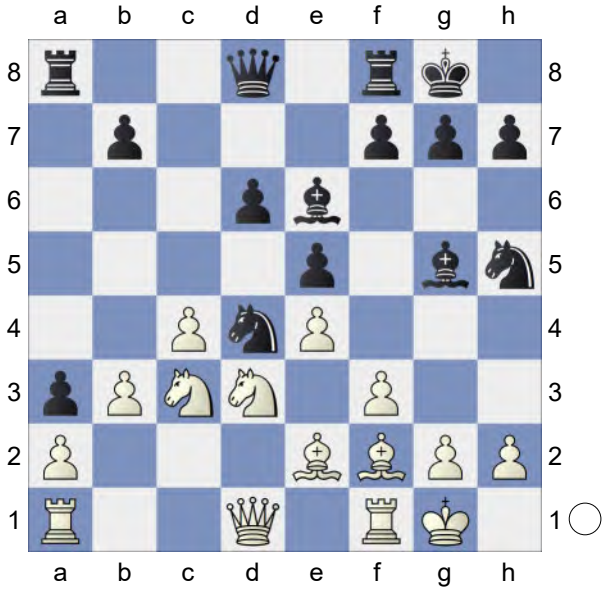
[Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 Be7 7.c4 a5 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Be3 Nc6! is now more promising than 9...a4. im Vergleich zu 9...a4 vielversprechender. **10.Be2 Nh5**

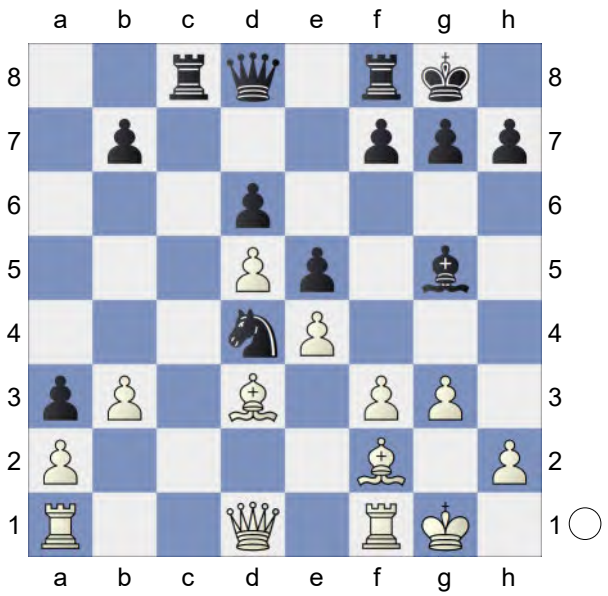


11.0-0 Bg5N
[11...a4 12.Nd2 Bg5! 13.Bf2 a3 14.b3 Qa5 15.Ndb1 Nd4 16.Nd5 -0.16/20 *(⌓16.g3! 0.20/17)* 16...Nf4= 17.Nxf4 Bxf4 18.Bd3 Nc6 0.01/18 *(18...b5∓* -0.31/20 *)* 19.Be2 -0.66/18 *(19.Kh1=* 0.01/18 *)* 19...Nd4 -0.01/19 *(*Black should play *19...Bd7∓* -0.66/18 *)* 20.Bd3!= Nc6 0.01/18 *(20...b5∓* -0.34/19 *)* 21.Be2= Nd4 0.01/20 ½-½ Labiano Hernandez,J (2362)-Adhiban,B (2541) San Vicente op 8th 2024 (3) *(21...Be6!∓* -0.39/18 is superior. *)*]
12.Bf2 a4 13.Nc1 a3 14.b3 Nd4 15.Nd3 Be6



16.Nd5 Bxd5 17.cxd5 Hoping for Bxd4.
[17.exd5!? Nxe2+ 18.Qxe2=]
17...Nf4 0.13/20
[17...Bh6 -0.20/18 is more appropriate.]
18.Nxf4= Bxf4 19.g3 Bg5 0.50/19
[19...Nxe2+= 0.05/21 should be considered. 20.Qxe2 Bh6]
20.Bd3 0.13/19
[20.Bxd4± 0.50/19 exd4 21.f4 *(21.Qxd4 Bf6∓)*]
20...Rc8

(Diagram)



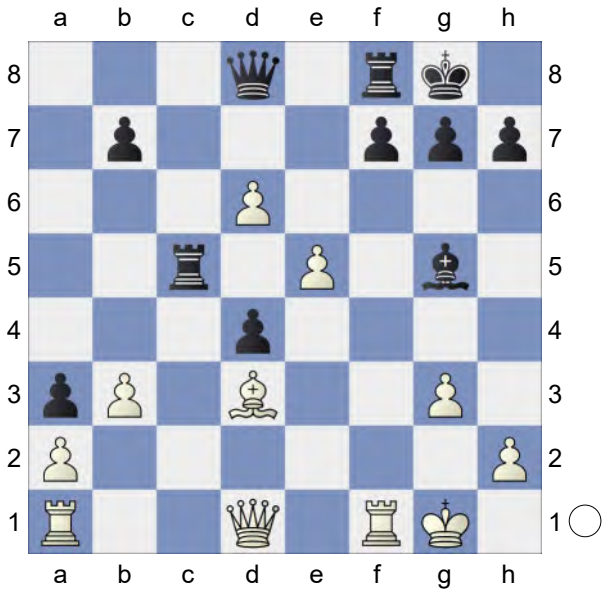
21.f4 Bf6 22.Bxd4 exd4 23.e5 -0.38/22

[23.h4= 0.00/17]

23...dxe5∓ 24.fxe5 Bg5 25.d6 -1.15/18

[25.Qf3= -0.22/20 keeps the balance.]

25...Rc5∓

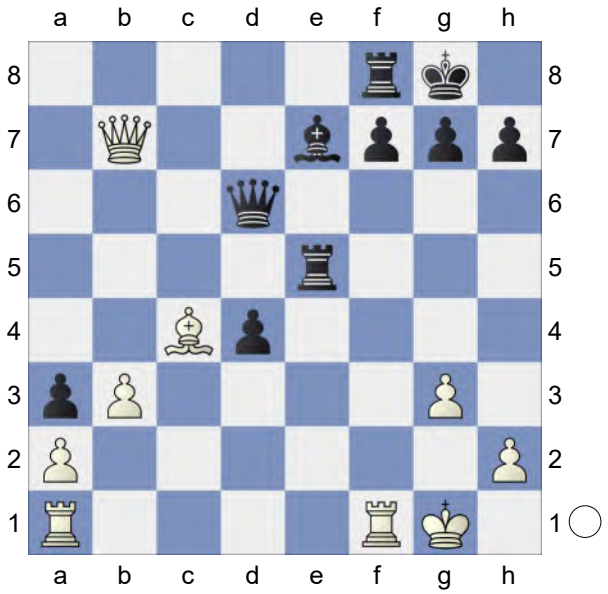


26.Qf3 -1.65/24

[26.Rf5∓ -1.26/20]

26...Rxe5-+ 27.Qxb7 Qxd6 28.Bc4 Be7? 0.34/20

[Better is 28...Re7∓ -1.58/20 29.Qa6 Be3+ 30.Kg2 Qxa6 31.Bxa6 g6]



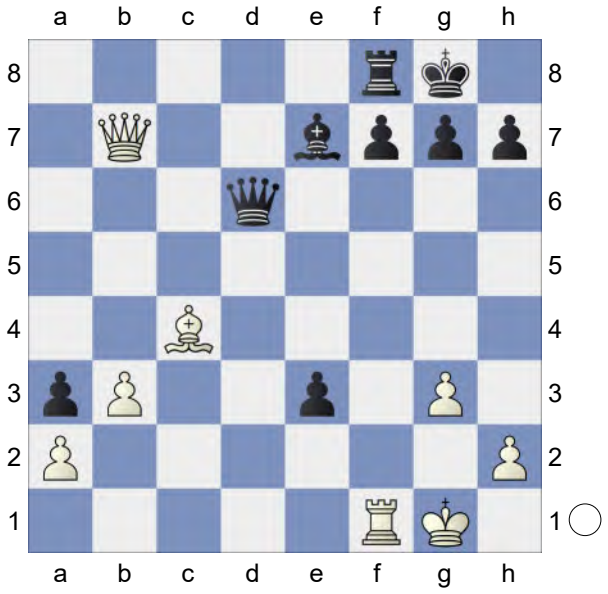
29.Rae1 -1.15/19

[29.Rxf7!± 0.34/20 is the one way to stay ahead. Rxf7 30.Rf1]

29...Re3 -0.74/22

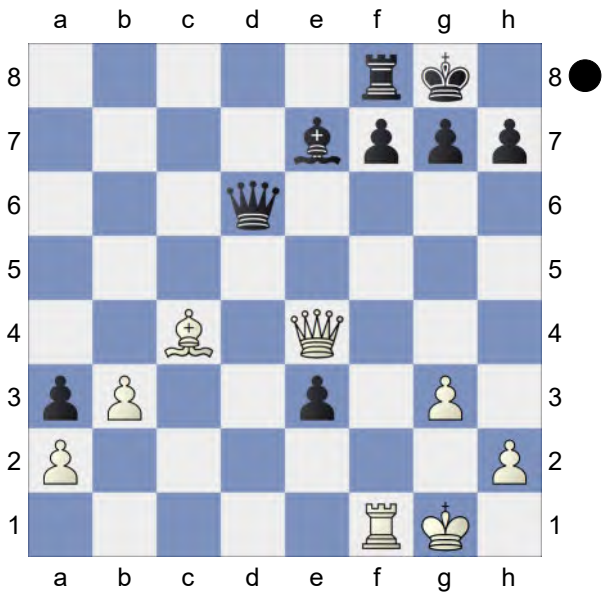
[Black should try 29...Bf6 -1.15/19 And now ...d3 would win. 30.Rxe5 Qxe5]

30.Rxe3∓ dxe3

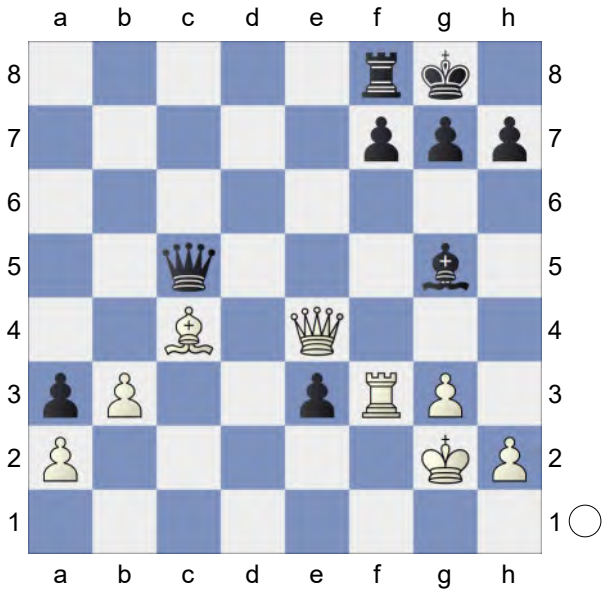


31.Qe4

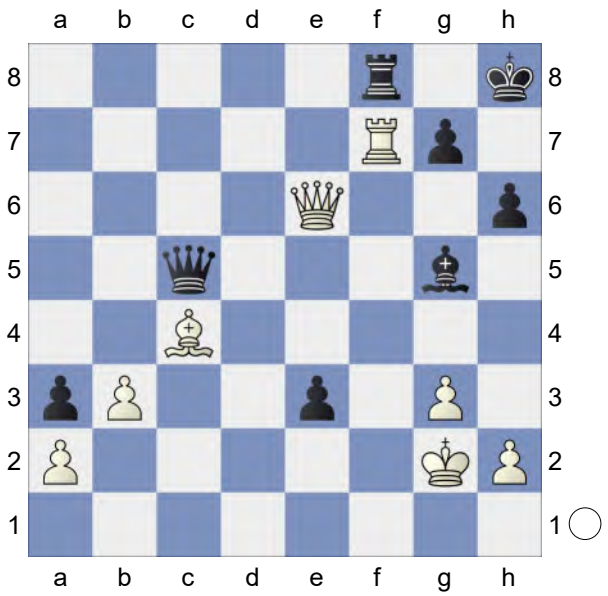
(Diagram)



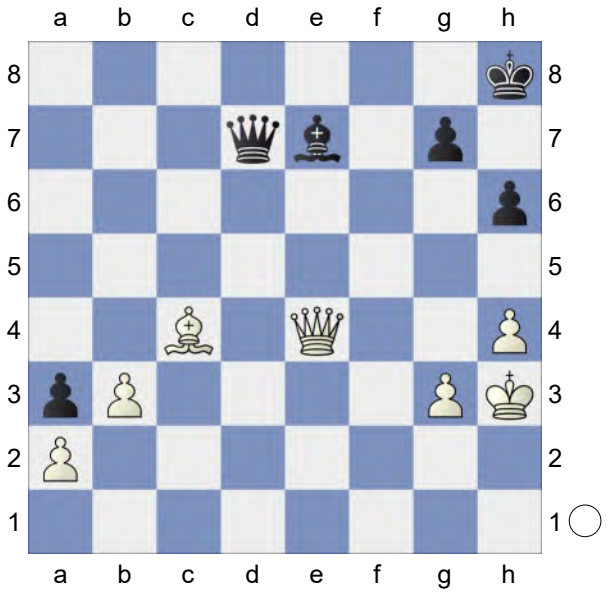
Qc5 -0.28/22
[31...Bf6!∓ -1.07/21 Strongly threatening ...Qd2. 32.Kh1 Qd2]
32.Kg2= Bf6 33.Rf3 Bg5? 13.33/22
[33...Rc8= 0.01/20]



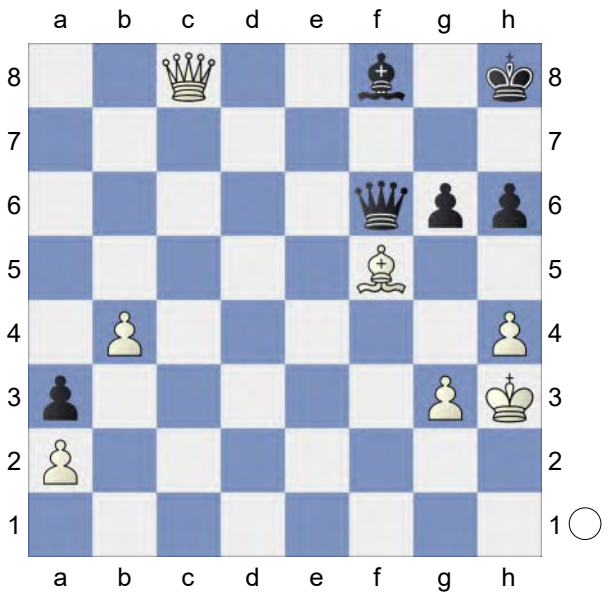
34.Rxf7!+- Threatening mate with Qf3.
34...Kh8 35.Qe6? 0.66/22
[35.Qe5+- 14.04/22 Rxf7 36.Qxc5]
35...h6 1.51/23
[35...Rxf7± 0.66/22 36.Qxf7 Qc6+ 37.Qf3 *(37.Kg1 Qc8±)* 37...Qe8]



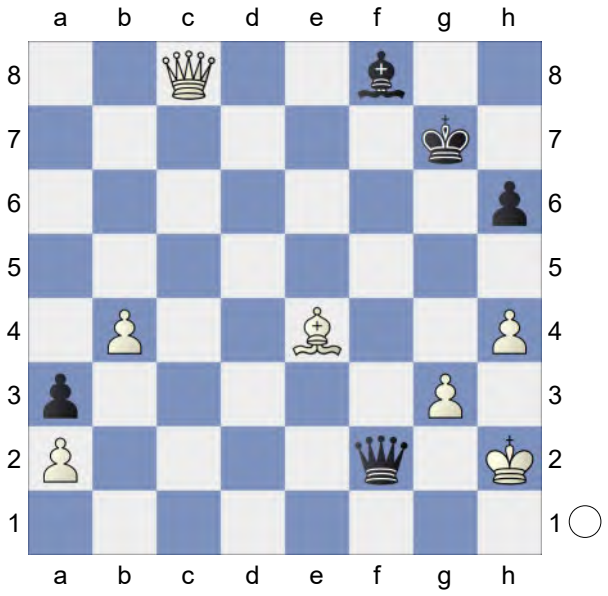
36.h4±
[Don't take 36.Qg6 Rxf7 37.Qxf7 Qc6+ 38.Qf3 *(38.Kg1 Qa8±)* 38...Qd7±]
36...Bf6 37.Rxf8+ Qxf8 38.Qxe3 Qd8 39.Kh3 Be7 40.Qe4 1.15/21
[40.h5+- 1.78/23]
40...Qd7+



41.Be6 Qd8 42.Bf5 Bd6 43.Qe6 Qf6 1.77/24
[43...Bf8± 1.40/23 44.Qg6 Kg8 45.Qh7+ Kf7]
44.Qc8+ Bf8 45.b4 g6

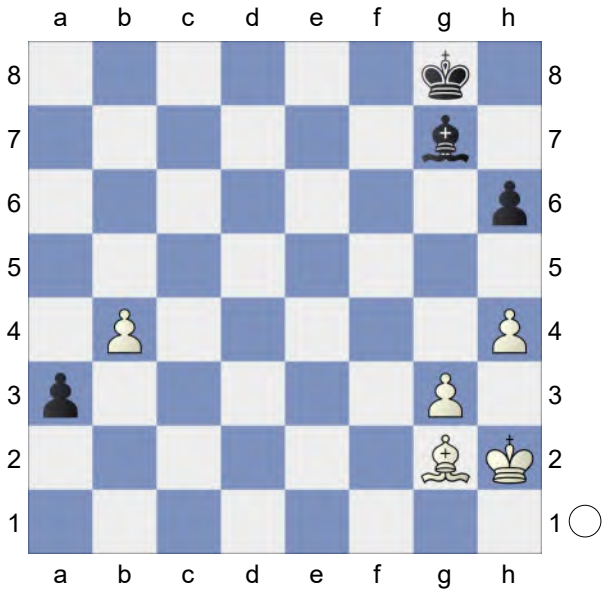


46.Bxg6 -0.01/23 **Qf1+= 47.Kh2** Threatens to win with Be4. **47...Qf2+ 48.Kh3** Bd3 is the strong threat. **48...Qf1+ 49.Kh2 Kg7** 0.96/25
[49...Qf2+= -0.01/25 remains equal. 50.Kh3 Qf1+]
50.Be4 0.56/23
[50.Qc2± 0.96/25]
50...Qf2+ 1.93/23
[50...Qe2+± 0.56/23 51.Bg2 Qxa2]

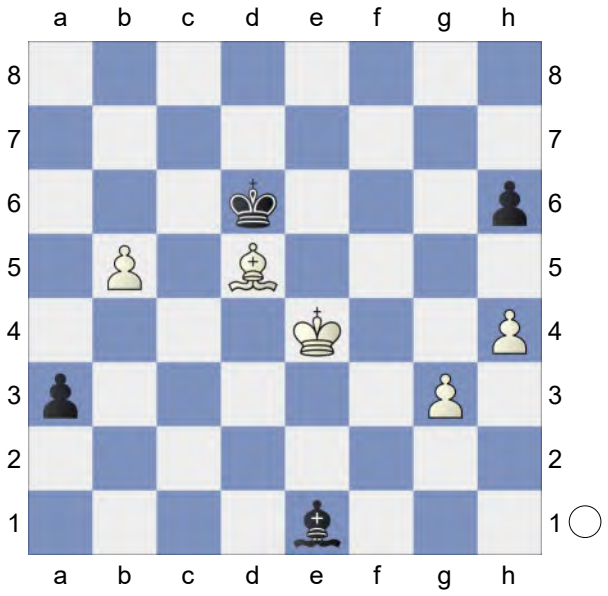


51.Bg2 0.74/21
[51.Kh3+- 1.93/23 is more deadly.]

51...Qxa2± 52.Qg4+ Kh8 1.10/23
[52...Kf7± 0.70/21]
53.Qd4+ 0.65/23
[53.Qf5± 1.10/23 Kg7 54.b5]
53...Bg7± 54.Qd8+
[54.Qe3!?]
54...Qg8 55.Qxg8+ Kxg8=

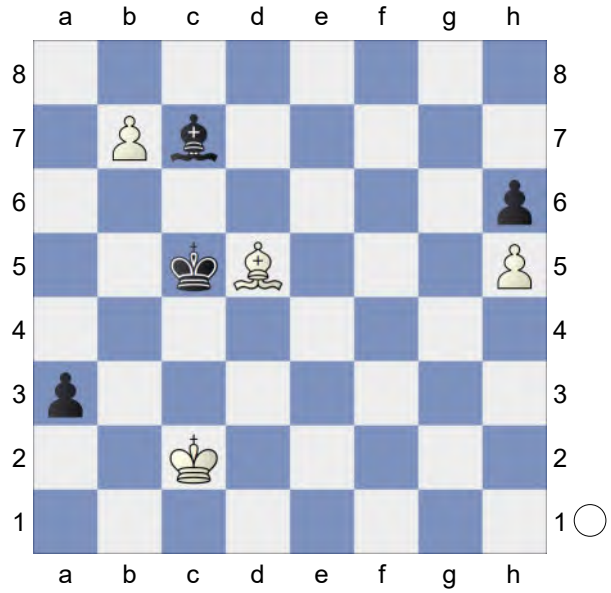


Endgame KB-KB **56.Bd5+ Kf8 57.Kg2 Ke7 58.Kf3 Kd6 59.Ke4 Bc3 60.b5 Be1**

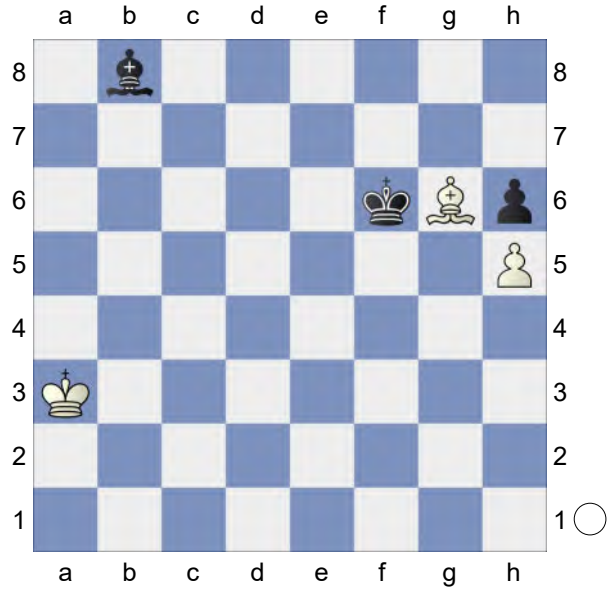


61.h5 -0.33/30
[61.b6= -0.01/27]
61...Bxg3 -0.01/36

[61...Kc5∓ -0.33/30 was preferrable.]
62.b6 The position is equal. **62...Kc5 63.b7 Kb4 64.Kd3 Bc7 65.Kc2 Kc5**

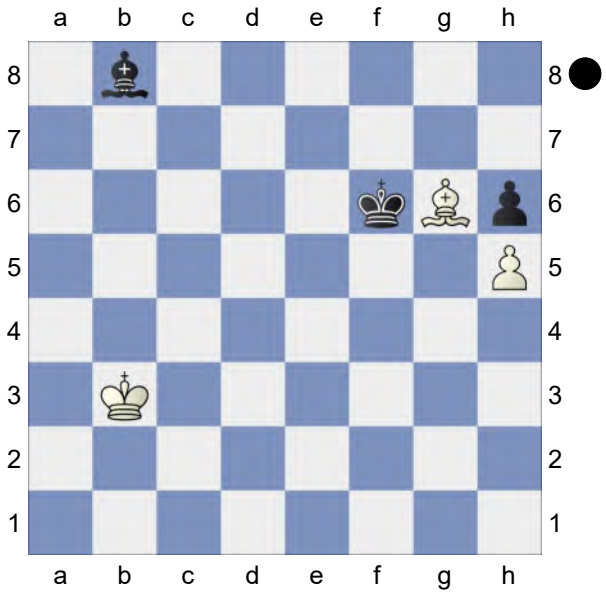


66.Bf7 Kd4 67.Kb3 Bd6 68.b8Q Bxb8 69.Kxa3 Ke5 70.Bg6 Kf6



71.Kb3

(Diagram)



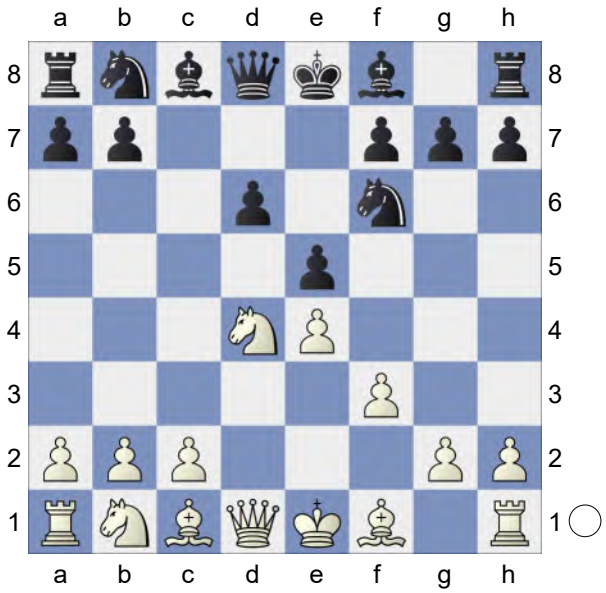
What a bad dream for Black.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/ Black=0.26 (precise)
½-½

175 **B55**
□ **Manon,Reja** **2227**
■ **Samadov,Read** **2492**
World ol U16 (5.8) 15.08.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5*

Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

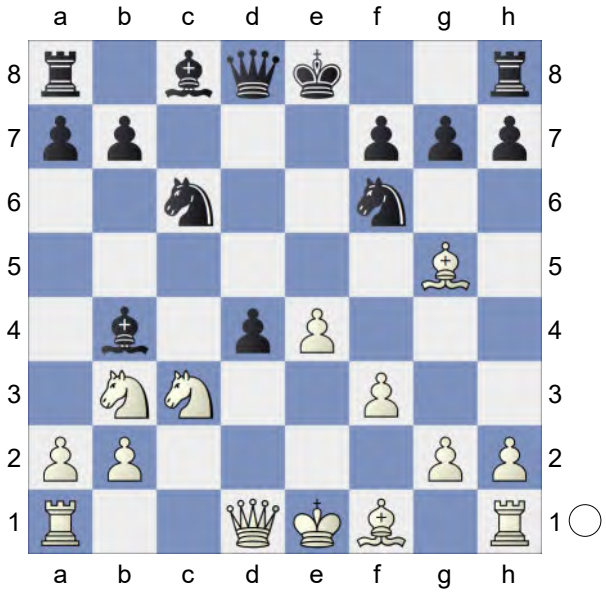


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.cxd4 The position is equal.now scores much better than the old 9.Bb5.punktet besser als das ältere 9.Lb5. **9...Bb4+**

[9...exd4 10.Bb5±]

[9...Nxd4 10.Nc3±]

10.Nc3 exd4



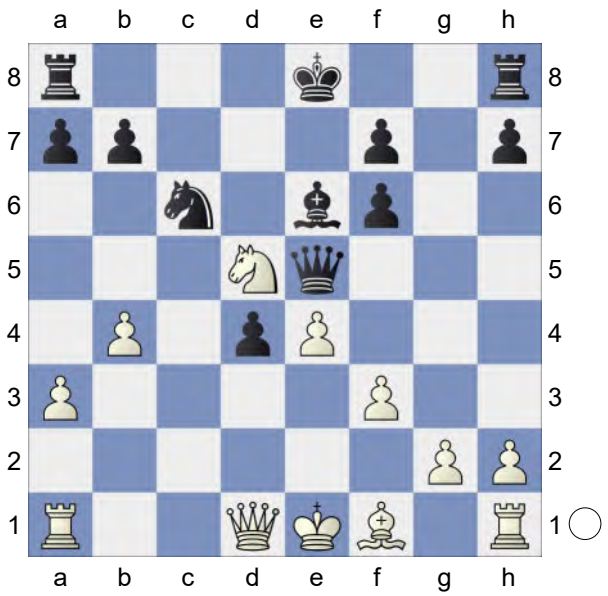
Pin **11.a3 Ba5N**

[Vorgänger: 11...Be7 12.Nb5 0-0 13.N3xd4 Qb6 Strongly threatening ... Bc5. 14.Be3 Rd8 ...Bc5 is the strong threat. 15.Qd2 -0.86/20 *(15.Qd3*= 0.01/19 remains equal.*)* 15...Bc5∓ 16.Rd1 Nxe4! 17.fxe4 And now Be2 would win. Bg4 ½-½ Oleksienko,M (2620)-Cheparinov,I (2684) Qatar Masters op 2014 (5)]

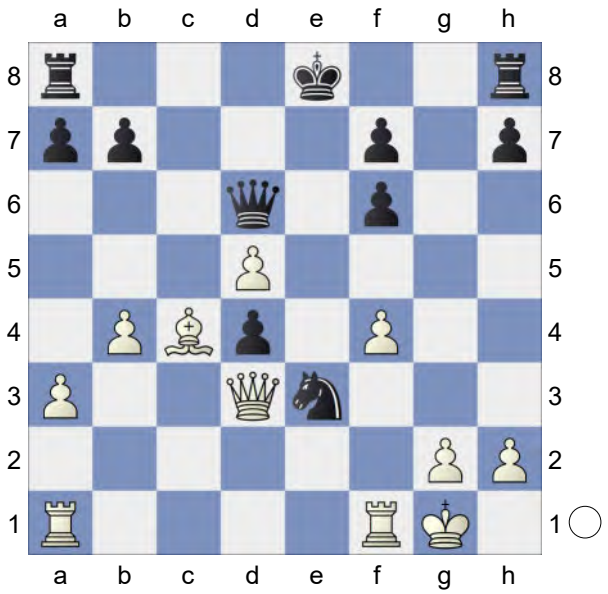
[11...dxc3 12.Qxd8+ Nxd8 13.axb4±]

12.Nxa5 Qxa5 Pin **13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.b4 Qe5 15.Nd5 Be6**

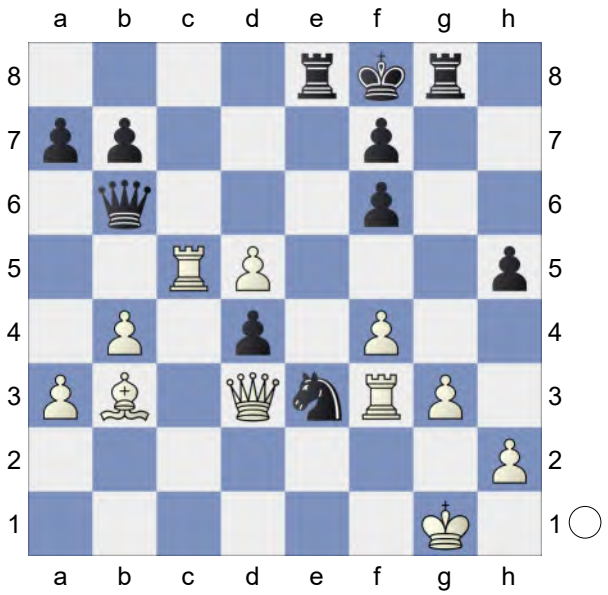
(Diagram)



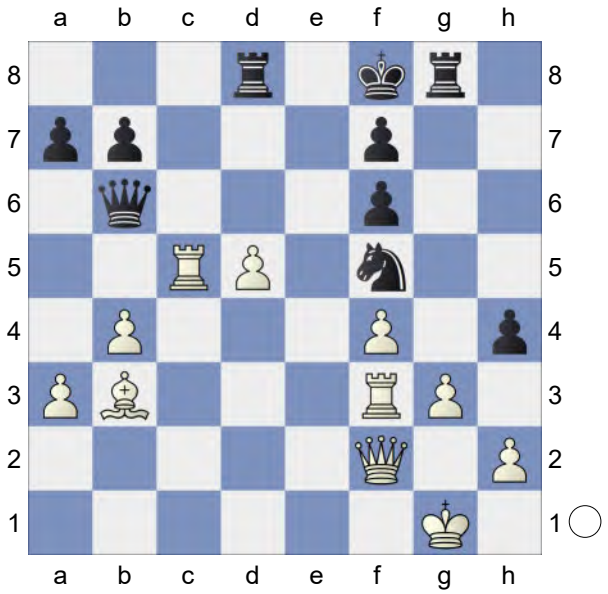
16.Bc4 Ne7 0.30/22
[⌓16...0-0-0 -0.05/18 17.0-0 f5]
17.0-0= Bxd5 18.exd5 Nf5 19.f4 Qd6 20.Qd3 Ne3



21.Rf3 Kf8 0.74/21
[21...Rc8!= 0.07/19 22.Bb3 Qb6]
22.Bb3±
[22.Qxd4 Nc2 23.Qd1 Nxa1 24.Qxa1 Qb6+ 25.Kf1 Rg8∓]
22...Qb6 23.Rc1 Prevents Rc8.
23...Re8 24.Rc5 Rg8 25.g3
[But not 25.Qxh7?! Rxg2+ 26.Kh1 Re2 27.Rxe3 *(27.Rg3 Re1+ 28.Rg1 Rxg1+ 29.Kxg1 Qa6=)* 27...R8xe3=]
25...h5 1.49/20
[Better is 25...Kg7 1.12/20 26.Qxd4 Nf5]



26.Ba4 Rd8 27.Qxd4 Nf5 28.Qf2 1.08/21
[⌓28.Qe4 1.60/19 Ne7 29.Qh7 *(29.Re3 Nxd5 30.Rd3 Ne7+-)*]
28...h4 29.Bc2 Ne7 1.59/17
[⌓29...hxg3 1.08/22 30.hxg3 Ne7]
30.Bb3 Nf5



31.Bc2 0.01/19

[31.Rfc3± 0.96/19]

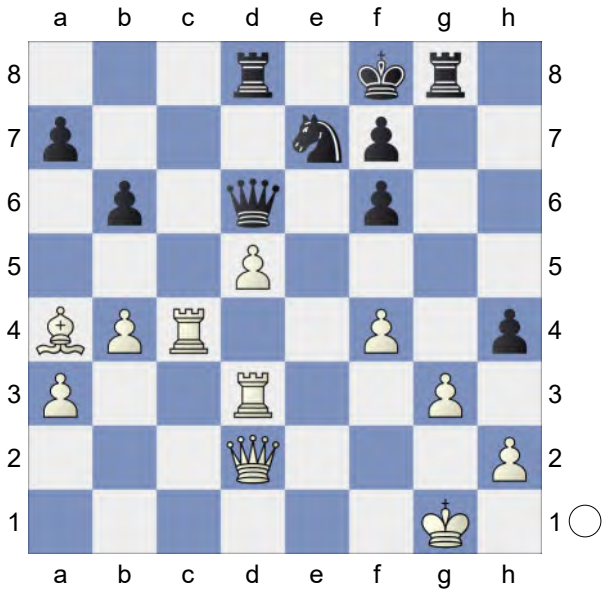
31...Ne7!= 32.Rd3 Qd6 33.Rc4 b6 34.Qd2 Re8 1.76/18

[34...hxg3± 1.04/20 was called for. 35.hxg3 Rg7]

35.Ba4 1.08/20

[White should try 35.Kf1!+- 1.76/18]

35...Rd8



36.Bb5 0.76/20

[⌓36.Bb3 1.09/18]

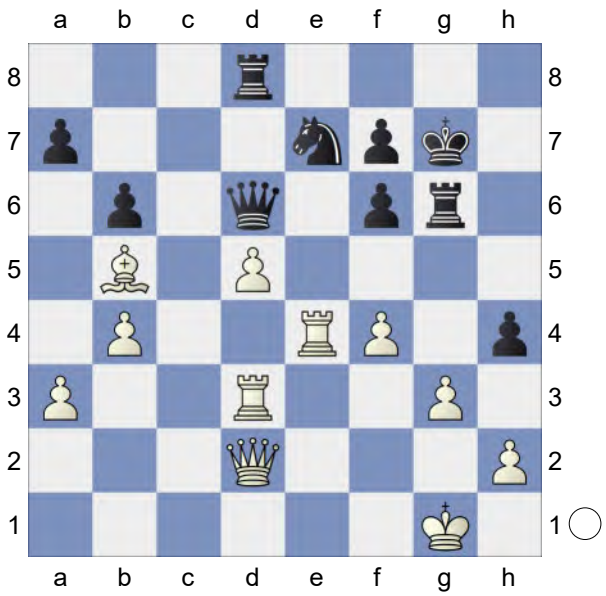
36...Rg6± 37.Re4 -0.01/22

[37.Qe2± 0.87/18]

37...Kg7 0.55/18

[Black should play 37...Nf5= -0.01/22]

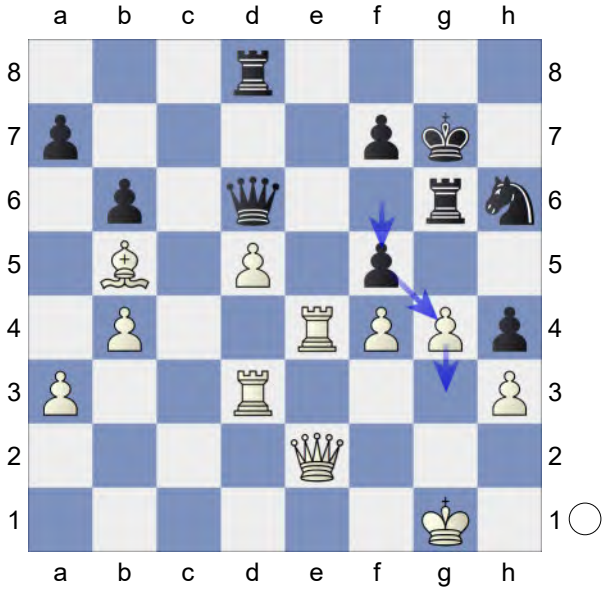
(Diagram)



38.Qe2 0.01/21

[38.Re6!± 0.55/18 fxe6 39.dxe6 Qxd3 40.Bxd3 hxg3 41.h4]

38...Nf5!= 39.g4 Black must now prevent Kh1. **39...Nh6! 40.h3↑** White wants to play Rc4. White has some pressure. **40...f5**

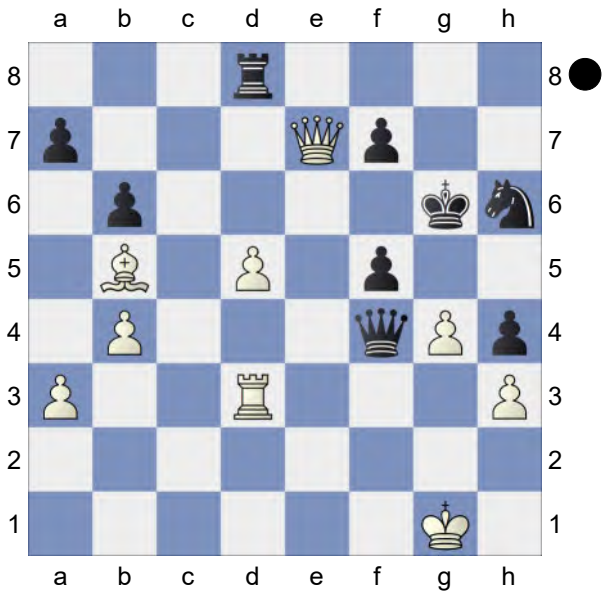


41.Re6 Qxf4

[Much worse is 41...fxe6 42.dxe6 Qxf4 43.Rxd8 *(43.Qb2+ Rf6∓)* 43...Qg3+ 44.Qg2 Rxe6 45.Qxg3 hxg3 46.Kg2=]

42.Rxg6+ Kxg6 43.Qe7? -3.49/21

[43.Qd2!= -0.14/19 and White has nothing to worry. Qg5 44.Qxg5+ Kxg5 45.d6 *(45.gxf5 Nxf5 46.Kf2 Kf4∓)*]



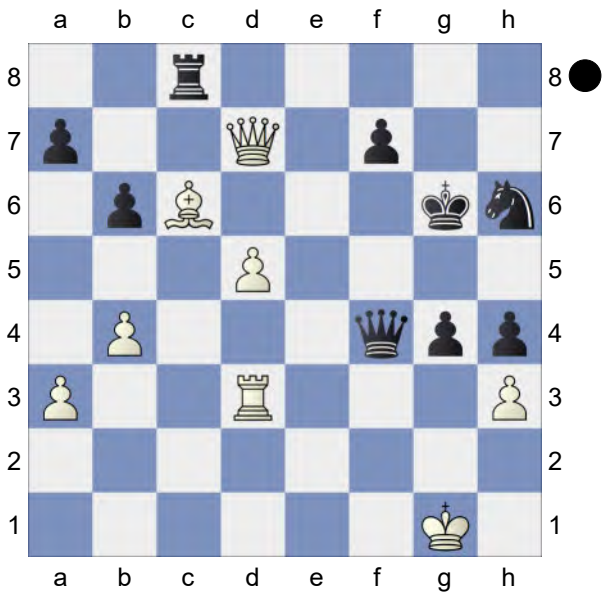
43...Rc8? -1.37/22

[43...Rxd5!!-+ -3.49/21 has better winning chances. 44.Rxd5 Qg3+ 45.Kf1 Qxh3+ 46.Ke1 Qh1+ 47.Bf1 Qxd5 48.Qxh4 Qe5+ 49.Be2 Nxg4]

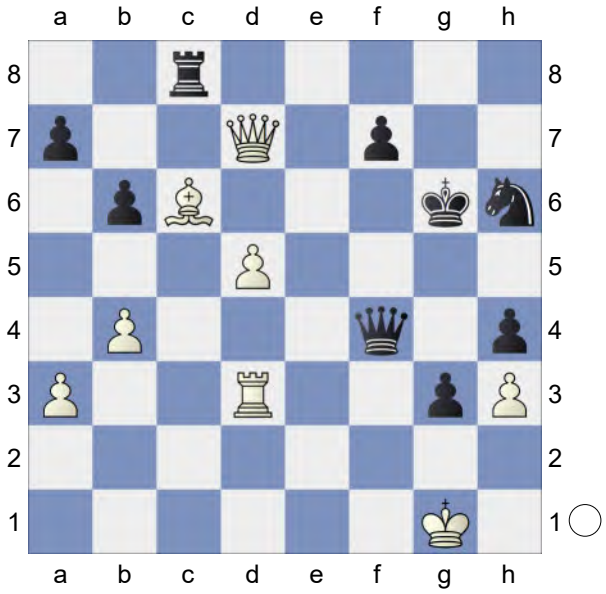
44.Bc6∓ fxg4 Really sharp! **45.Qd7?** -#10/18

[45.Qe3∓ -1.14/20 Qf5 46.Rd4]

(Diagram)



45...g3!



Never resign too early!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.39/ Black=0.14 (very precise)

0-1

176 **B55**
□ **Qiu,Mengjie** **2186**
■ **Song,Yuxin** **2327**
CHN-chT Div A KO (2.2) 07.02.2023
[Kitty Kat]

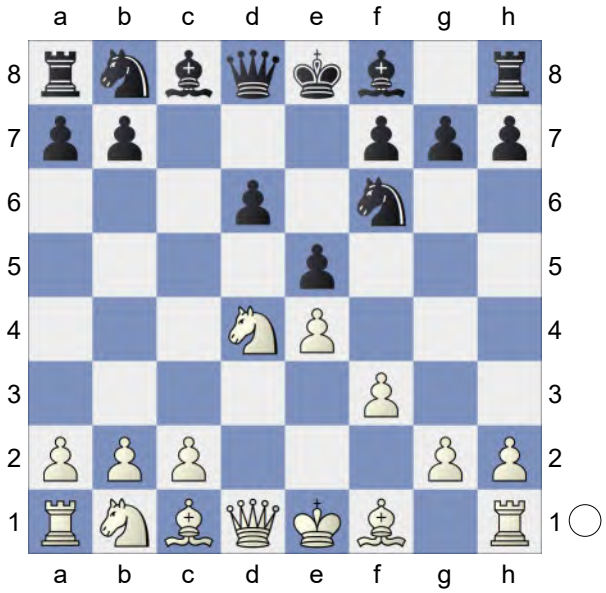
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

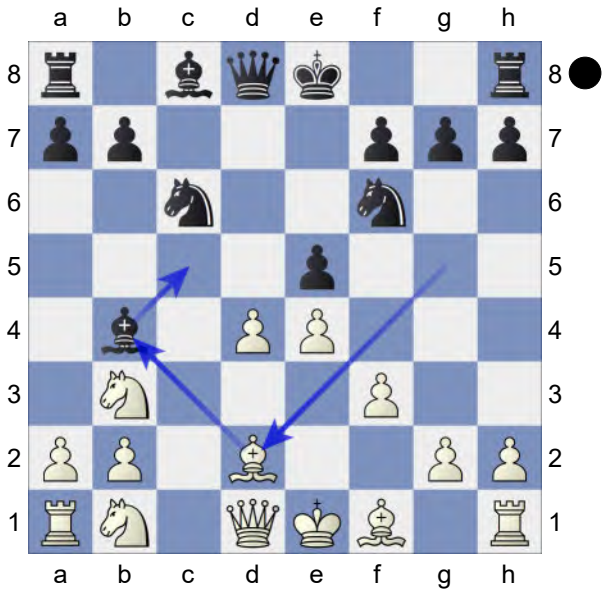
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

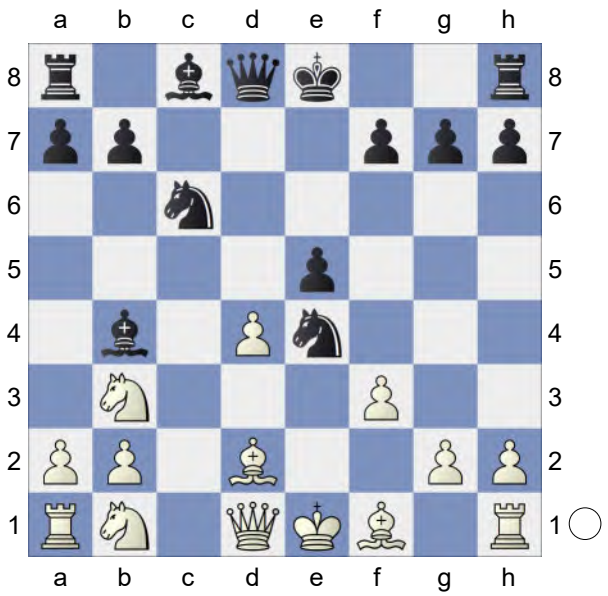


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.cxd4! is now more promising than 9.Bb5. im Vergleich zu 9.Lb5 vielversprechender. White has an edge. **9...Bb4+ 10.Bd2**

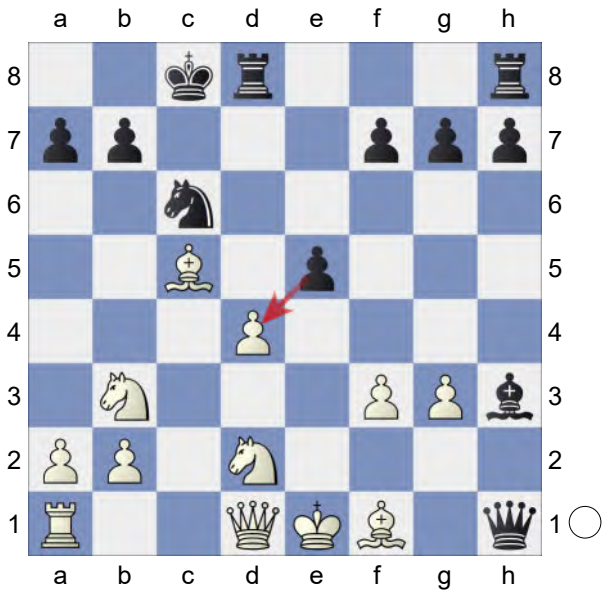


Nxe4!

(Diagram)

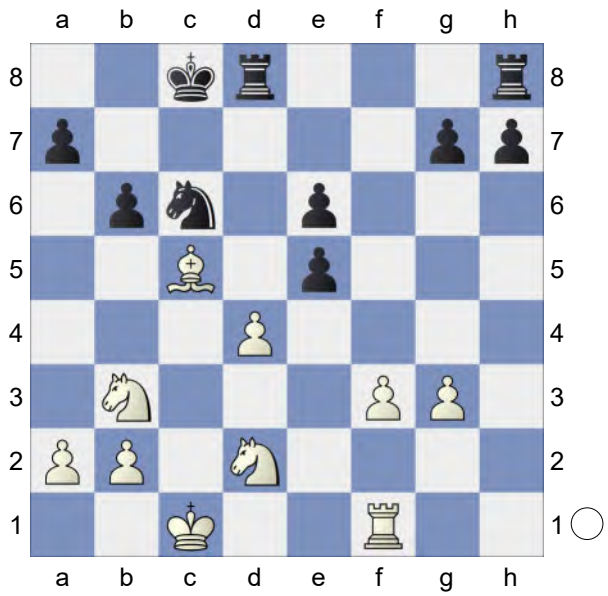


11.Bxb4 Qh4+! 12.g3 Nxg3 13.hxg3 Qxh1 14.Bc5 Bh3 15.N1d2 With the idea Qc2. **15...0-0-0**



16.Qc2 Bxf1 17.0-0-0 Black must now prevent Bxa7. **17...Qh6** aiming for ... Be2. **18.Rxf1 b6! 19.Qf5+ Qe6 20.Qxe6+ fxe6**

(Diagram)



21.Ba3 exd4 22.Ne4N Threatens to win with Nd6+.

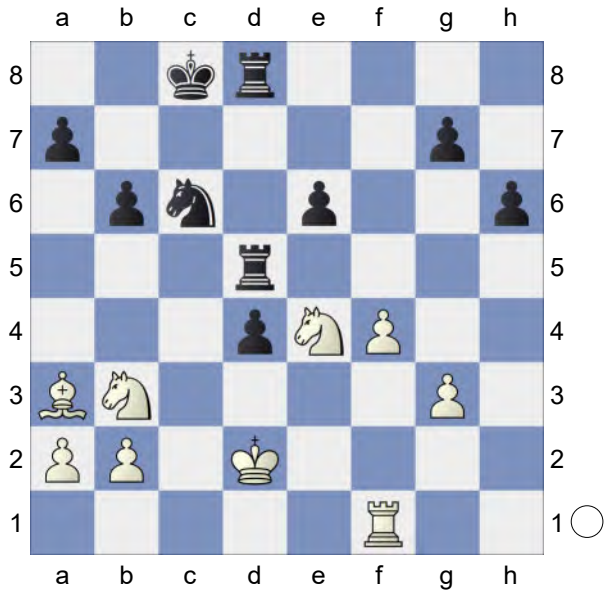
[Vorgänger: 22.Re1 e5 23.Ne4 Rd5 24.Kd2 Nd8 25.Nc1 Nf7 26.Nd3 Kd7 27.g4 h6 Inhibits g5. 28.Rh1 1-0 (41) Bick,G (2375)-Bakhmatsky,V (2442) Vienna 2019]

22...Rd5 23.f4 White has compensation.

23...h6 0.68/20

[23...h5= 0.26/18]

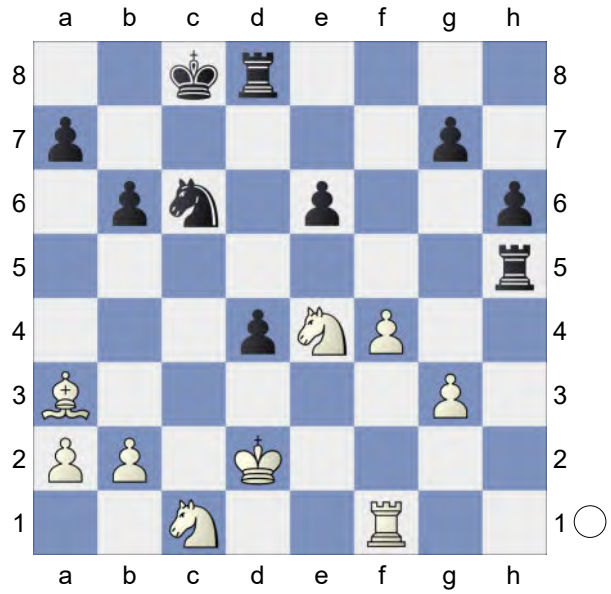
24.Kd2± Rhd8



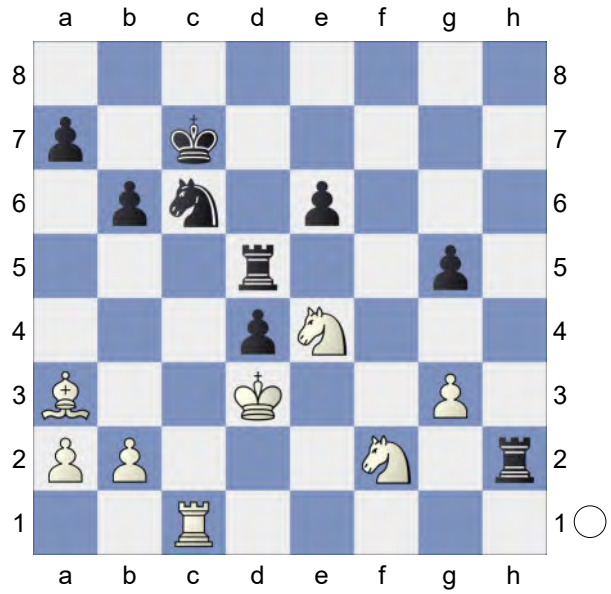
25.Nc1 0.26/19

[25.Kd3!± 0.74/20]

25...Rh5=

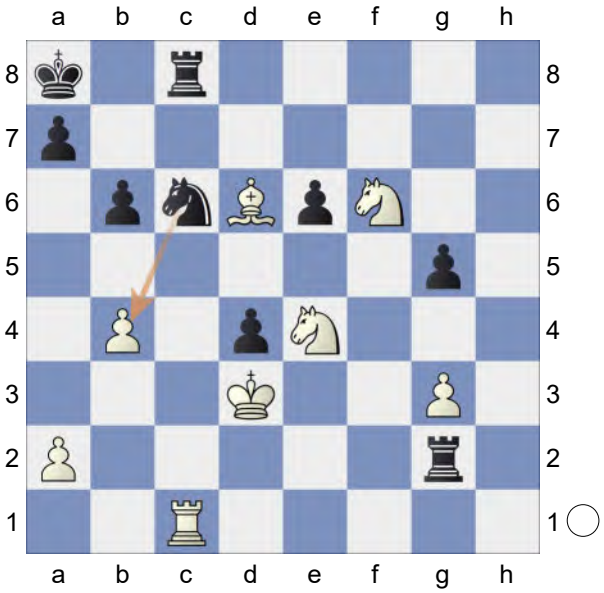


26.Nd3 Rh2+ 27.Ndf2 g5 0.35/18
[27...Rd5= 0.01/17 feels stronger.]
28.Rc1 Kc7 0.74/21
[28...Kb7= 0.28/21]
29.fxg5 0.01/19
[29.Kd3± 0.74/21 And now Ng4 would win. gxf4 30.gxf4]
29...hxg5 30.Kd3⇄ White has counterplay **30...Rd5**



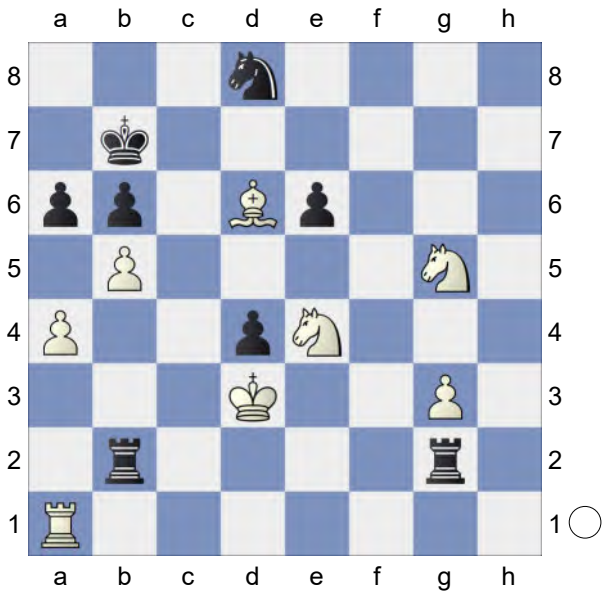
31.Ng4 Rg2 32.Ngf6 Pair of Knights!
32...Rd8 Against Ne8+
[32...Rf5? 33.Ne8+ Kd8 34.Rxc6±]

33.Be7! Rc8 34.b4 Really sharp!
34...Kb8 35.Bd6+ Ka8

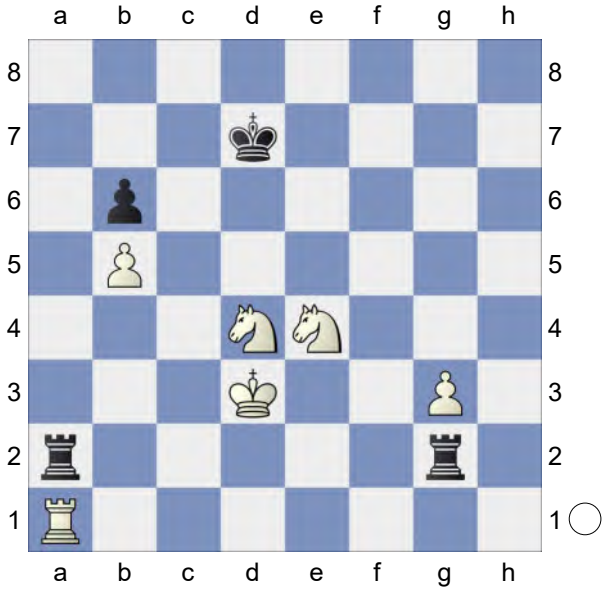


Hoping for ...Nxb4+! **36.Ra1** 0.01/20
[36.Rb1± 0.46/20]
36...Nd8 1.36/20
[36...Rb2!= 0.01/20 remains equal.]
37.Nxg5± Strongly threatening Nfe4. Active counter play!
[37.Kxd4?! Nf7 38.Rf1 Rxa2±]
37...Rcc2? 2.52/19 Black cannot hold the game after this.
[37...e5± 0.88/21 38.Nfe4 *(38.Bxe5 Nc6=)* 38...Rb2]
38.Nfe4+- Rf1 is the strong threat.
[38.Kxd4? Nc6+ 39.Ke4 Rce2+ 40.Kd3 *(40.Kf4? Rgf2+ 41.Kg4 Rxf6-+)* 40...Rd2+ 41.Ke3 Rge2+ 42.Kf3 Rf2+ 43.Ke3 Nd4-+]
38...Kb7 3.41/21
[38...Nb7 2.20/18 is a better defense. 39.Be5 *(39.Nxe6 Nxd6 40.Nxd6 Rc6±)* 39...Rxa2 40.Rxa2 *(40.Bxd4 Rxa1 41.Bxa1 Nd6±)* 40...Rxa2 41.Nxe6 a5 42.bxa5 *(42.Kxd4 axb4 43.Bf4 Na5±)* 42...Nxa5 43.Bxd4 *(43.Nxd4 Kb7+-)* 43...Ra3+ 44.Nc3 Nb3]
39.b5

[39.Kxd4 Rxa2 40.Rf1 Rgb2+-]
39...a6 40.a4 Rb2 5.02/22
[40...Ka7 3.43/21 keeps fighting.
41.Be7 *(41.Kxd4 Ra2+-)* 41...Rc8]

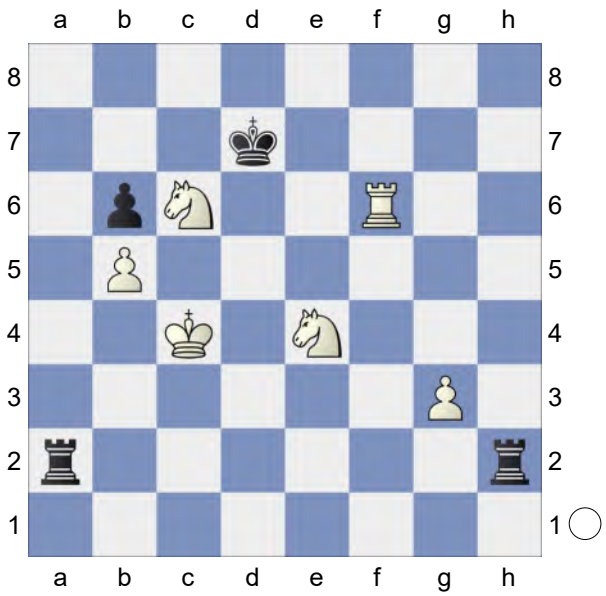


41.Be7 axb5 42.axb5 Kc7 43.Bxd8+ Kxd8 44.Nxe6+ Kd7 45.Nxd4 Ra2

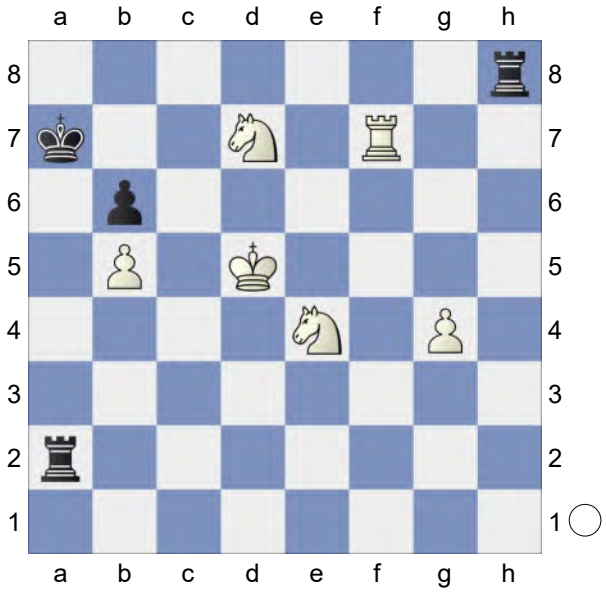


Against Ra7+ **46.Rf1** Intending Rf7+ and mate. **46...Ke7** Prevents Rf7+. **47.Kc4 Rh2 48.Nc6+ Kd7 49.Rf7+ Ke6 50.Rf6+ Kd7**

(Diagram)

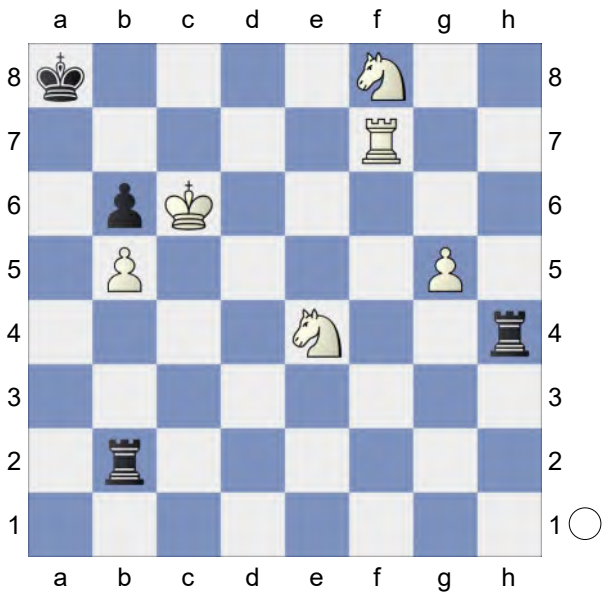


51.Kd5 White threatens Rf7+ and mate. **51...Rh5+ 52.Ne5+ Kc7 53.Rf7+ Kb8 54.g4 Rh8 55.Nd7+ Ka7**



56.g5 Rb2 57.Nf8+ Ka8 58.Kc6 Threatening mate with g6. **58...Rh4**

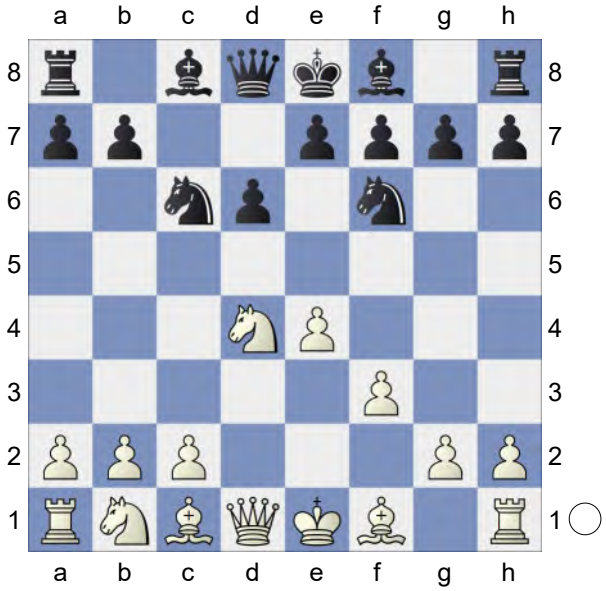
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.28 (precise)
1-0

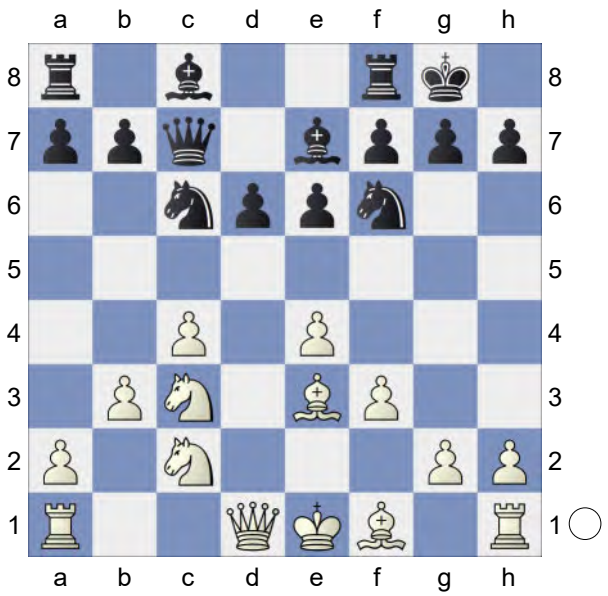
177 **B55**
□ **Jimenez Salas,Maria Teresa** **2113**
■ **Bok,Benjamin** **2583**
Titled Tuesday intern op 14th Jan Early b..
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.c4 Qb6 7.Nc2 e6! is recently more successful than 7...g6.ist inzwischen erfolgreicher als 7...g6. **8.Nc3 Be7 9.b3 0-0 10.Be3 Qc7**

(Diagram)



11.Be2 Rd8

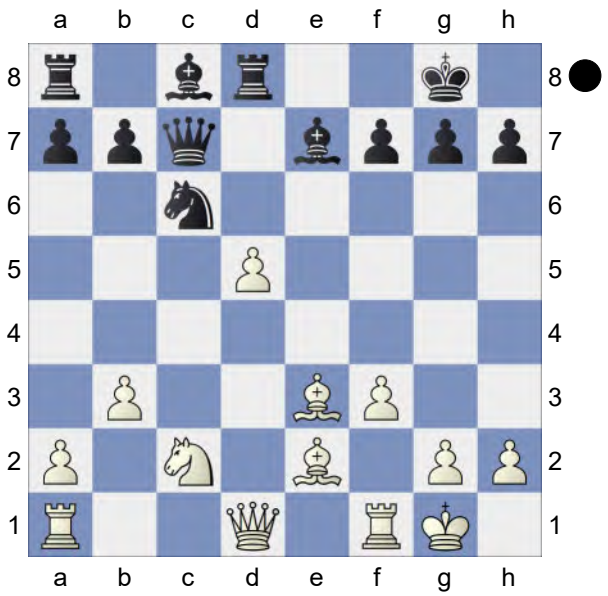
[11...d5!?]

12.0-0 d5! 13.cxd5 exd5 14.Nxd5N

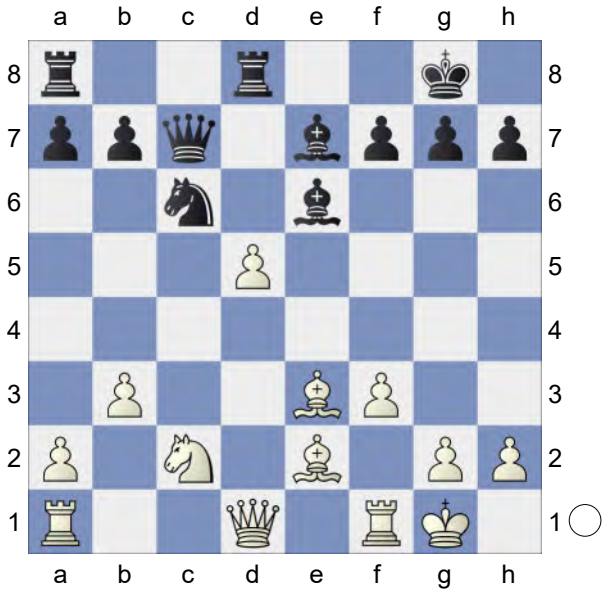
[14.exd5 -0.59/21 14.Nxd5 -0.25 Be6 0.00/20 *(14...Nb4!∓ -0.59/21 15.Bc4 Nfxd5 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.Bxd5 Be6)* 15.dxe6 Rxd1 16.exf7+ Kxf7 -0.12/20 *(16...Kf8!∓ -0.58/21 17.Raxd1 Qe5)* 17.Rfxd1 Rd8 Strongly threatening ... Ne5. 18.Rxd8 Qxd8 19.Rd1 Qa5 20.Bc4+ -0.69/20 0-1 Olenik Campa,R (2203)-Kozionov,K (2450) Titled Tuesday intern op 05th Jul Late blitz 2022 (1) *(⌓20.Na4 -0.33/19)*]

14...Nxd5 15.exd5

(Diagram)



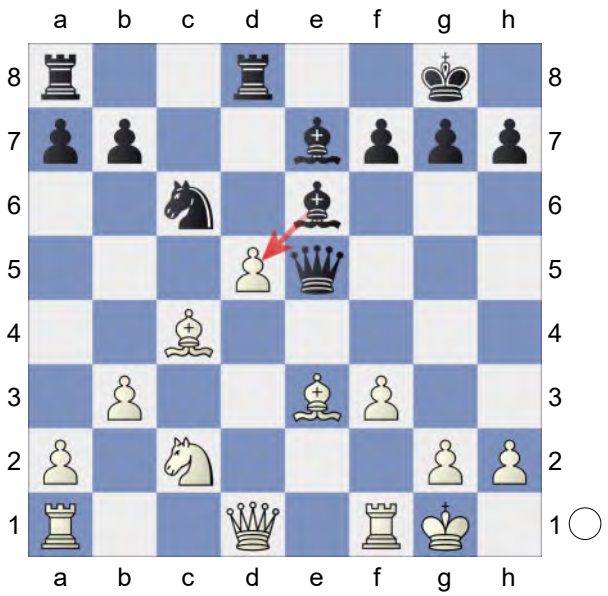
Be6!



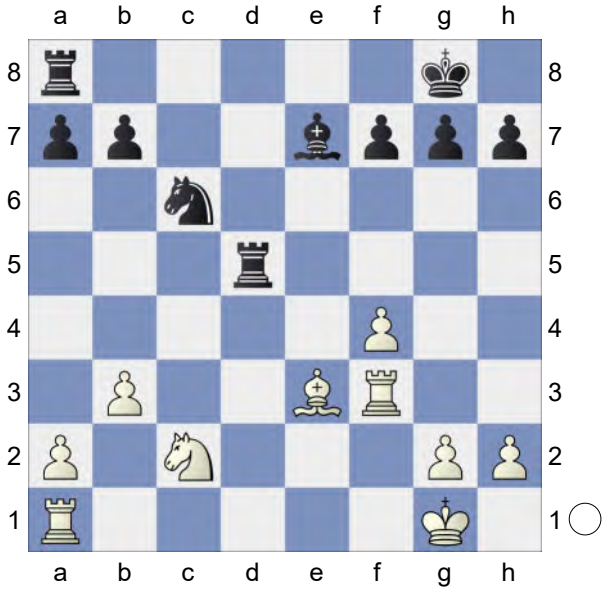
16.Bc4⇄ White is not holding back

16...Qe5

(Diagram)

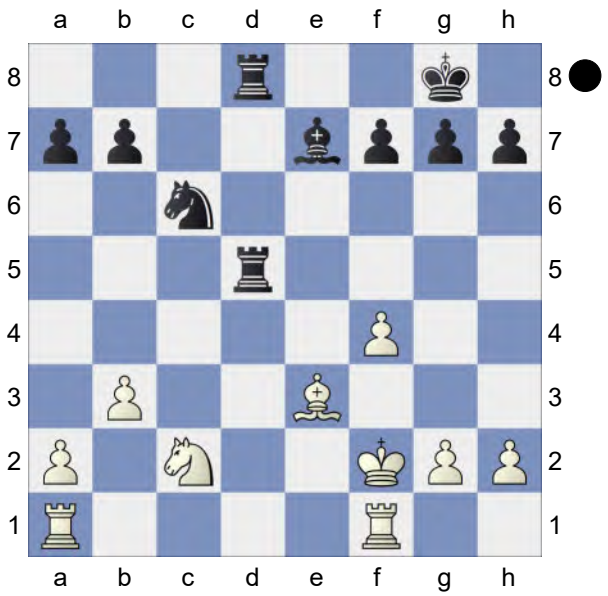


17.f4 -0.53/22
[17.dxe6!= 0.24/22 Rxd1 18.exf7+ Kf8 19.Raxd1 *(19.Rfxd1 Rd8±)*]
17...Qe4∓ 18.Qf3 Qxf3 19.Rxf3 Bxd5 20.Bxd5 Rxd5

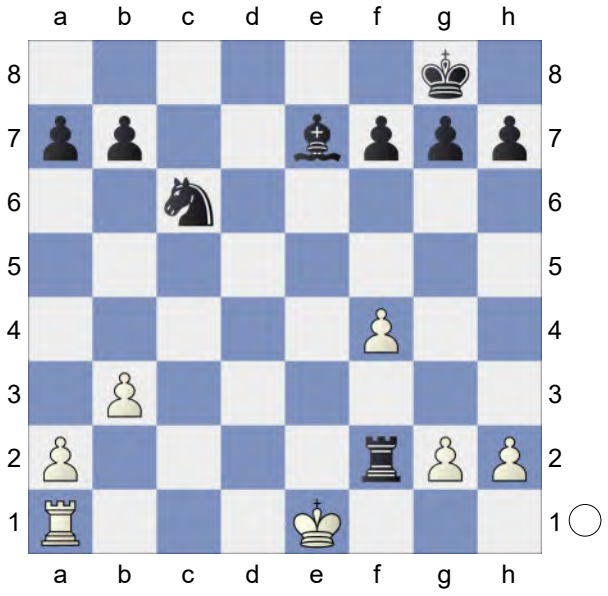


21.Rff1 Rad8 22.Kf2 -1.79/21
[22.Rfe1∓ -0.71/19]

(Diagram)

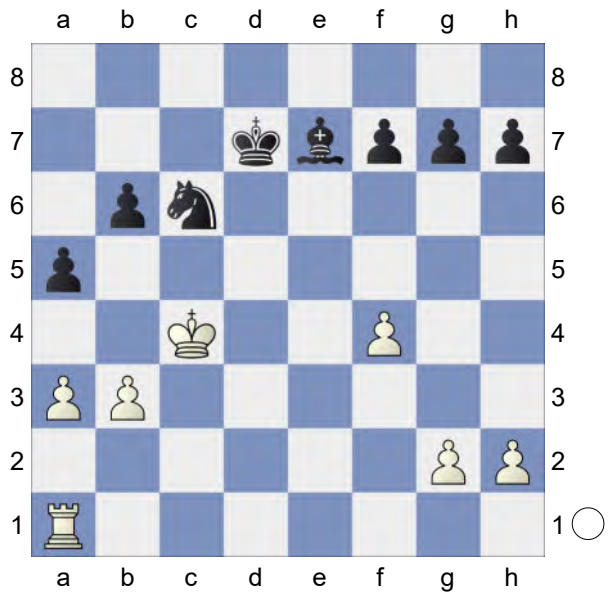


22...Rd2+!-+ 23.Bxd2 Rxd2+ 24.Ke1 Rxc2 25.Rf2 Rxf2

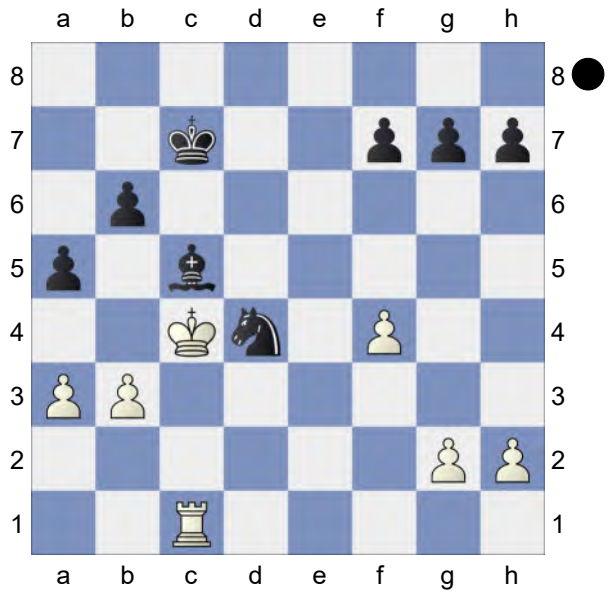


26.Kxf2 Kf8 27.a3 -3.00/22
[⌓27.Rd1 -1.77/19]
27...a5 28.Ke3 Ke8 29.Kd3 Kd7 30.Kc4 b6

(Diagram)

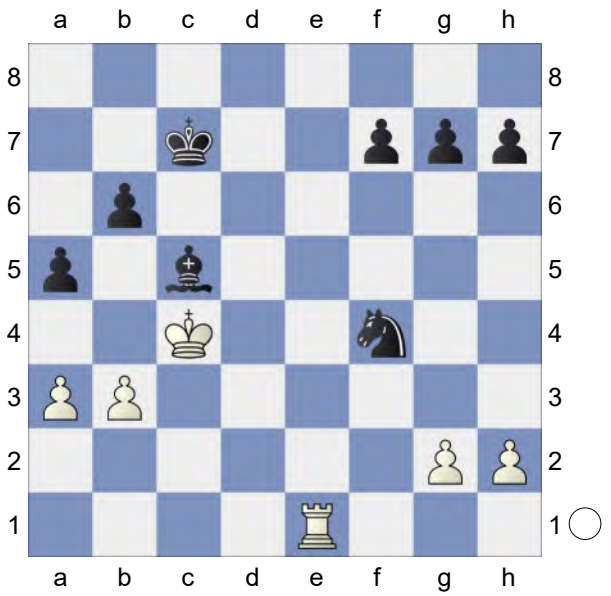


31.Kb5 Bc5 ...Nd4+ is the strong threat.
32.Rd1+ Kc7 33.Rc1 -3.77/23
[⌓33.a4 -2.37/21]
33...Nd4+ 34.Kc4



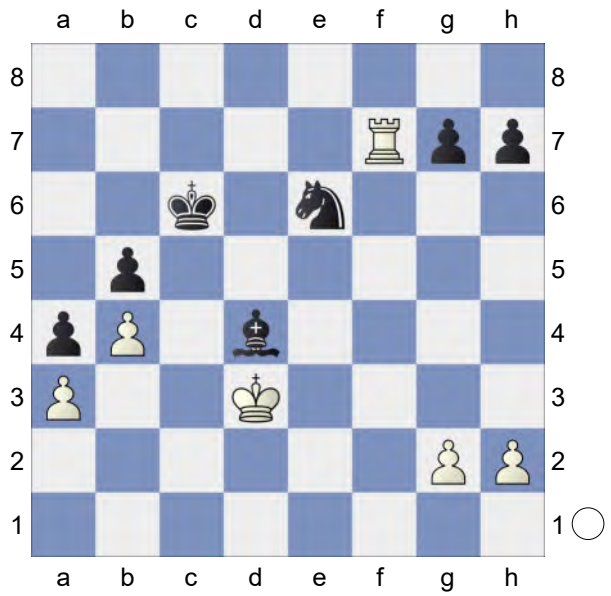
Ne2? -1.49/26
[34...Bxa3!-+ -3.80/23 has better winning chances. 35.Rd1 *(35.Re1 Nf5)* 35...Nf5]
35.Re1∓ Nxf4

(Diagram)

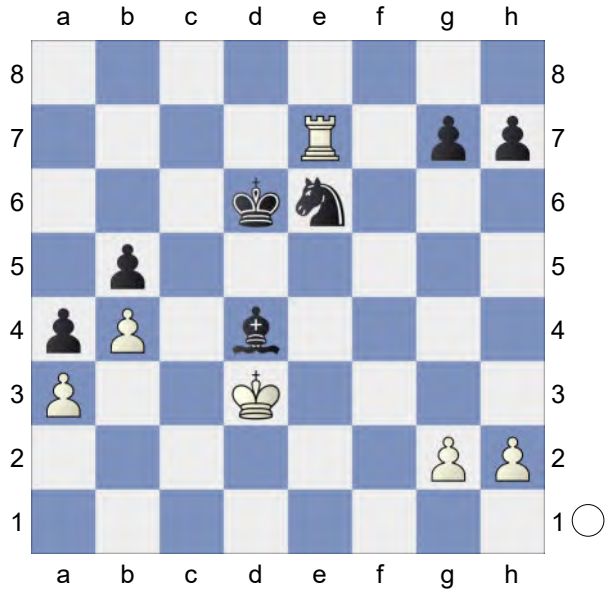


36.Rf1 Ne6 -1.49/26
[Stronger than 36...Nxg2 37.Rxf7+ Kc6 38.Rxg7 b5+ 39.Kc3=]
[36...Bd6-+ -1.94/25 Threatens to win with ...Kc6. 37.g3 Ne6 38.Rxf7+ Kc6]
37.Rxf7+ Kc6 38.b4 -2.91/25
[38.a4 -1.80/25 is the only way for White.]
38...b5+ 39.Kc3 Bd4+ 40.Kd3 a4? -0.01/24
[Black should try 40...axb4-+ -2.63/24 41.axb4 Bf6]

(Diagram)

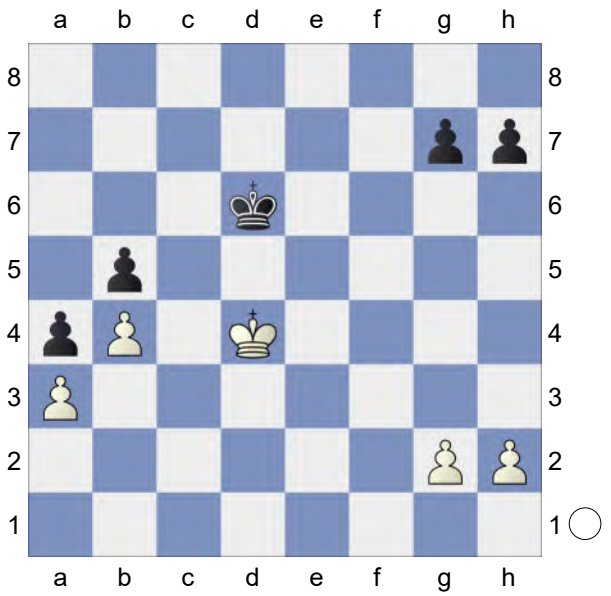


41.Re7= The position is equal. **41...Kd6**

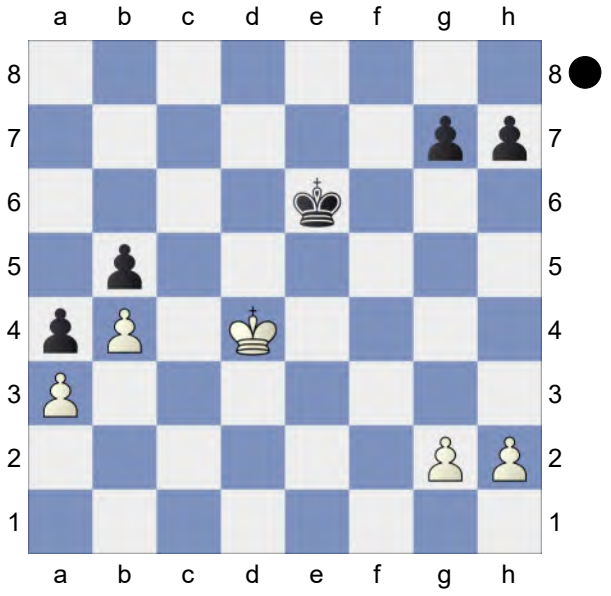


42.Rxe6+ Remove Defender **42...Kxe6 43.Kxd4 Kd6 44.Ke4 Ke6 45.Kd4 Kd6**

(Diagram)



46.Ke4 Ke6 47.Kd4



White happily takes the draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.31
½-½

178 **B55**
□ **Barron,Michael** **2108**
■ **Preotu,Razvan** **2475**
Toronto Annex op (1) 02.09.2023
[Kitty Kat]

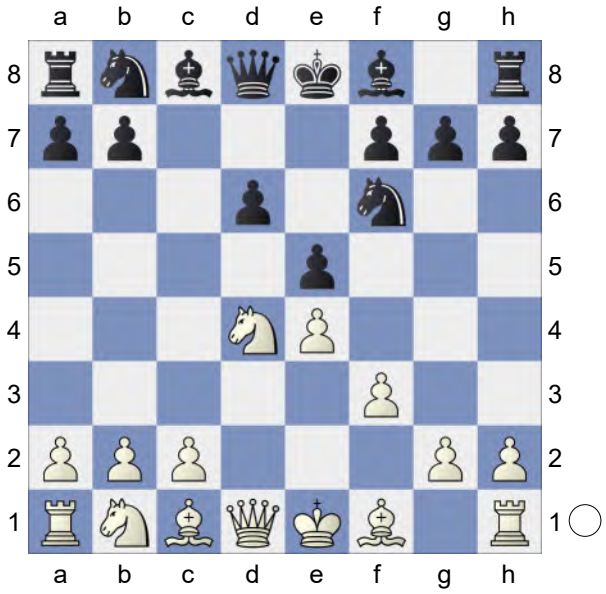
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



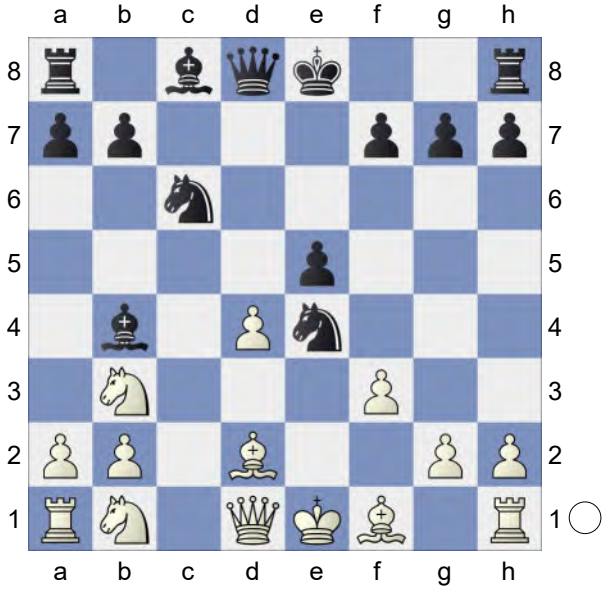
6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.cxd4!

The position is equal.is currently scoring better than 9.Bb5.wohl besser als 9.Lb5.

9...Bb4+

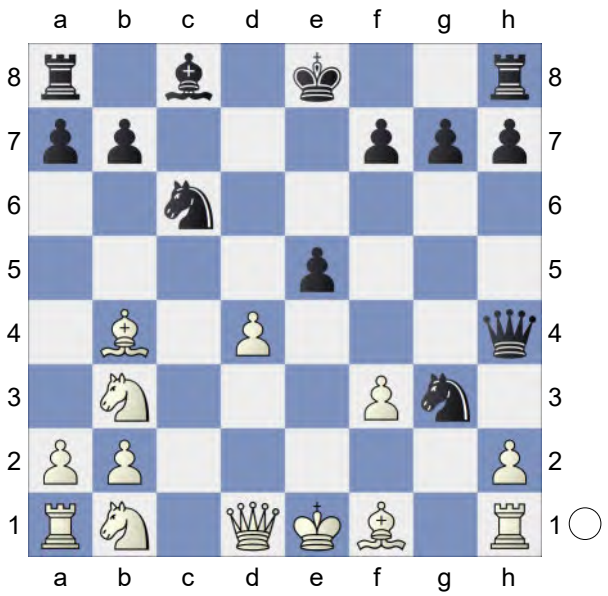
[9...exd4 10.Bb5±]
[9...Nxd4 10.Nc3±]

10.Bd2 Nxe4

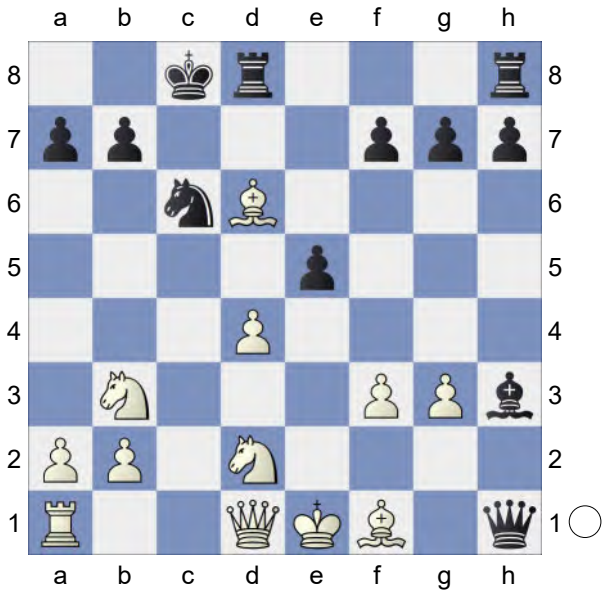


Threatens to win with ...Qh4+. **11.Bxb4 Qh4+! 12.g3 Nxg3**

(Diagram)

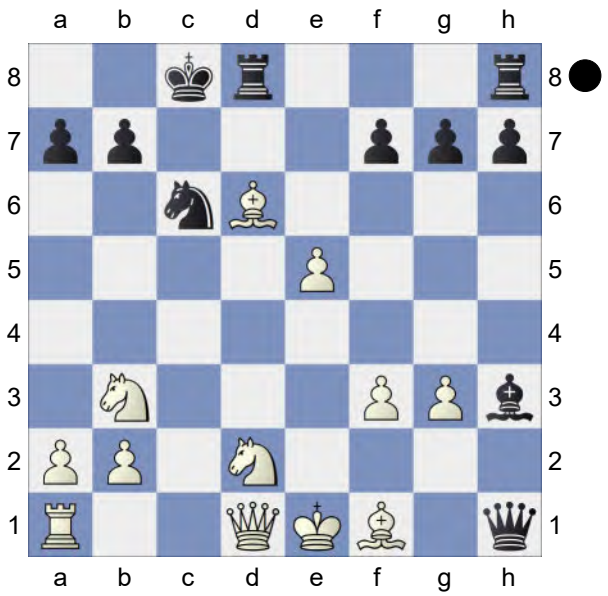


13.hxg3 Qxh1 14.Bd6N -0.54/20
[Vorgänger: 14.Bc3 -1.10/23 14.Ba3 0.06 Bh3 15.N1d2 0-0-0! 16.d5 Rxd5 White must now prevent ...Bxf1. 17.Qe2 Bxf1 18.Qxf1 Qh6 19.0-0-0 Kb8 20.Qc4 1-0 Lu,S (2613)-Wei,Y (2752) CHN-ch Rapid 2022 (7)]
[14.Ba3= 0.06/20]
14...Bh3!∓ 15.N1d2 0-0-0!

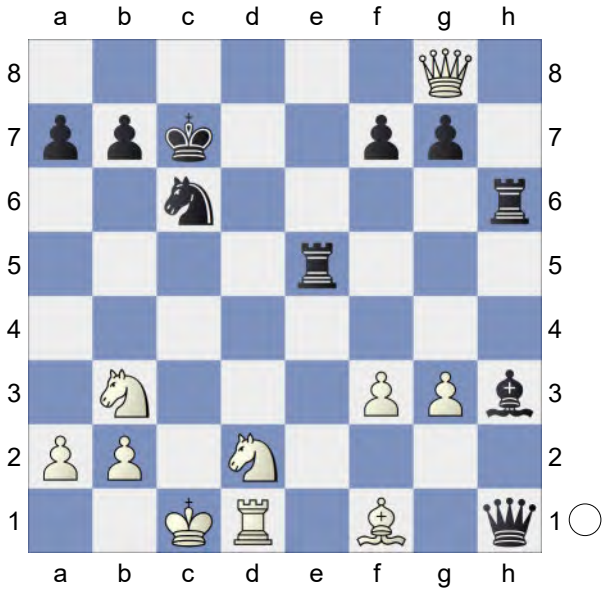


16.dxe5

(Diagram)

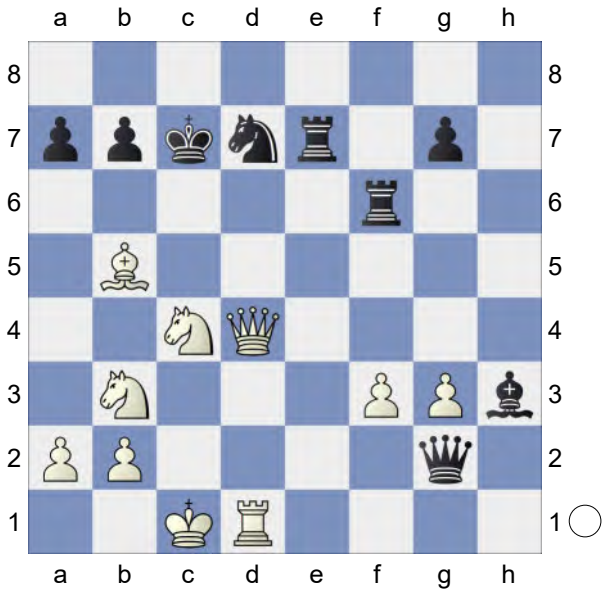


Rhe8 -0.41/20
[16...Rxd6!∓ -0.81/22 17.exd6 Re8+ 18.Ne4 Qxf1+ 19.Kd2 Qg2+ 20.Ke3 Bd7]
17.Qc2! Hoping for 0-0-0. **17...Rxd6!**
18.0-0-0 Rxe5 -0.01/21
[Better is 18...Rh6∓ -1.08/22 19.Bb5 Qg2]
19.Qxh7= Rh6 20.Qg8+ Kc7

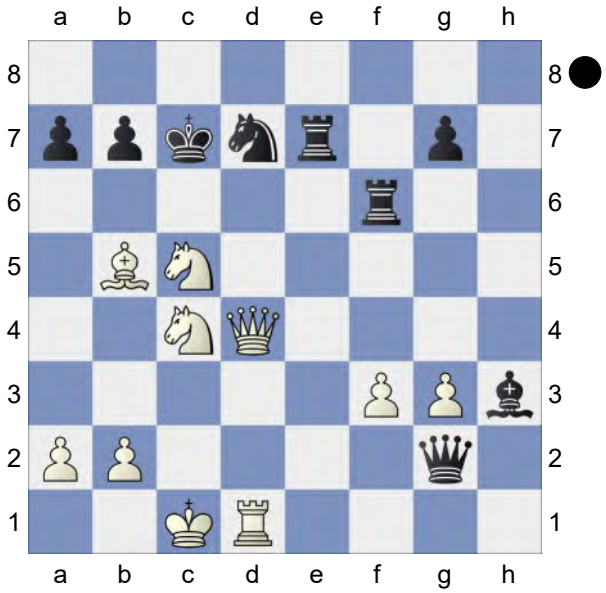


And now ...Bxf1 would win. **21.Qxf7+ Re7 22.Qf4+ Ne5** 1.09/21
[22...Kc8= 0.01/21]
23.Bb5± White has strong

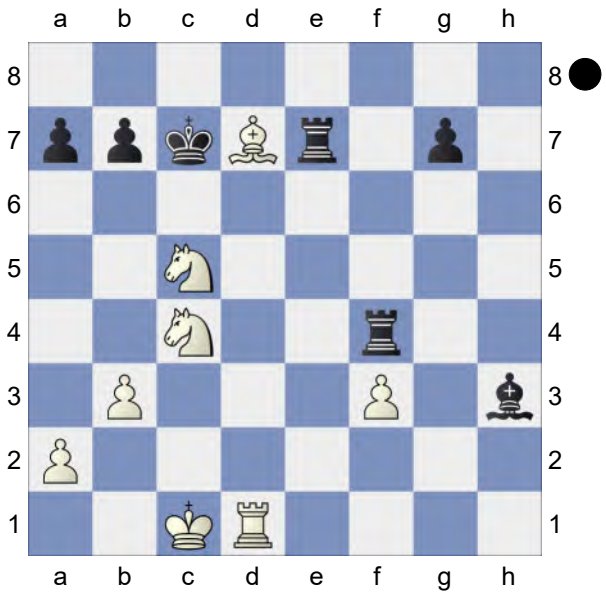
compensation.
[23.Qb4?! Nc6 24.Qf4+ *(24.Qc5? Bxf1 25.Nxf1 Qxf3-+)* 24...Kc8=]
23...Qg2 24.Nc4! Rf6 2.03/22
[24...Qxf3± 1.45/23 might work better. 25.Nxe5 Qxf4+ 26.gxf4 Rd6]
25.Qd4+- Dancing on a razor blade.
25...Nd7



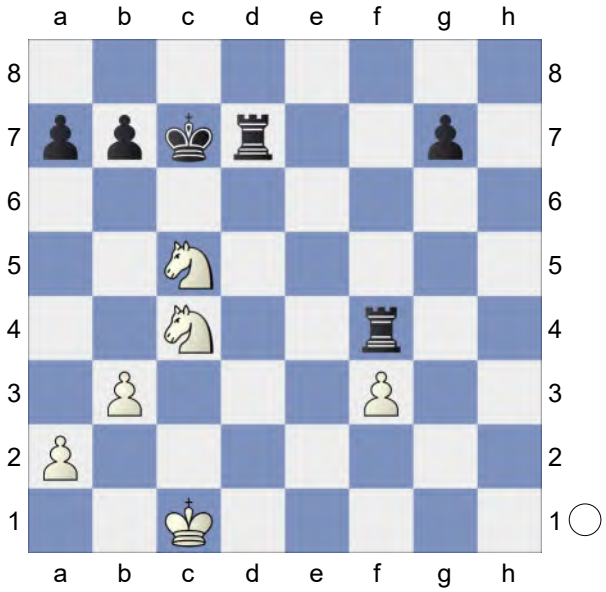
26.Nc5 -0.01/21
[26.Ne3± 1.23/21 Rxe3 27.Qxe3 Qxg3 28.Qc3+ Kb8 29.Bxd7 Bxd7 30.Rxd7]



Pair of Knights! **26...Qxg3=** Strongly threatening ...Qg5+. **27.Bxd7→** White has some attack.
[27.Nxd7 Bxd7]
27...Qf4+ 28.Qxf4+ Rxf4 29.b3

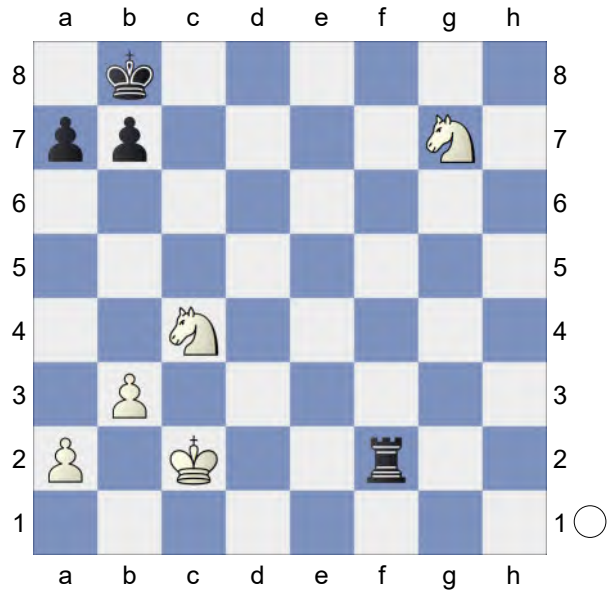


Bxd7 0.90/20
[29...Rxc4+!= -0.19/22 30.bxc4 Bxd7]
30.Rxd7+± Remove Defender **30...Rxd7**



31.Ne6+ Kb8 32.Nxf4 Rf7 33.Ne6 Rxf3 34.Nxg7 Rf1+ 0.97/25
[34...b5± 0.62/25 35.Nd2 Rc3+ 36.Kb2 Rh3]

35.Kc2 Rf2+



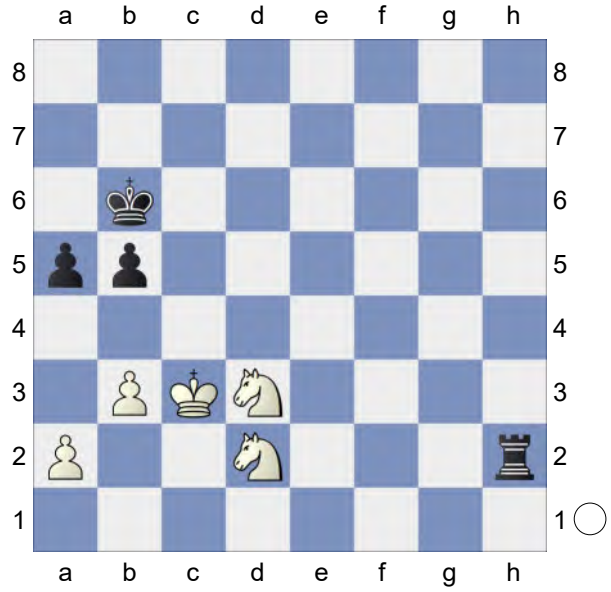
36.Nd2! b5 37.Ne6 Kb7 38.Nc5+ 0.66/26

[38.a3± 1.07/25]

38...Kb6 1.06/25

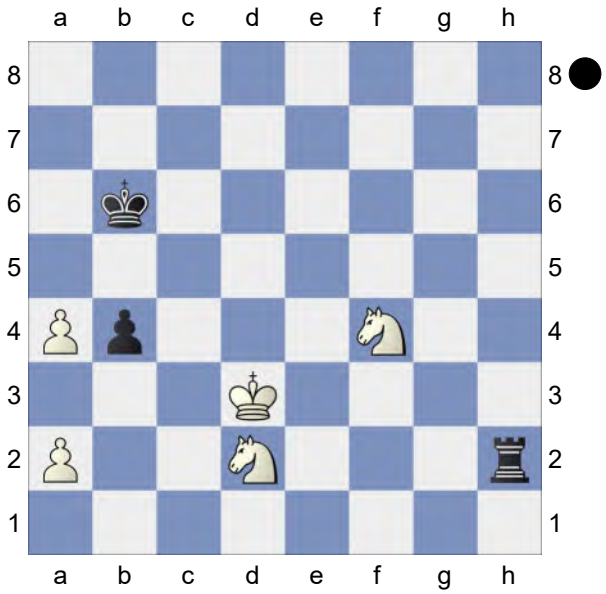
[38...Kc6± 0.66/26 39.Na6 Kb6]

39.Nd3 Rh2 40.Kc3 a5



41.Nf4 White is slightly better. **41...b4+ 42.Kd3 a4 43.bxa4** 0.00/26

[White should try 43.Nc4+± 0.57/22 Kc5 44.Nd2 *(44.bxa4 Rxa2 45.a5 b3=)*]



Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.19 (very precise)

½-½

179 **B55**

□ **Pollack,Oscar** **2096**

■ **Pigott,John C** **2347**

GBR-ch 109th (1) 22.07.2023

[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

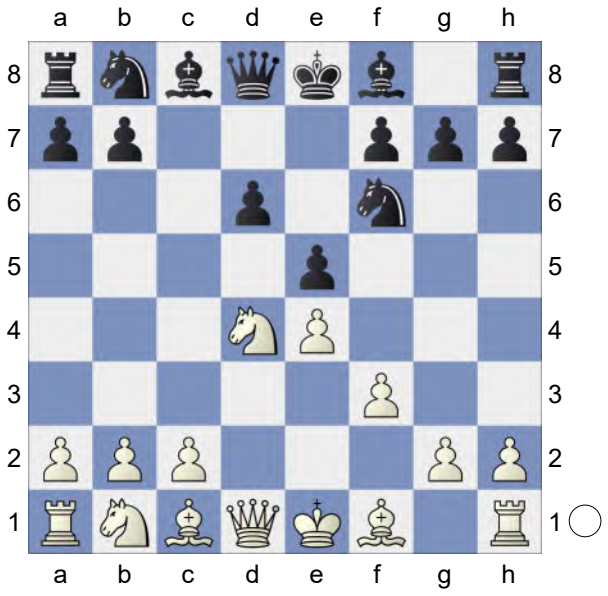
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53))

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4*

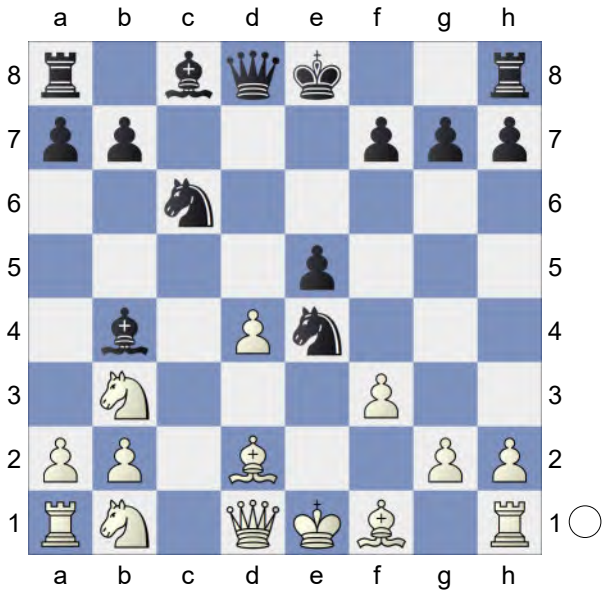
16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



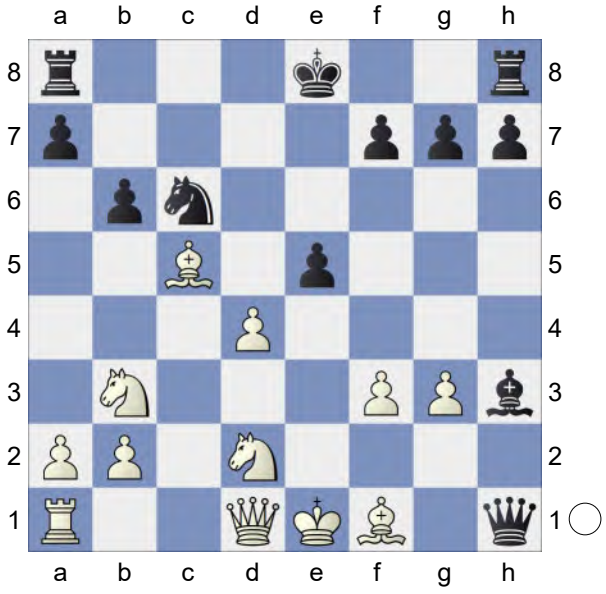
6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.cxd4! White has an edge.is currently scoring better than 9.Bb5.wohl besser als 9.Lb5. **9...Bb4+ 10.Bd2 Nxe4**

(Diagram)



11.Bxb4 Qh4+! 12.g3 Nxg3 13.hxg3 Qxh1 14.Bc5 aiming for d5. **14...Bh3 15.N1d2** Black should prevent Qc2. **15...b6** 0.96/22

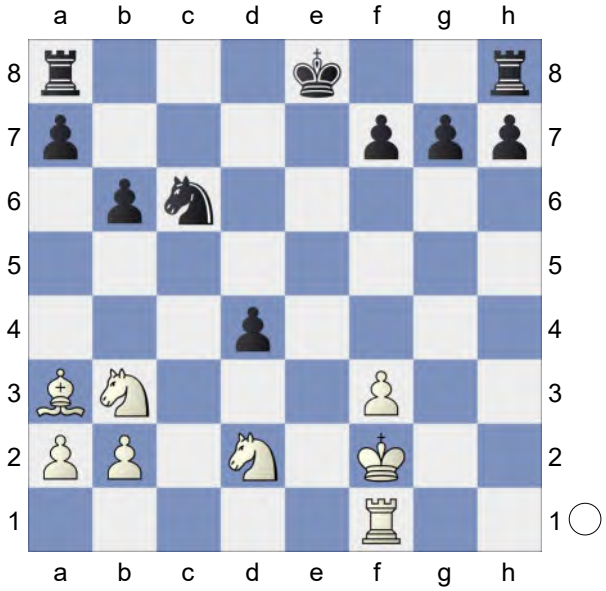
[15...0-0-0= 0.13/19 16.Qc2 Bxf1]



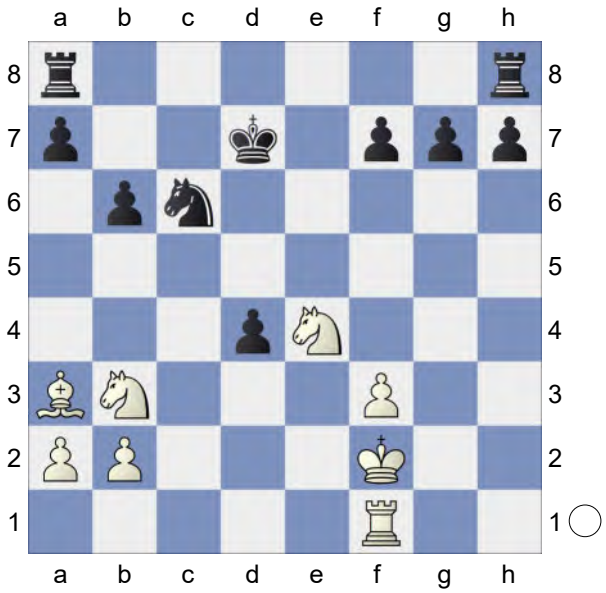
16.Ba3 Qg1 17.Qe2 Qxg3+ 18.Qf2N 0.39/20 Chess con chili.

[Vorgänger: 18.Kd1 Black must now prevent Bxh3. Bxf1 19.Qxf1 Qb5 is the strong threat. 0-0-0 Strongly threatening ...Kb7. 20.Rc1 Kb7 21.Rxc6 Kxc6 22.Na5+ bxa5

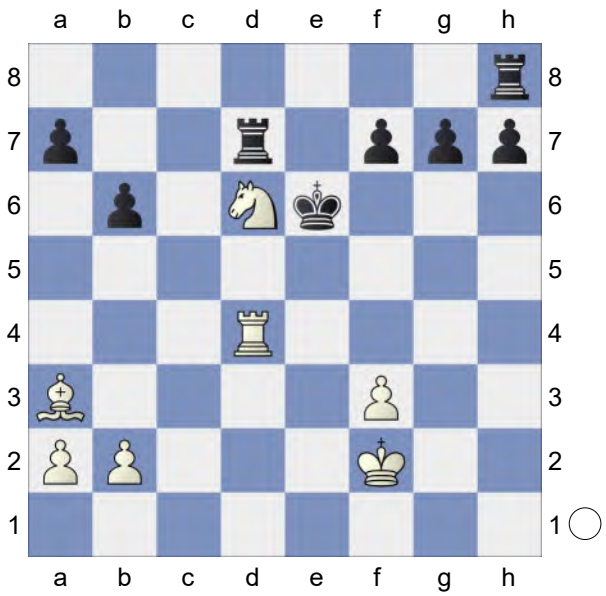
23.Qa6+ Kc7 Hoping for ...Qg1+.
24.Qxa7+ ½-½ Garcia Ramos,D (2435)-Santos Latasa,J (2672) ESP-ch 87th Linares 2022 (7)]
[18.Kd1± 1.10/23 Bxf1 19.Qxf1]
18...Qxf2+± 19.Kxf2 Bxf1 20.Rxf1 exd4



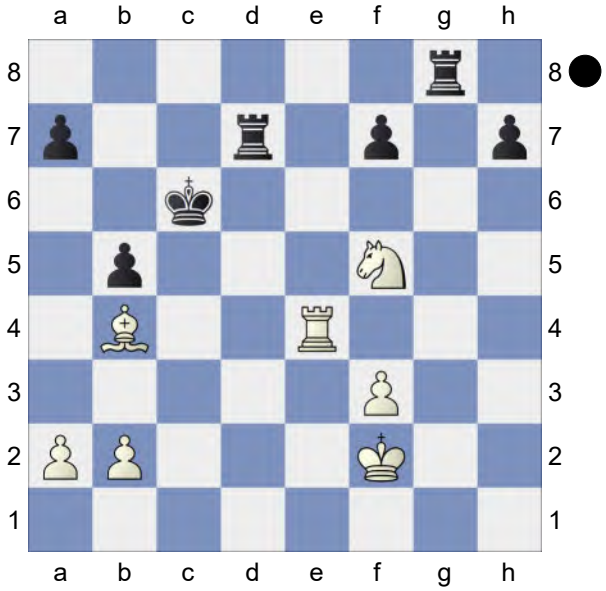
21.Ne4 Kd7



22.Nxd4! Nxd4 23.Rd1 Rad8 24.Rxd4+ Ke6 0.66/20
[24...Kc7= 0.07/23 25.Ra4 Kb8]
25.Nd6! White has compensation. &Bianco is more active. **25...Rd7**

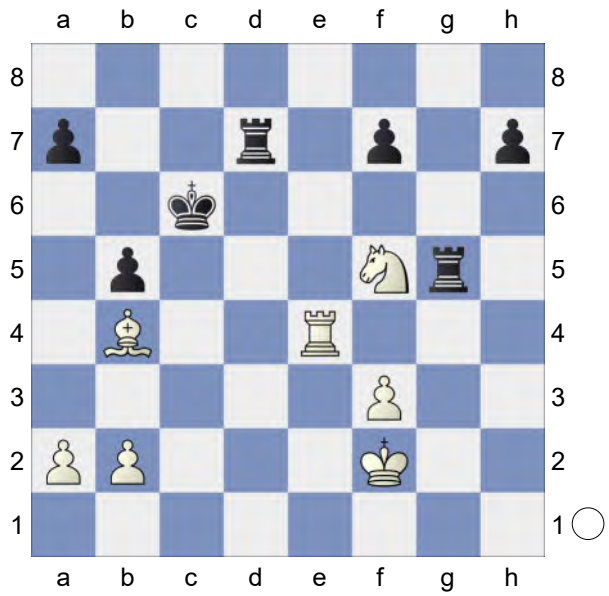


26.Re4+ Kd5 27.Nf5 Kc6 28.Nxg7 b5 1.93/21
[28...Rd2+± 0.94/20 is a better defense. 29.Ke3 Rhd8]
29.Bb4+- Rg8 30.Nf5



Threatens to win with Ne7+. **30...Rg5**

(Diagram)

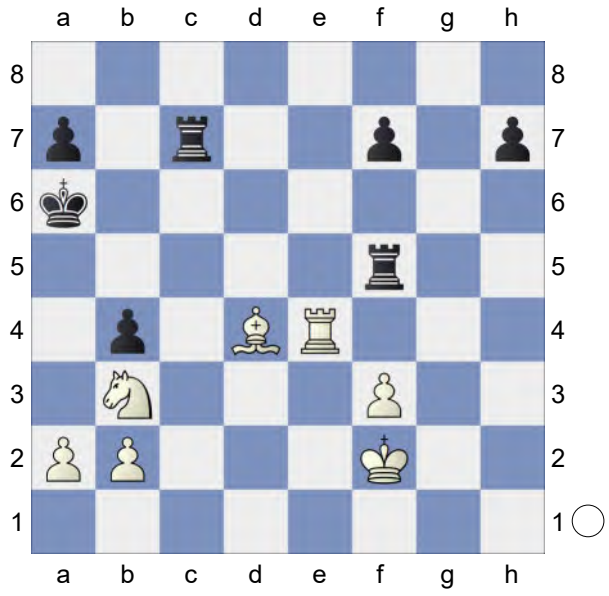


31.Nd4+ Kb6 32.Nb3 Rf5 33.Bd2 Ka6 2.44/21

[⌓33...Rh5 1.66/19 34.Be3+ Kc6]

34.Be3 Rc7 Prevents Nc5+. **35.Bd4 b4** 2.56/22

[⌓35...Kb7 1.98/21 36.f4 Rd5]



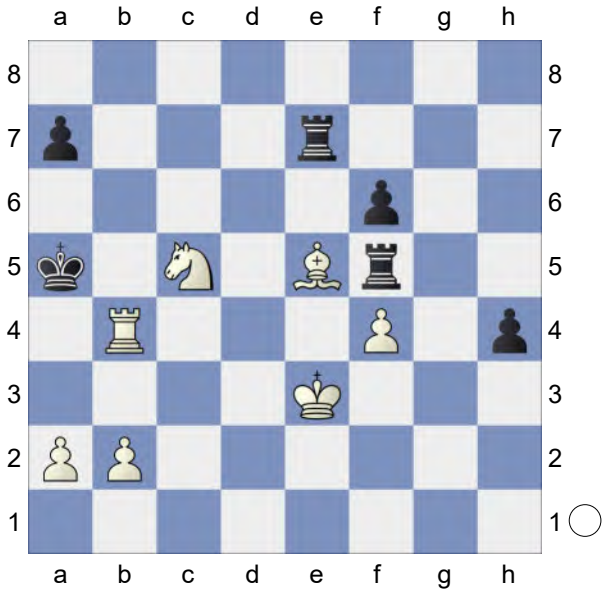
36.Ke3 h5 37.Be5 Re7 38.f4 h4 5.21/20

[⌓38...f6 3.26/22]

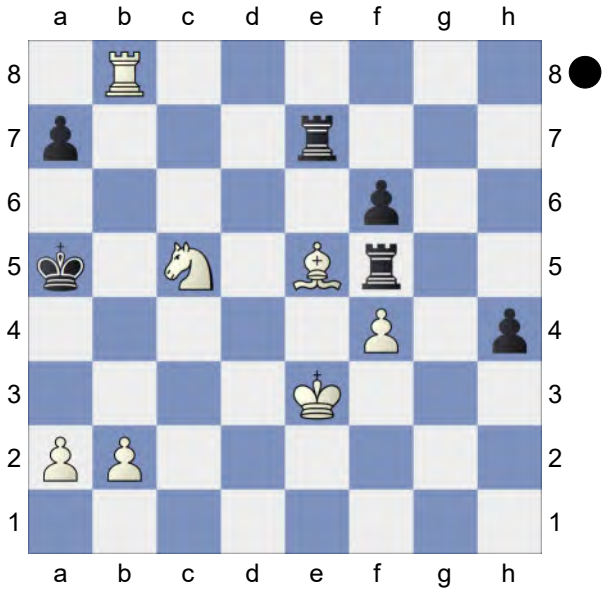
39.Rxb4 White threatens Nc5+ and mate. **39...f6** #10/22

[39...Rfxe5++- 5.07/22 40.fxe5 Rxe5+ 41.Kd3 h3]

40.Nc5+ Ka5



41.Rb8



Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.44

1-0

180 **B55**
□ **Jimenez Salas,Maria Teresa** **2061**
■ **Sovetbekova,Nurai** **1940**
Swiss Queens Wed #37 blitz (1) 09.10.24
[Kitty Kat]

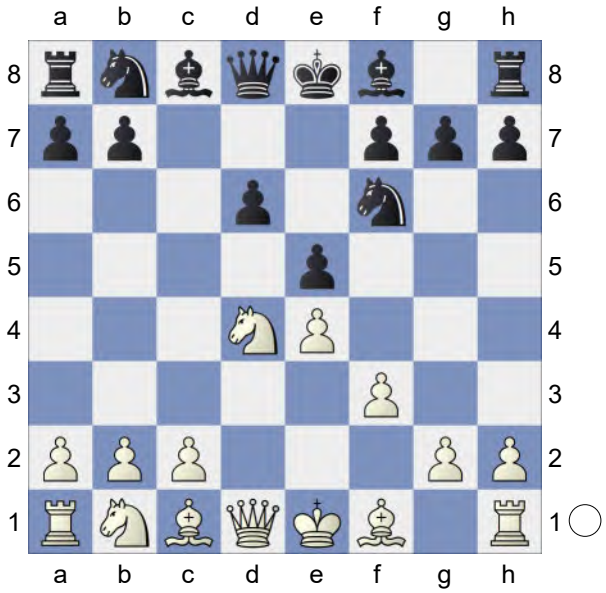
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

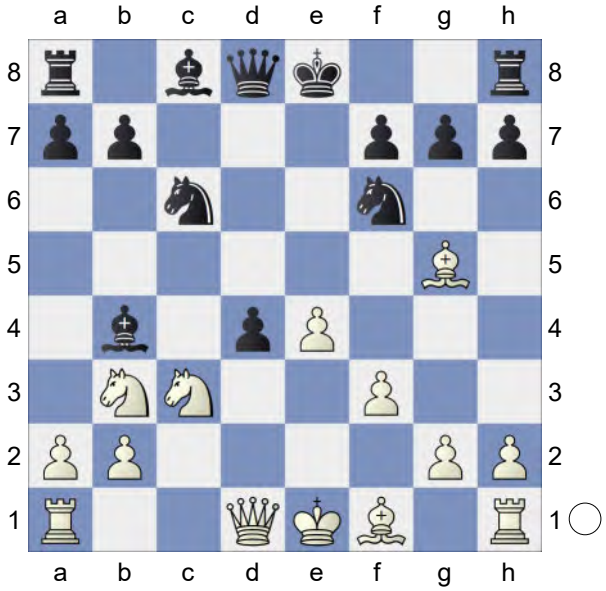
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4! 8.c3 Nc6 9.cxd4 The position is equal.now supersedes 9. Bb5. löst 9.Lb5 inzwischen ab. **9...Bb4+**

[Resist 9...Nxd4 10.Nc3±]

10.Nc3 exd4



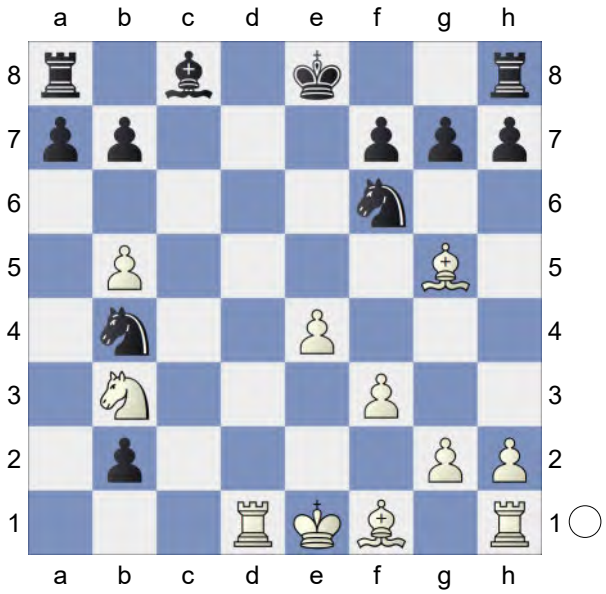
Pin **11.a3 dxc3** 0.86/22

[11...Be7∓ -0.39/19 keeps the upper hand. 12.Nb5 0-0]

12.Qxd8+± Kxd8 13.axb4 cxb2 14.Rd1+ Ke7N Hoping for ...Be6.

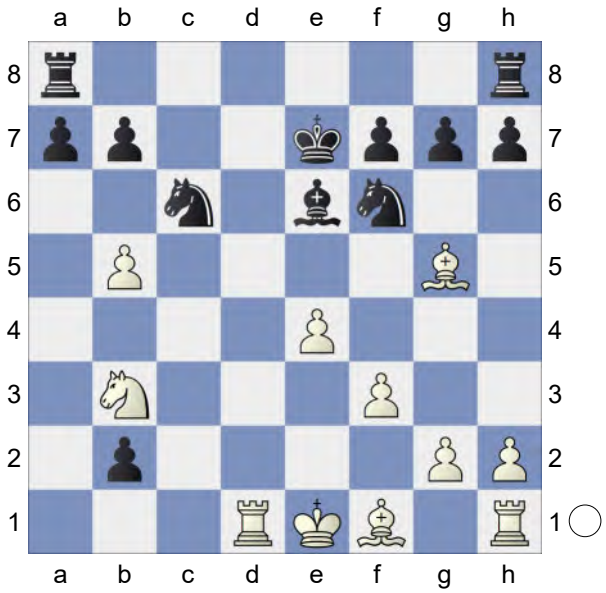
[14...Ke8 1.06/20 14...Ke7 0.75

15.b5 Nb4 1.57/20 *(⌓15...a5 0.87/19)*



16.Rb1!± Be6 17.Rxb2 Black must now prevent Nc5. Bxb3 18.Rxb3 Nc2+ 19.Kd2 Nd4 20.Ra3 Ne6 ½-½ Gemy Vargas,J (2380)-McDonald,J (1857) American World Cup Q Prelim rapid 2021 (1)]

15.b5 Be6? 2.54/21



16.Nc5? 0.16/20

[16.bxc6+- 2.54/21 Bxb3 17.Rb1 bxc6 18.Rxb2]

16...Ba2 0.90/20 **17.bxc6± Rad8?** 3.20/22

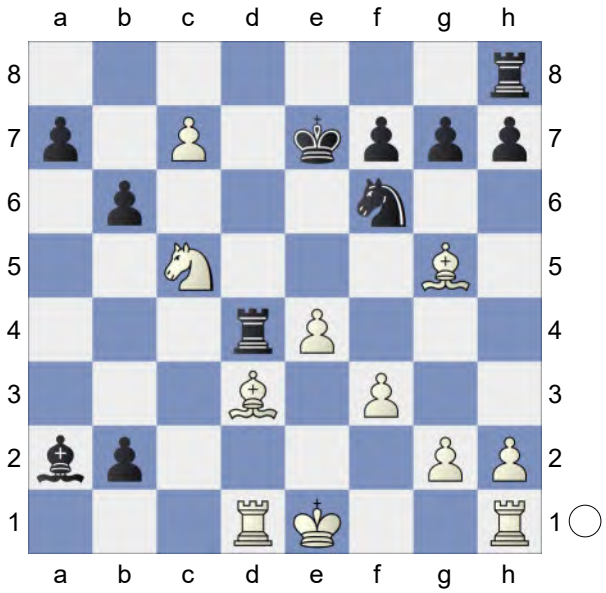
[17...b6!= 0.01/19 and Black is okay.]

18.Bd3+- b6 19.c7 1.85/22

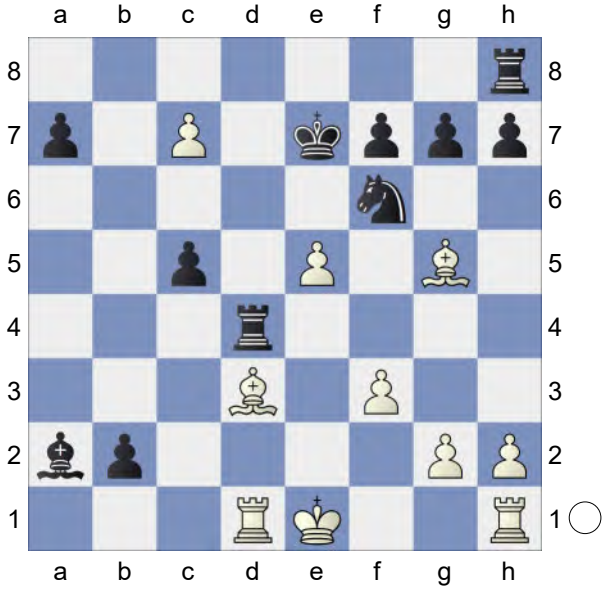
[⌓19.Nd7 3.27/22 h6 20.Bxf6+ gxf6 21.Rd2]

19...Rd4? 4.19/25

[19...Rxd3 1.85/22 might work better. 20.Nxd3 b1Q 21.Rxb1 Bxb1]



20.e5! bxc5

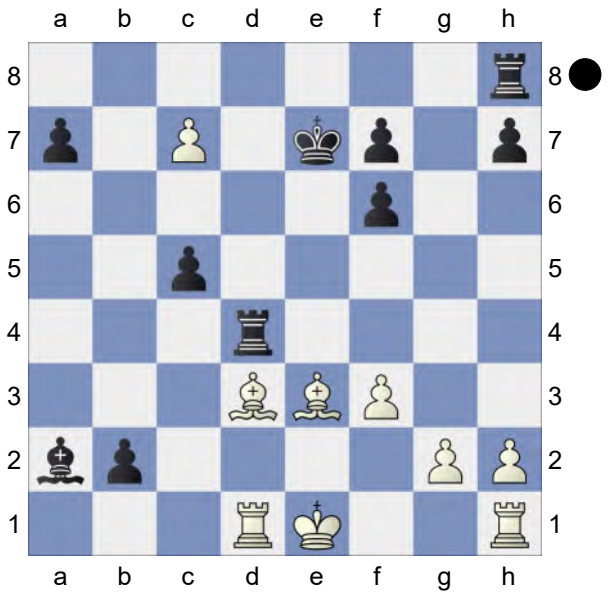


21.exf6+? -1.08/20

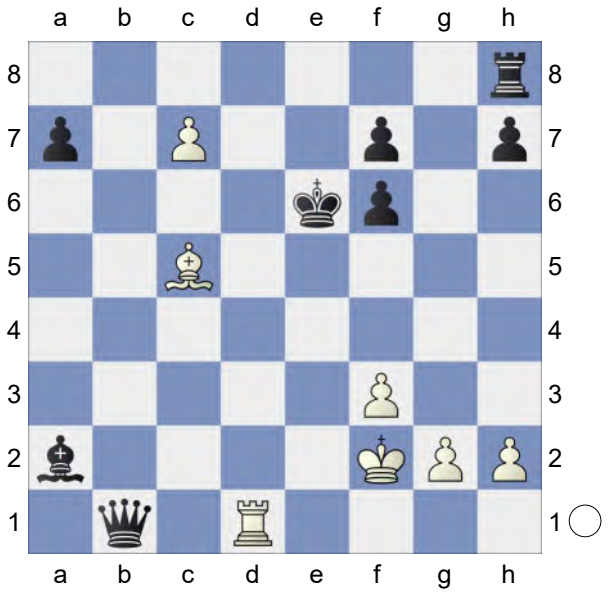
[21.Kf2+- 3.79/21]

21...gxf6∓ Threatens to win with ...Rxd3! Chess con chili. **22.Be3?** -6.11/22

[22.Rd2∓ -1.46/22 fxg5 23.Rxb2]

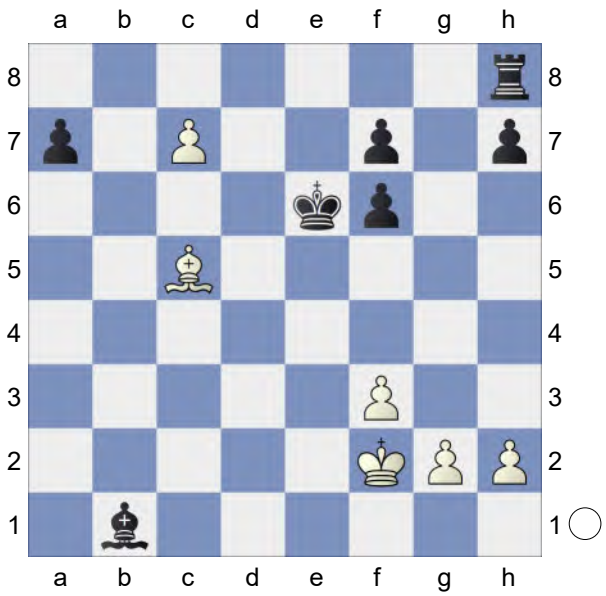


22...Rxd3!-+ Black is clearly winning.
23.Kf2
[23.Bxc5+ Ke6]
23...Rxd1 24.Rxd1 b1Q 25.Bxc5+ Ke6



26.Rxb1 Bxb1

(Diagram)



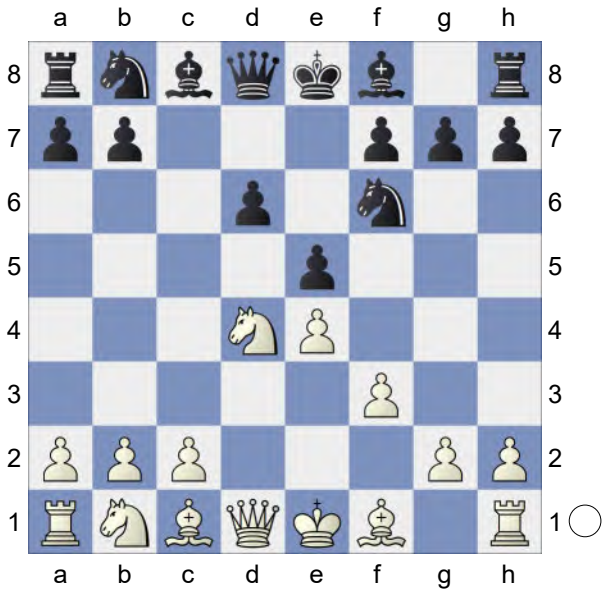
Weighted Error Value: White=0.97/ Black=0.71
0-1

181 **B55**
□ **Makay,Mark Janos** **2046**
■ **Pyrig,Roman** **2399**
Wch U18 blitz (1) 16.12.2024
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4*

16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Bb5+ Nbd7! The main line 6...Nbd7 scores better than 6...Bd7. Die Hauptvariante 6...Sbd7 punktet besser als 6...Ld7. **7.Nf5 Qc7** 0.64/22

[7...a6= 0.03/18 8.Ba4 b5]

8.Be3N 0.08/18

[8.Nc3 a6 9.Ba4 b5 10.Bb3 Nb6 11.Bg5 Bxf5 12.exf5 Be7 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.Qxd5 0-1 Groetzbach,J (2268)-Kanter,E (2344) Titled Tuesday intern op 02nd Apr Late blitz 2024 (6)]

[8.Bg5± 0.64/22]

8...a6= 9.Be2 -0.43/19

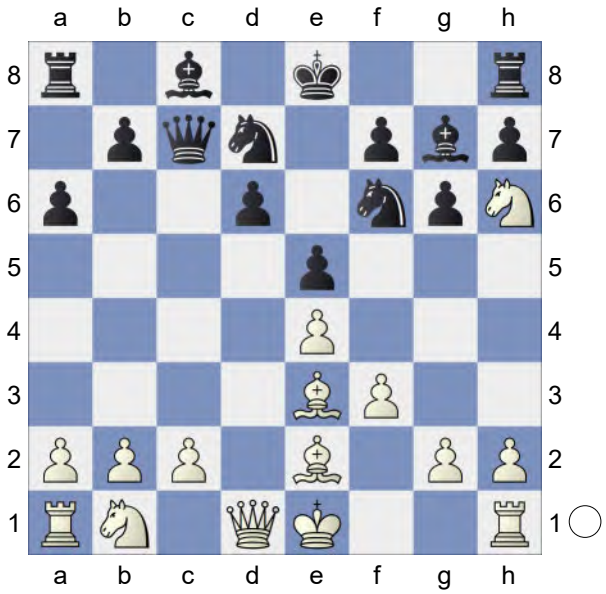
[9.Ba4!= 0.15/20]

9...g6 0.08/18

[Better is 9...Nb6!∓ -0.43/19]

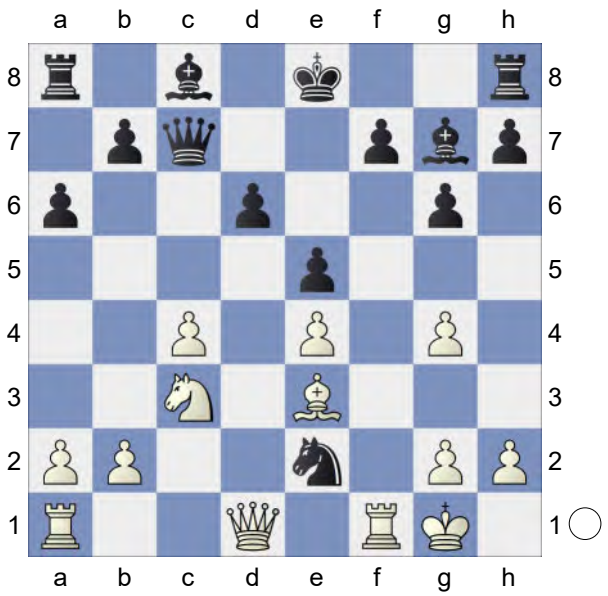
10.Nh6 Bg7 0.48/19

[10...Nb6= -0.04/19]



11.c4 Nc5 12.Nc3 Ne6 13.0-0 Nf4 14.Ng4 Nxg4 15.fxg4 Nxe2+

(Diagram)

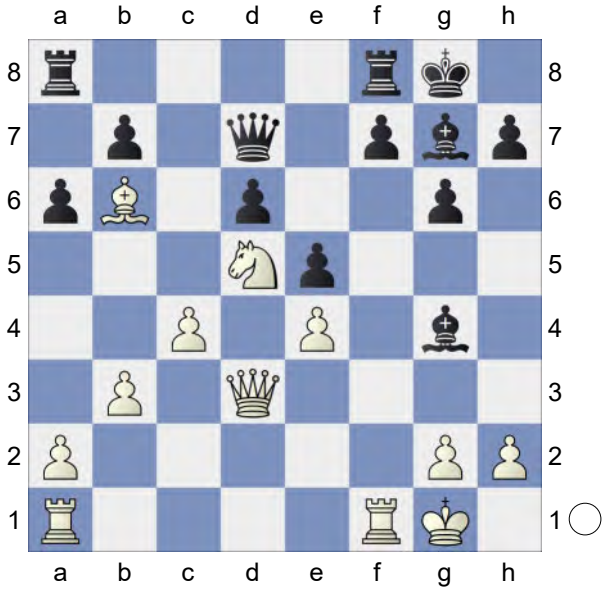


16.Qxe2 Be6! 17.b3 0-0 18.Qd3 0.23/22

[18.Rac1± 0.66/18]

18...Bxg4 19.Nd5 Qd8 20.Bb6

White has compensation. **20...Qd7**

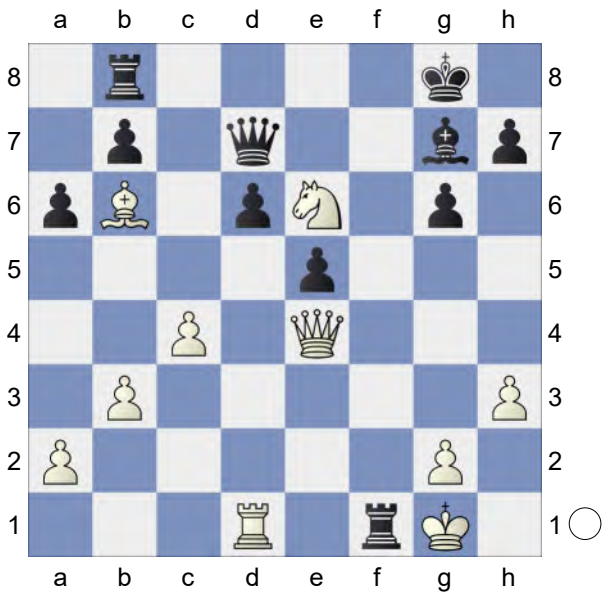


21.h3 Be6 22.Rad1 f5 0.65/21

[22...Rac8= -0.01/19]

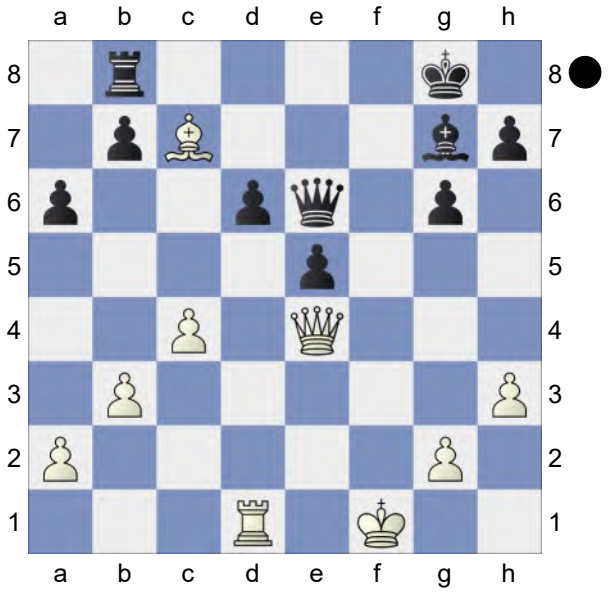
23.Nc7± fxe4 24.Qxe4 Rab8 25.Nxe6 Rxf1+

(Diagram)



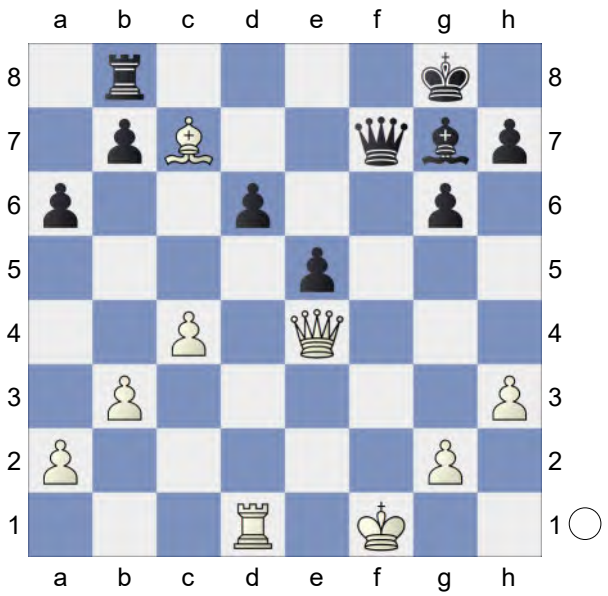
26.Kxf1 Qxe6 27.Bc7? -4.85/20

[27.Kg1± 0.66/22 stays ahead.]



27...Qf7+

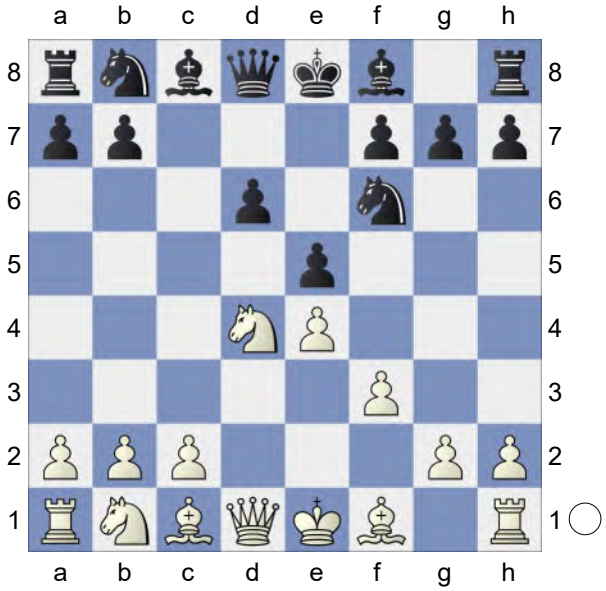
(Diagram)



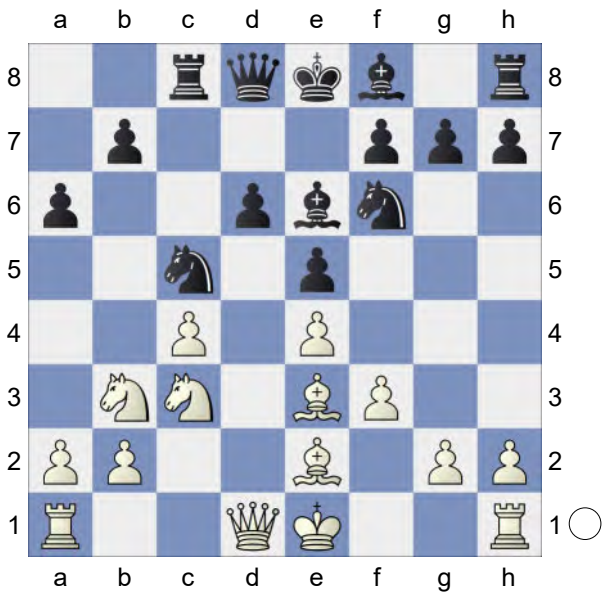
Weighted Error Value: White=0.50/ Black=0.21 (precise)
0-1

182 **B55**
□ **Karaklajic,Nikola**
■ **Tamashi**
Backa Palanka 08.1952
[Kitty Kat]

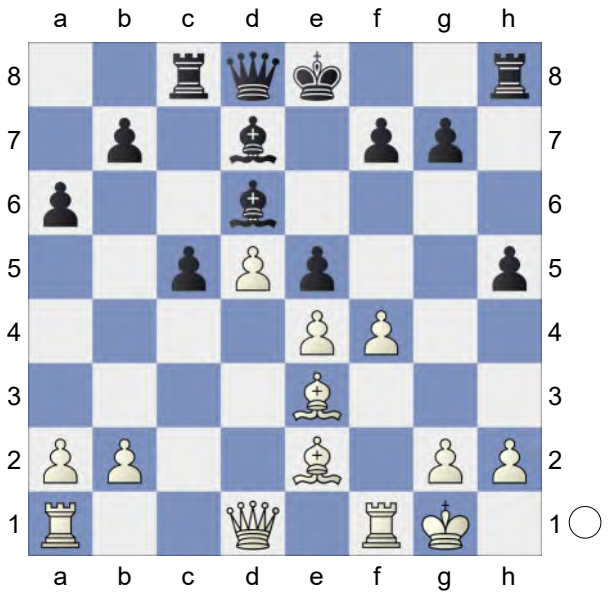
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 Nbd7
[Much less strong is 7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]
8.Nc3 a6 9.Be3 Nc5 10.Be2 White is slightly better. **10...Rc8** (Diagram)

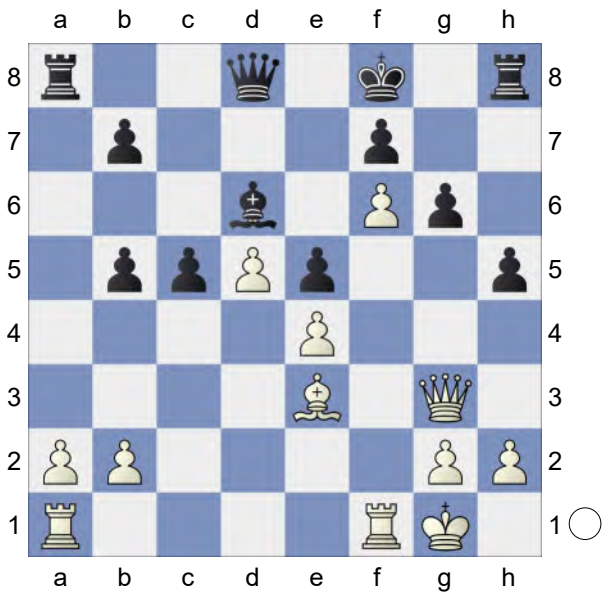


11.0-0 h5 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.cxd5 Bd7 14.Nxc5 dxc5 15.f4 Bd6

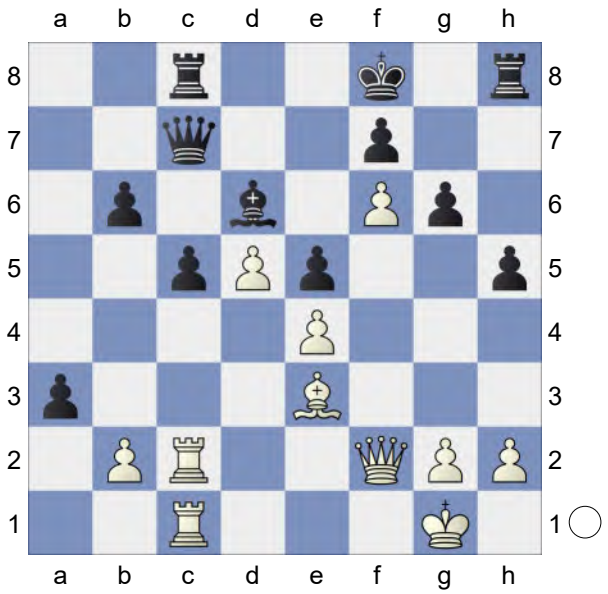


16.f5 Bb5 1.13/22
[Black should try 16...c4± 0.51/18]
17.Bxb5+ axb5 18.Qe1 Ra8 19.Qg3 Kf8 20.f6 g6

(Diagram)

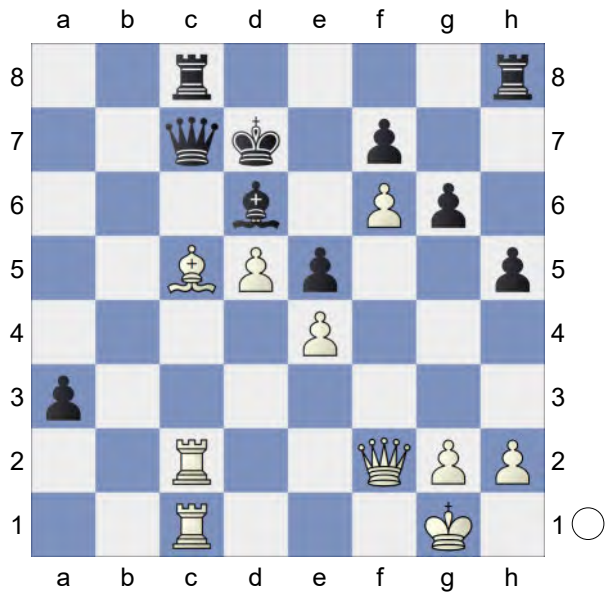


21.Qf2 0x0.00209a826646dp-1022s more active pieces. **21...Qc7 22.Rac1 Rc8 23.Rc2 b4 24.Rfc1 b6 25.a3↑** White is on the roll. **25...bxa3**

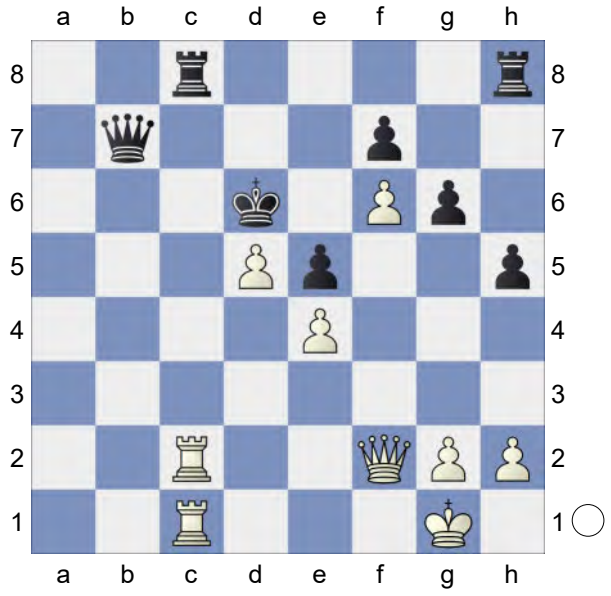


26.b4 Ke8? 5.56/22 Loses the game.
[26...Qb8± 0.87/23]
27.bxc5+- bxc5 28.Bxc5 Kd7 13.52/24
[28...a2 3.21/22 29.Bd4 *(29.Bxd6? Qxc2 30.Re1 Qxf2+ 31.Kxf2 Kd7-+)* 29...exd4 30.Rxc7 Rxc7]

(Diagram)

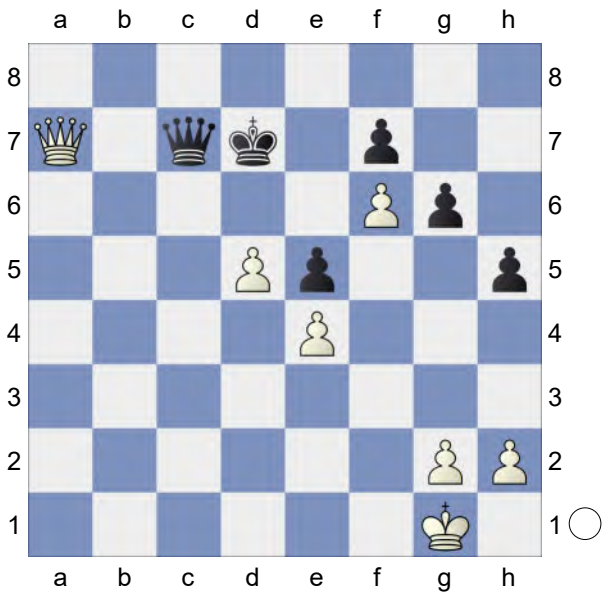


29.Bxa3! Qb7 30.Bxd6 Kxd6

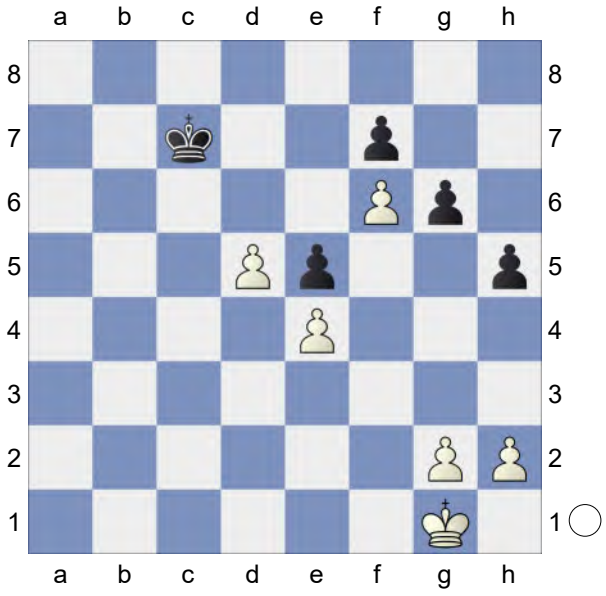


31.Rxc8 Rxc8 32.Rxc8 Qxc8 KQ-KQ
33.Qb6+ Kd7 34.Qa7+ Qc7

(Diagram)

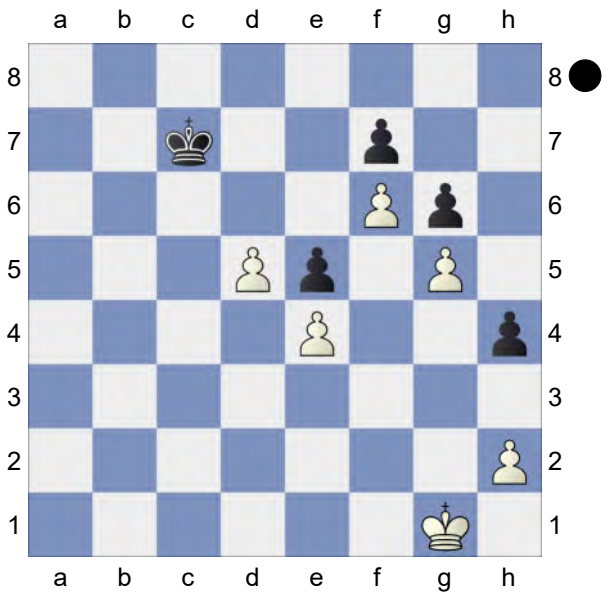


35.Qxc7+ Kxc7



36.g4 h4 37.g5

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.83
1-0

183 **B55**
☐ **The Prins Sicilian: Data**
■ **5... Nc6,6...e6 and 7...Be7**
[TA]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 The most natural developing move. Now a lot depends on White's next move. If White is in an ambitious mood, they will try to prevent us from developing our light-squared bishop on the next move. If they are more solidly inclined, they allow it, and a slightly slower game emerges. **4.Nxd4** Traditionally the main line, and certainly the most natural and logical move. Not only does White develop the knight to the most active square, but in doing so, our most attractive developing move becomes unplayable. This is the only chapter that will cover something that resembles the Open Sicilian. **4...Nf6** The real Slav! We capture on c4 precisely here, in order to develop our light-squared bishop on the next move without it being hit by Qb3. It does temporarily give up the center, but White will find it surprisingly difficult to get the center rolling in a good way. **5.f3** For comments up to this point, please check the Overview variation in the Overview chapter! This system has been around for ages. White wants to postpone the development of the queen's knight in order to play c4 first. This system has been around for ages, but it experienced a boost in popularity when Magnus Carlsen used it to clinch his World Championship match against Sergey Karjakin. Not long after that, I managed to win a nice game against Harikrishna with Black. Amongst club players and amateurs too, this system keeps popping up every now and again, as White players try to surprise their opponents. The idea is to keep the knight on b1 for now and get the Maroczy bind with c4. Chess, however, is a game of tempi and it is now Black to move. The idea of this move is to allow for the move c4 before putting the knight on c3, thus establishing a Maroczy bind. Black doesn't need to allow this and can quickly liberate his play by pushing ...d5. The idea of this move is to allow for the move c4 before putting the knight on c3, thus establishing a Maroczy bind. Black doesn't need to allow this and can quickly liberate his play by pushing ...d5. The move 5.Bd3 is a harmless one, as Black can play Nc6 immediately attacking the knight on d4. Then he can decide whether he would play ...g6 or ...e6 in order to complete his development as both options are good. This is the line that is played in about 2% of games

but I think it deserves to be covered. White postpones the queenside Knight's development to be able to play c4 and set up the Maroczy structure. Note that the Maroczy structure is something that you see most often in the openings such as Kan/ Paulsen or Accelerated Dragon, but vs 2... d6, there is no way for White to set up this structure in a standard way. By starting with f3, White wants to play c4 next, and unless you are a huge fan of the Maroczy with Black, you should stop this pawn thrust whatsoever ! This is the line that is played in about 2% of games but I think it deserves to be covered. White postpones the queenside Knight's development to be able to play c4 and set up the Maroczy structure. Note that the Maroczy structure is something that you see most often in the openings such as Kan/ Paulsen or Accelerated Dragon, but vs 2... d6, there is no way for White to set up this structure in a standard way. By starting with f3, White wants to play c4 next, and unless you are a huge fan of the Maroczy with Black, you should stop this pawn thrust whatsoever! **5...Nc6**

[5...e5 For comments up to this point, please check the Overview variation in the Overview chapter! The most principled continuation. Another decent option is 5...Nc6 6.c4 e6 . The most principled move. The typical Najdorf move here is a preparation for ...d5. The most critical way of playing is to seize space in the centre. It weakens the d5-square but don't worry - we will deal with that on the next move.

A) 6.Bb5+ This is not a good system, quite frankly. This check was considered the main move many years ago, but Black can easily equalise. This is supposed to be a disruptive check in many Sicilian positions, but it is not too strong with the pawn on f3. Nbd7 We avoid the Bishops exchange which helps us cover the light squares in the centre. *(6...Bd7* This is the simplest, by exchanging the bishops Black speeds up his development and uses this development advantage to push ... d5 and later recuperate the pawn on d5. *7.Bxd7+ Nbxd7 8.Nf5 d5* This is a temporary pawn sacrifice that liberates Black's play. *9.exd5 Nb6* Thanks to his lead in development Black will return the material. *10.Bg5 Qd7* Removing the queen from the pin and attacking the knight. *11.Bxf6 Qxf5* Winning tempo against the bishop and also eyeing c2. *12.Bh4 Rc8* With every move Black increases his initiative. *13.Nc3 Bb4* Now Black returns the pawn and obtains excellent play *14.0-0 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Rxc3* With great play for Black who will castle next and will continue with a better pawn structure. 5.f3-5.f3 Variation 5*)* 7.Nf5 This looks principled but it is not very good for White. If 7.Nb3 , which may objectively be the lesser evil, White has made a lot of moves that aren't exactly connected to each other. I don't know whether he deserves to be worse now, but one way or the other, Black is very fine. We can kick the bishop with 7...a6 first or just finish development with 7...Be7 and short castle. The d7-knight will find a job on b6,

supporting the d5 push, while if White pushes a4 early, it can even drop back to b8 and re-develop to c6. White has a strong Knight on f5 but with the combination of the Bishop on b5, those pieces are not too stable. d5 A strong idea, sacrificing the pawn for marvelous initiative. This move involves a pawn sacrifice but there are some conditions that support this sacrifice. Firstly, White made three moves with the Knight. Secondly, f3 was played which weakens the pawn cover around the White King. 8.exd5 The pawn on d5 is taking away a square from White's pieces and the pawn on f3 looks odd now, weakening White's kingside tremendously. The knight on f5 will be a target and will get pushed back. There is nothing else. a6 Forcing the b5-bishop to take a decision. We gain several tempos on the White pieces now and our development will be smooth like the interview between Magnus Carlsen and Maurice Ashley.

A1) 9.Ba4 The bishop on b3 is going to be very passive. White will have his d5-pawn quite well protected, but we really don't care about this pawn. b5 10.Bb3 Nc5 An excellent position for the knight, putting pressure on the b3-bishop, but also hitting the f5-knight on the way. *(10...Nb6 11.Ne3 Bc5 12.Nc3 0-0 13.Qd3 a5 14.a3 a4 15.Ba2 b4 16.axb4 Bxb4 17.0-0 Ba6 18.Nb5 Bc5 19.Rd1 e4 20.Qc3 Rc8 21.Qa5 Bxb5 22.Qxb5 exf3 23.gxf3 Nfxd5 24.Kh1 Qf6 25.Bxd5 Nxd5 26.Ng2 Rfd8 27.Rf1 a3 28.c4 Nb4 29.bxa3 Qxa1 30.axb4 Bf8 31.Ne3 Qc3 32.Rg1 g6 33.Qg5 Bxb4 34.Qg4 Qd4 35.Qg2 Bc5 36.Rf1 Rc6 37.Ng4 Be7 38.Be3 Qc3 39.c5 Re6 40.Qf2 h5 41.Rc1 Qb3 42.Nh6+ Kf8 43.Bd2 Rxd2* 0-1 (43) Rodriguez Vila,A (2532)-Shirov,A (2698) Buenos Aires 2012*)* 11.Ne3 Bd6 We don't need to try and regain the d5-pawn. Our plan is to finish development and start a kingside offensive with the central push e4! *(11...Nxb3 12.axb3 Bc5)* 12.0-0 0-0 13.Nc3 e4 Opening the diagonal for the bishop. White's pieces are extremely poor and Black has a huge compensation for the pawn here. 13. 4.Qxd4 and 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f-4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5 6.Bb5+ #1;

A2) 9.Bxd7+ There have been close to 200 games with this position in my database. Parting with the light-squared Bishop speeds up White's development but now Black will dominate on the light squares. 9...Bxd7 Much more common is 9...Qxd7 , trying to eventually regain the d5-pawn, but this more ambitious move is even stronger. We don't need to go after the pawn, we can just play for long-term compensation. *(9...Qxd7 10.Ne3 b5)* 10.Ne3 White had to retreat, as the knight on f5 was hanging.

A2a) 10...Bc5 11.Nc3 0-0 12.0-0 b5 *(12...Bf5 13.Kh1*

Bg6 14.Re1 Rc8 15.Qd2 Re8 16.Ncd1 Nh5 17.Nf1 Nf4 18.Nde3 Ba7 19.g3 Nh3 20.Qg2 Qd7 21.c4 b5 22.cxb5 axb5 23.Bd2 Rc2 24.Rab1 Bd3 25.Nxc2 ½-½ (25) Malakhov,V (2510)-Nisipeanu,L (2465) Holon 1995 *)* 13.Ne4 *(13.Kh1 e4!? 14.Nxe4 Nxe4 15.fxe4 Qh4)* 13...Nxe4 14.fxe4 Qh4 15.Qd3 g6 16.Kh1 f5 17.exf5 gxf5 18.g3 Qh3 19.Bd2 Rad8 20.Qe2 Bc8 21.c4 bxc4 22.Qxc4 Bxe3 23.Bxe3 Bb7 24.Rad1 f4 25.Bg1 Qe6 0-1 (25) Dovliatov,S (2360)-Guliyev,N (2343) Baku 2001 5 f3 e5-N,N;

A2b) 10...Nh5 The natural 10...Bc5 is excellent and Black is slightly better there as well, but this practically new move is just really brutal. Played only once but Black's idea is crystal clear - we want to put the Knight on f4 or play ... Qh4+ with deadly threats. The other option is ... f5. 11.0-0 After 11.g3 we could just proceed with 11...Bc5 . *(11.g3* 11.O-O is risky due to 11...f5 ! planning ... f4 with domination on the dark squares. *Bc5 12.Nc3* 12.O-O ? is bad due to 12... Qg5 ! and White is more or less lost. *0-0 13.Qd3 b5* White managed to avoid the immediate disaster but his pieces are misplaced and we can just continue with ... f5. 5. f3 ----- for 2...d6-5.f3 ----- for 2...d6 #1 *)* 11...f5 Again, the simple 11...Bc5 is pleasant for Black, but with this one, Black is going for the kill. There are some serious threats of Bc5, f4 and Ng3+ with checkmate and White doesn't have a good way to bail out. 12.d6 Trying to block the bishop is only a temporary measure. Be6 Hitting the d6-pawn and winning it on the next move. Black is just much better here. We have the bishop pair, more active pieces, excellent pawn structure, potentially the safer king, everything. 13. 4.Qxd4 and 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f-4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5 6.Bb5+ #2;

B) 6.Nb3 In the previous two chapters in the course, we have investigated the two main and critical line against the Prins Sicilian, featuring a very principled advance of the d-pawn on move 6. We have seen that it is objectively very difficult, if not impossible, for White, to demonstrate a clear advantage. However, in practice, those lines are not the only lines that appear as there are numerous alternatives available to Black on move 6 following the advance of the e-pawn. We have already seen the tricky variation featuring the advance of the a-pawn in the previous chapter, but that is far from the only deviation.Many Black players who are not acquainted with the theory will simply make some moves to get a game, but the problem for the 2nd player is that these natural moves

often lead to passive, cheerless positions Prins players are so desperately striving for. Very often in Prins, White is just able to make some natural moves such as c4-Nc3-Be3-Qd2-Be2-O-O-Nd5 and obtain a superior position without thinking and in this chapter, we will see a number of very typical positions that you often reach in practice.The fact that Black can't just 'play anything' to equalize and the fact White can obtain a very easy game with easy moves is precisely what attracted me to playing the Prins and what, in my opinion, makes it a very deadly practical weapon compared to some other anti-Sicilian sidelines. I hope that this chapter will convince you of that too! In the last two chapters, we have investigated the two main and critical lines against the Prins Sicilian, featuring a very principled advance of the d-pawn and have seen that it is objectively very difficult, if not impossible, for White, to demonstrate a clear advantage. However, in practice, those lines are not the only lines that appear as there are numerous alternatives available to Black on move 6 following the advance of the e-pawn.In this chapter, we will devote our attention to the most respectable and dangerous of them all - the modest push of the a-pawn on move 6. The main move. Besides 6.Bb5+ there is also 6. Nb5 that is played sometimes, but it is really pointless after 6...a6 7. N5c3 Be6 , when it is not clear what that knight pirouette was about. Lately White's attempts were connected with this move. Lately White's attempts were connected with this move. 6.Bb5+ This check was considered the main move many years ago, but Black can easily equalise. Bd7 This is the simplest, by exchanging the bishops Black speeds up his development and uses this development advantage to push ...d5 and later recuperate the pawn on d5. 7.Bxd7+ Nbxd7 8.Nf5 If 8. Nb3 then after Nb6 Black still pushes ...d5 on the next move. 8... d5 This is a temporary pawn sacrifice that liberates Black's play. 9.exd5 Nb6 Thanks to his lead in development Black will return the material. 10.Bg5 The move 10.d6 shouldn't worry Black as after Qd7 the knight cannot stay on f5 for long and the d6-pawn will fall. 10...Qd7 Removing the queen from the pin and attacking the knight. 11.Bxf6 Qxf5 Winning tempo against the bishop and also eyeing c2. 12.Bh4 Rc8 With every move Black increases his initiative. 13.Nc3 After 13.c3 Bc5 White's king will find it difficult to find a safe haven while Black can continue with ...O-O and then there are ideas like ...Qg6, ...f5 and ...e4, aiming for a direct attack. 13...Bb4 Now Black returns the pawn and obtains excellent play 14.O-O Bxc3 15. bxc3 Rxc3 With great play for Black who will castle next and will continue with a better pawn structure. I consider this move to be the only way for White not to remain worse. The Knight on b3 is

misplaced but White is fully prepared to carry through c4.

B1) 6...Be6 Even though the move 6...d5 is by far considered to be the best in this position and is the most common move on master level, this natural bishop development is actually the most frequently played move in the lichess database. Against many other lines of Najdorf, the bishop belongs to e6 so many Najdorf players play it there automatically. However, this move does not prevent us from creating the annoying Maroczy bind. It has to be said that most commonly, the game transposes to 6...Be7 , although 6...Be6 does feature an independent option involving a very specific move order where we are almost forced to sacrifice a pawn. Also note that 6...Nc6 is very likely to transpose to some of the lines examined via 6...Be6 or 6...Be7 move order after 7.c4 , just like 6...a6 which is a completely unnecessary move in these lines after 7.c4 7.c4 Of course, creating the Maroczy bind with the pawns on e4 and c4 was one of the main points behind White's entire opening and since Black didn't prevent it by going d5 on the previous move, we do take the opportunity to take the central control. The drawback is that our c4 pawn is somewhat exposed and Black can try to immediately exploit this factor, as we will soon see. Note that, at this point, it is still possible to play 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 and transpose to the very theoretical English Attack, where it is not 100% clear who benefits from Black omitting the a6 move compared to the regular Najdorf. Nbd7 Virtually the only independent move worth checking in this position. Instead of developing the bishop with 7... Be7 , which would lead to a direct transposition to the 6...Be7 lines, Black starts by developing the queenside, intending to play Rc8 next, pressuring the c4 pawn. 7...Nc6 would also very likely transpose to variations examined elsewhere in this chapter and it will not be covered separately as concrete ideas and maneuvers are arguably more important in this entire chapter than the exact moves. *(7...a5* This move, trying to undermine the knight on b3, has been played a few times against me and is also present in the lichess database. However, since now we have already managed to advance c4, I found it less effective than on an earlier move. *8.Nc3* We continue to develop normally. *a4* The logical follow-up to the previous move, otherwise, White will get the bishop to e3 and enjoy a better version of the mainlines where we control b5 or have a more harmonious setup when the bishop is on e3 and the knight on d2. *9.Nd2 Qa5* Threatening to play a3, but White can easily meet this. The immediate 9...a3 is met with 10.b3 Qa5 11.Ndb1

when White is holding tight and can even contemplate capturing on a3 with the bishop in some scenario. *10.Ndb1* This backward knight move violates every possible principle CC StartBracket CC not moving the same piece twice, undeveloping the knight, heading with the knight toward the edge of the board CC EndBracket CC, but since the position is fairly closed and stable in the center, White can permit such liberties. The main thing is to prevent counterplay with a3. The knight will eventually land there, taking the c4 and b5 squares under control and then jump to b5 in the distant future. *Be7* Continuing to develop normally. This is by far the most common move in the lichess database and the only continuation I will cover as trainable in this rare line with 7...a5. The engine points out some 10...b5 possibilities, but after 11.cxb5 d5!? 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Bd2 I doubt Black has sufficient compensation for the pawn. I think it is extremely unlikely CC StartBracket CC read: impossible CC EndBracket CC that you will encounter something like that over the board, so I don't think it is worth the bother to remember it. *11.Be3* Developing the bishop and intending to cover the c3 knight with the queen next avoids some potential d5 tricks, that would arise after 11.Na3 O-O 12.Be3? d5! *0-0* Castling is quite natural. Other moves don't significantly affect our plan and our development scheme CC StartBracket CC beauties of the Prins Sicilian CC EndBracket CC . *12.Qd2* Covering the c3 knight and preparing Na3. *Nc6* *13.Na3* And White has a very harmonious setup. Our next moves our Be2 and O-O, although we can even contemplate castling long. The knight on a3 makes the queenside very secure and at any moment we can alter the structure by jumping with Nd5. Black has the maneuver Bd8-Bb6 available, but if they exchange the bishops the d6 pawn will be weak and may aim to attack it down the road. We can also plant the a-knight to b5 at the appropriate moment and overall have a very nice position. 4D) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Other 6th Moves: 6...Be6 #1)

B1a) 8.Be3 ___ Apart from the pawn sacrifice' line with 8.Nc3, White can also start with the bishop move. The idea is to wait for a move with the development of the knight in order to be able to develop it to a3 and defend the c4 pawn. When I first learned to play the Prins variation from my former teammate FM Matej Blazeka, this is the move-order he showed me. In the meantime, I did find out that 8.Nc3 is very interesting and also discovered some additional

nuances involved with 8.Be3 which made me less hesitant to reserve it as the main option. However, I do think it is a move that is good enough to be recommended as the alternative! Rc8 The most logical continuation, attacking the c4 pawn. 8...Be7 would have transposed to lines analyzed via 6...Be7 move order. *(8...b5* When I started analyzing the 8.Be3 line for this course, I got surprised when the engine first suggested this move in this position. The idea is to divert the c-pawn from the d5 square in order to push d5 on the next move. At first I thought it is not a very human move, but it has been played 30 times in the lichess database, scoring a whooping 59% for Black. It is also played on the Master level so it is definitely not an option we need to underestimate. *9.cxb5* We have to take, as otherwise our whole conception has failed since Black manages to destroy the bind and achieve a comfortable position. *d5* The point and the thematic move for Black in this position, freeing their position at the cost of a pawn. *10.Be2* A very surprising move. Instead of trying to hold on to the pawn, White decides to ignore Black's demonstration in the center and aim for rapid development, giving up the e4 pawn in the process. However, it is hard to suggest an alternative as 10.Nc3 d4 loses a piece. And 10.exd5 Nxd5 gives Black so much initiative. *d4* Shockingly enough, but it seems it is better for Black to actually advance in the center rather than capture on e4. They claim our pieces will be more restricted and that the extra b-pawn is meaningless. *11.Bf2* Retreating the bishop is quite sensible. *Nc5* Activating the pieces further and challenging the important knight that guards the a5 square. In some lines, Black can even contemplate taking on e4. *12.Nxc5* Even though exchanging on our opponent's terms is a very common mistake, here I think it makes sense to get some clarity over the position and prevent the doubling of our pawns or some d3 pawn pushes. *Bxc5 13.Nd2* And we are ready to castle soon, and also want to play Bd3 at some point. We are a pawn up, although the engine does say Black has a lot of activity associated with moves such as Rc8, Nh5, etc. The position definitely needs some testing, but I am not 100% sure about the consequences, which is one of the reasons why I decided to recommend 8.Be3 only as the alternative. 4D) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Other 6th Moves:

6...Be6 #14) 9.Na3 9.Nc3 would transpose us back to the lines analyzed via 8.Nc3 move order. With the text move, White defends the pawn on c4. The downside is that the knight is a bit awkward on a3 - especially since Black hasn't yet played a5. a6 Restricting the knight severely. 10.Be2 Continuing the normal development. Be7 11.Qd2 0-0 12.0-0 and White has managed to build a Maroczy position, but with the knight on a3 and not on c3, unable to jump on d5, it is not as beneficial or strong as the ones we will see in the mainlines. Still, it is a safer way to play in contrast to the pawn sacrifice line and Black doesn't have any immediate counterplay, so perhaps some of you might find this type of chess more appealing. I personally prefer White's chances in the pawn sacrifice variation.Conclusion: In the majority of your Prins games - especially at a lower level - Black players will make some natural-looking Sicilian moves, but as we have seen in this chapter, this nonchalant approach can easily land them into trouble - which is one of the main reasons why Prins is so practical and viable.With that being said, even if Black doesn't know/doesn't want to play the lines arising after 6...d5, there are some novel and challenging lines that can arise after 6...Be7 - and not to mention 6...Be6 and 6...a5 move-order. We do need to know a few things when faced with these concrete lines in comparison to 'nonchalant' play.But if we are up to the task, I do believe we retain good chances of achieving the advantage - both in the practical and objective sense. As a Prins Sicilian player, I always welcome it when Black players go 5...e5 6... anything but d5 as I enjoy playing with the bind and with the extra space, so I hope you will too :CC EndBracket CC. 4D) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Other 6th Moves: 6...Be6 #15;

B1b) 8.Nc3 White is here at some sort of a crossroad. Black's next move is inevitably to play Rc8 and attack the c4 pawn and for a while, I thought White has to start with 8.Be3 in order to meet 8...Rc8 9. Na3 , defending the pawn. However, some time ago when I analyzed this variation for my own purposes, I realized that Wesley So played the text move, basically indicating the readiness to give up the c4 pawn for some sort of compensation in the form of the lead in development.The line intrigued me and I started playing it in some of my own games CC StartBracket CC mostly online rapid

CC EndBracket CC with reasonable results, which is why I decided to recommend it as the main suggestion in this course. Still, for those who are not fond of sacrificing pawns that early in the opening, I have also decided to keep the 8.Be3 line as an alternative, although after some analysis I have concluded that offers fewer chances for an objective advantage. 8...Rc8 The point of Black's early queenside development is this rook move, putting a lot of pressure on the c4 pawn. A very similar approach in the 6. Be2 Najdorf mainline was mentioned as a possibility by Anish Giri in his Lifetime Repertoires here on Chessable, so this developing scheme is not completely unknown. Now White needs to deal with the threat to the c4 pawn - and we do so in a very enterprising way. Note that 8...Be7 9.Be3 O-O would transpose to the lines analyzed via 6...Be7 move order. 9.Be3 This is not only the most enterprising, but also almost a necessary move. White ignores the attack on the c4 pawn and aims for very rapid development. Alas, defending the pawn with something like 9. Nd2 would be really horrible as the bishop on c1 would be blocked and White's harmony would be severely violated. On the other hand, the other typical reply 9.Nd5 is not as good as Black has a very nice riposte 9...b5! 10.cxb5 Nxe4! 11. fxe4 Qh4 12.Kd2 Nf6!? with an almost decisive advantage. Note that this line is possible only because there is no bishop on e7 to be taken by the knight. Also, if you think this is something very computerish and vague, 9...b5 is the 2nd most common move in the lichess database, played in over 100 games. You can be sure that anyone on the higher end of the rating spectrum playing this line against the Prins will be familiar with these ideas so I would rather not tempt fate at this point. If you are so inclined to hold to your pawns, it is probably better to deviate a move earlier with 8.Be3. Bxc4 Of course, nothing else really makes sense for Black as White is now ready to jump with the knight to d5. For example, after 9...a6 , which is the 2nd most common move in the lichess database, we go 10.Nd5 and now 10...b5 doesn't work due to 11.cxb5 and the same tactic with 11... Nxe4 is impossible due to 12. fxe4 Qh4+ 13.Bf2! and even though Black can capture on e4 with check, they shouldn't get enough compensation after 13...Qxe4 14.Ne3 10.Bxc4 Rxc4 11.Qd3 The point of White's play. We

attack the rook on c4, gaining a tempo to prepare the short castle. The good thing is that the rook now has to retreat, providing us with a nice tempo to try and seize the initiative. Note that we have to start with the queen move as 11.Bxa7 b6 is quite problematic and an attempt to invert moves allows Black some additional options, e.g. 12.Qd3 Rb4!? when Black is in the driver's seat. Rc6 By far the most critical and accurate move, played three times more often than 11...Rc8 on the master level and as often as 11...Rc8 in the lichess database. It is a direct measure against White capturing the pawn on a7 as the rook's influence over the 6th rank supports the pawn on b6 which will entomb the bishop and also keeps the 8th rank fluid for the queen, which can swing over to a8, for example. Now White is at a major crossroad. *(11...Rc8* The rook has to retreat, as both 11...Qc7 12.Nb5 And 11...Qc8 12.Na5 Rc7 13.Nb5 are completely winning for White. While 11...Rb4 is completely unnatural without the bishop trapped on a7. The retreat to the 8th rank seems more natural than the retreat on the 6th rank, but now we actually have the opportunity to capture the pawn on a7. *12.Bxa7* In the variation with the rook on c8, we could and should capture on a7, since after 12.O-O-O Black has a nice reply 12...d5! 13.exd5 Bb4 , as now the rook on c6 is not hanging and we are in some trouble. Instead, we exploit the fact that the rook is not on the 6th rank and go full greedy mode. At first, it seems as if we will lose the bishop, but actually Black has no way of trapping it. *b6* By far the most common move in the position. It has to be said that most of the games on the master level that reach this position eventually end in a draw *CC* StartBracket *CC* more than 80% *CC* EndBracket *CC*, although in lichess database, White scores 80% *CC* StartBracket *CC* although the sample is really small - just 10 games *CC* EndBracket *CC*. *13.0-0* For the moment, we castle and complete the development, so that we can see what Black will do. It seems we are leaving our bishop hanging, but the combination of Nb5-a4-a5 will come to its rescue. *Ra8* Black's most natural attempts revolve around trying to capture the bishop. But surprisinlgy, none of them really works. *14.Nb5* Defending the bishop and also covering the c7 square. Black can't really attack the bishop and a4-a5 is on the agenda next. *Be7* What else? *15.a4*

0-0 16.a5 And once the bishop escapes, we will have a nice Sicilian position with a good control of the center, nicely placed pieces and an outside passed b-pawn that can be a good long-term asset. We are not decisively better or anything like that, but our position is quite pleasant and easier to play. 4D) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Other 6th Moves: 6...Be6 #2*)* 12.0-0-0 First of all, allow me to clarify that in this position, the move 12.Bxa7 is not as good, because after 12...b6 13.O-O we can see a difference compared to the lines where Black plays Rc8 - the queen is able to swing to a8 with 13...Qa8, creating pressure along the a-file and on the a7 bishop. One sample line that demonstrates its relevance continues 14.Nb5 Be7 15.a4 O-O 16.a5 bxa5 17.Nxa5 Ra6 when both the bishop on a7 and the knight on a5 are under attack, so White has nothing better than 18.Nc4 Qb7 19.Na5, with repetition of moves.The drawback of the rook moves is, of course, the fact that it is a bit more exposed on c6 than on c5, which allows White some freedom of choice compared to the 11...Rc8 lines. Thus, when we look at the diagram position, we can see it is somewhat resemblant of the famous English Attack from the Najdorf, that arises after CC StartFEN CC rnbqkbnr/pppppppp/8/8/8/8/PPPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq - 0 1CC EndFEN CC 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 etc., with the only difference being that White has sacrificed the c-pawn and that White is a few tempi ahead in the development. Our general plan in such a position is to castle kingside and then play for the pawn storm on the kingside with g4-h4-g5-h5 etc. On the other side, in the English attack, there are lines where Black plays the move h5 early to stop White from expanding on the kingside CC StartBracket CC such a setup, was recommended by Anish in his course, for example, CC EndBracket CC. This approach is also possible in this position, which is why I hesitated between recommending the text move or the move 12.g4, which prevents this resource. The difference is that after 12.g4 Nc5 is possible, while after 12.O-O-O Nc5 loses material due to the pin on the d-file. In the end, I did decide that 12.O-O-O is a little bit more practical and natural, although I did also decide to keep the 12.g4 line as an alternative, as well. *(12.g4* This move avoids the lines with Black playing h5, but does allow the

knight to jump to c5. I personally think it is harder to decide on h5 than on Nc5, which is why I decided to give the move O-O-O as the mainline. But this is a valid alternative. *Nc5* Alas, this move does virtually force White to go for an endgame a pawn down. But in this variation, we shouldn't really be afraid of that. *13.Bxc5* Stronger than capturing with the knight as the knight wants to go via Na5-Nc4. Since the position is closed, knights are more valuable. *dxc5 14.Qxd8+ Kxd8 15.Na5* And White does have some initiative in the endgame and nice light squares to operate. It is not so easy to play this as Black, for example after 15... Rb6 16.O-O-O Kc8 17.Nc4 White has definite compensation for the pawn. 4D) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Other 6th Moves: 6...Be6 #12*)* 12...h5 This move, which would give some old master like Capablanca a heart attack, is actually very thematic in these Sicilian structures and is quite common in the proper English Attack, as elaborated above. Since Black recognizes that g4 is a big positional threat, they take a moment to prevent it at the cost of weakening the future kingside shelter significantly.Even in this position it is the top move played at Master level and is even featured in some games in the lichess database. However, I do think it is a bit more difficult for Black to handle these positions in practice since play is a little bit alien and computer-like, which becomes even more relevant as we go down the rating level. *(12...a6* This is the most common move in the position. It is sensible to remove the a7 pawn from the attack and also to control the b5 square, but this move is not really in the spirit of the position as it doesn't fight against White's main idea and we should be able to get a pleasant position with relatively simple measures. *13.g4* The plan of pushing the kingside pawns is quite straightforward. *Be7* Black has to complete the development. *14.h4* Harry now also joins the action. White can aim to play h5 first and then push g5, preventing Nh5, although the immediate g5, winning the d5 square, is also a common theme. We also have moves such as Kb1 on the agenda and have a very pleasant position with straightforward 'mini-plans'. It is also possible to start with 14.Kb1 , but it is not yet clear whether this move needs to be played, while h4 is certainly a part of White's plan, so it makes sense to start with that one first. *Nc5* Now that the queen on d8 has been

defended, Black can actually embark on this knight jump. It may actually be the best move in the position and even though castling is much more natural, it was featured in some games. *15.Nxc5* We don't really have a choice, but to take. Also, in the given situation, 15.Bxc5 is not as good as after 15....dxc5 16. Qxd8 Bxd8 we can't jump Na5. That is why we take with the knight here. *dxc5 16.Qc2* In the given instance with the king still defending the d7 square, we can't really infiltrate this square, so removing the queen and gaining a tempo due to the attack on the enemy queen is quite sensible. *Qc8* This is probably the best move, as Black tries to keep in touch with the d7 square and utilize castling. 16...Qa5 seems more aggressive but after 17.Kb1 Black is somewhat stuck, as 17...O-O 18.g5 Nh5 19.Rd7 is extremely unpleasant. Having the queen on c8 prevents a line such as this one - but still doesn't fully equalize. *17.Nd5* This surprising knight jump seems to be the engine's preference. Instead of winning the d5 square, White seeks the exchange of the knights, claiming that the space on the kingside and the 'good vs. bad bishop' scenario works to our advantage. It seems more natural to play 17.g5 Nh5 18. Nd5 Bd6 , but the engine thinks the knight only 'looks nice' on d5, even though I would still prefer White in a practical game. But the text move is apparently stronger. *Nxd5 18.exd5* This is the point! It looks counterintuitive and against the good rules of strategic play to exploit the holes in the enemy position by placing the pawns and not pieces here, but in this particular case, we are playing for the positional domination and trying to squeeze the rook in. Due to the d6 threat, it can't go to c7 and the c5 pawn is also somewhat exposed. I believe Black's position is extremely unpleasant from the practical viewpoint - but also objectively not very good, although it does require some further tests in practice. 4D) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Other 6th Moves: 6...Be6 #8*; 12...Be7* This is the most logical move in the position, developing the bishop and preparing to castle. *13.g4* White starts the desired attacking scheme. The general idea is to kick the knight on f6 and then to jump in to d5 with our own knight after ample preparation. *0-0* A logical follow-up, but routine play from Black makes the position quite easy to handle for us. 13...a6 would transpose to the line analyzed via 12...a6 move

order. *14.Kb1* You can hardly play the Sicilian as White without this move. The text move removes the pin on the c-file and allows the knight on c3 to jump to d5 in the future. *b6* Trying to reinforce the c5 square and prepare Nc5. 14... a6 would transpose to the line analyzed 12...a6 move order. *15.h4* Mindlessly continuing with our plan. *Nc5* Executing the desired advance. *16.Qb5* Moving away from the attack, covering the b3 knight and also utilizing the undefended state of the rook on c8 to gain a tempo. Next we want to play h5-g5 or g5 immediately and plant the knight to d5. I think this position is much easier for White to play as our ideas are straightforward, while it is hard for Black to find an active plan. 4D) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Other 6th Moves: 6...Be6 #6 *)* 13.Kb1 For the moment, we don't take any decisive action, but simply tuck in the king since this is a move we will have to do anyway. Be7 A natural developing move, facilitating castling. Now White has to decide what to do and which setup to go for. 14.h4 Out of all possibilities for White, I really like this move, blocking the h-pawn from advancing further and preparing the g4 break somewhere in the future. The majority of the games on the master level went 14.h3 threatening g4. 13...h4 14. Rc1 and ended in a draw. I think the text move is a bit fresher and also more ambitious. Now Black has a choice and I checked a few logical options. g6 Black can also try to keep the rook on h8 and castle by hand, but it is a bit slow and suspect. *(14...a6* Trying to initiate some queenside play and delay castling is also quite sensible in this position. Black potentially hopes to play b5 and gain some space on the queenside. The downside is that a6-b5 pawn formation leaves the dark-squares on the queenside somewhat weak and at some point, Na5 might come with some effect. *15.Bg5* I like the idea of increasing the pressure on the f6 knight and utilizing the fact that the g5 square has been weakened. *b5* A natural continuation of the plan started on the previous move. *16.Nd5* Now that the rook on c6 has been weakened, we do execute this knight jump. *Nxd5* Black can't really tolerate the knight. *17.Qxd5* Of course, we take with the queen, not blocking the d-file and also hitting the rook on c6. This is a good moment to stop. Despite being a pawn down, we will manage to exchange dark-squared bishops and weaken the d6 pawn, but also the dark-squares on the queenside. We

retain the option of playing either Na5 or even g4 in some lines and can also try to take control over the c-file with Rc1 at some point. Black is yet to complete the development, so we definitely have some compensation for the pawn. 4D) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Other 6th Moves: 6...Be6 #11*)* 15.Rhg1 Preparing for the future g4. Kf8 16.Bf2 Defending the h4 pawn and intending g4. Kg7 17.g4 And White starts to open up the king and has a nice position. Don't forget that we can also switch plans and play g5-Nd5 if we want to. We also have the prospect of improving the other knight with Na5-Nc4. Once again it is hard for Black to find active play in this position and I believe in White's practical chances in a position like this. 4D) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Other 6th Moves: 6...Be6 #10;

B2) 6...a5 This tricky move, aimed at preventing the whole idea with c4, is arguably the most serious/unique move available to Black on move 6 since against it we kinda can't just make some natural-looking moves. The idea is to prepare the future sacrifice on e4, which is not possible immediately due to 6. ..Nxe4 7. fxe4 Qh4 8.Kd2 Qxe4 9.Nc3 and Black doesn't have sufficient compensation for the pawn. By introducing the threat of a4, Black actually makes this Nxe4 idea viable, so we need to do something about it. 7.Nc3 As explained in the Introduction variation, White can't play 7.c4 here. The problem is that now 7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4 is very uncomfortable, as after 9.Kd2 a4! the knight on b3 has no squares and Black regains the material with raging initiative and a better position. That is why White has to give up the idea of playing for the Maroczy Bind and go for a more standard Sicilian structure in which Black has played the move a4 kinda prematurely. The text move is the most natural move in the position, although some alternatives such as 7.Bb5 or 7. a4!? are worth investigating further.

B2a) 7...Be7 If Black continues to develop normally, we can exploit the weakness of the b5 square to plant a bishop there. 7...Nc6 8.Bb5 is very likely to transpose to the text. 8.Bb5+ Now we are happy to give this check. Nc6 The most natural move. 8... Bd7 9.a4 is different compared to the immediate 7. Bb5 as now Black is unable to push d5 with the knight already on c3. 9.Be3 White continues developing and keeps the options of castling either long or short open. 0-0 Black also finishes the development and now White has to choose the setup. There are many options

available at White's disposal, but the modern engine does find a very creative idea. 10.a3 When analyzing this position for the first time, I thought White could just move the queen to d2 and castle long. However, it transpires that 10. Qd2 would lead into a well-known tabiya from the English Attack where Black plays a5 relatively early in the game. Following 10...Be6 11.O-O-O we can see one of the ideas behind playing 10.a3 - 11... Nb4 is now the main theoretical move, since 12.a3 can be met with 12...Qc7 when White shouldn't capture on b4 due to 13.axb4 Bxb3 14.bxa5 Rxa5 15.cxb3 Rxb5 . This variation of the English Attack is not considered to be the best for Black, but the whole point of this repertoire is to avoid the mainline theory whenever possible. With that being said, White can exploit the Prins move order and play the clever 10.Qe2 when the same line after 10...Be6 11.O-O-O Nb4 12.a3 Qc7 13. axb4 Bxb3 14.bxa5 Rxa5 15. cxb3 works for White, as the queen on e2 protects the b5 bishop. However, after 10. Qe2 d5!? is a possibility, which didn't seem too clear to me. The idea of the text move is to prevent anything from coming to b4 - or at least for a while. It was not yet played on Master level, although it was featured in the lichess database with decent results for White. Be6 A logical move, trying to exploit White's slow move to execute the d5 advance. But we need not fear that advance, as we will soon see. *(10...Na7* This knight maneuver can be seen in some variations of the English Attack with a5, but here we can simply take the knight. *11.Bxa7* It looks a little bit strange to give up our bishop and the bishop pair, but we retain nice control over the position and on the light-squares, therefore this decision is justified. *Rxa7 12.Qd3 Be6 13.0-0-0* And White is clearly better due to our control of the d5 square and due to the absence of any possible pawn storm on the queenside. Next, we will consolidate with typical Kb1 and then start pushing our pawns on the kingside. Our position is objectively and practically better. 4C) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-6...a5 with 7...Be7 #1*)* 11.Qd3 A bit more accurate than 11. Qd2 as the queen on d3 defends the bishop on b5. White's obvious idea is to go castling long next. d5 The thematic break in the center, but we do not need to fear it or the resulting endgame. 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Qxd5 13...Bxd5 14. O-O-O is not an improvement.

14.0-0-0 Inviting a pleasant endgame. Qxd3 15.Rxd3 Bf5 16.Rd5 And now we are threatening to take on c6 and then on e5, we also have the c5 square available for the knight and can also try to exchange the light-squared bishops with Bd3. We do need to be a bit careful about a potential counter on c2, but all in all, White should have a very pleasant endgame, mainly due to the fact Black's queenside pawn structure is sterile and immobile. 4C) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-6...a5 with 7...Be7 #3;

B2b) 7...a4 The most natural and consistent move in the position, that is also the most common move in the lichess database and the first choice of the engine. Black tries to exploit the position of the knight on b3 and create some weaknesses/targets on the queenside and/or advance in the center with d5 next. 8.Nd2 The most logical move. It is a bit unfortunate that we have to block the bishop on c1 and also the queen's control over the d5 square, but the knight will reroute via c4 or sometimes even b1 and Black has also been moving their pawn instead of developing the pieces, so this loss of time is not quite catastrophic. Now Black has some options at their disposal.

B2b1) 8...d5 Black can also strike in the center immediately, without inserting a3, but this is met in the very similar manner. 9.exd5 Exchanging in the center is natural. Nxd5 10.Nde4 More ambitious than the exchanging 10. Nxd5. White uncovers the attack on the d5 knight and invites another endgame - or some complications. Bb4 The most combative and complicated reply, not allowing us to exchange the knights so easily and reach the desired endgame. *(10...Nxc3* Leads to a very favourable endgame for White. *11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 12.Nxc3* And now we want to play Bd2 and castle next and enjoy a lead in development, similarly to the Endgame Variation examined in a separate chapter. Also, with the given move-order, Black can't undermine our queenside structure. *a3* Here we are not forced to take on a3. *13.b3* Here we can play 13. bxa3 and transpose to the previously examined lines, but this move is now even stronger. We have a very compact and nice position where we can claim an advantage due to the position of the enemy king and the fact our pieces can quite quickly come into the game. 4C) The Prins

Sicilian: 5...e-6...a5 with 7... a4 #5 *)* 11.Bc4 Continuing to pressure the knight on d5. Be6 Defending the knight. Now we need to remember the following tricky and instructive move. 12.Bg5 A very inconvenient move for Black, disrupting the position of the queen and developing very quickly. f6 Blocking the check is impossible due to a very cute tactic. *(12...Qd7* This reply is forced. *13.Qe2* Another very strong move, defending the bishop on c4, preparing long castling and eyeing the e5 pawn. *Bxc3+ 14.Nxc3 Nxc3 15.Qxe5* A nice point of White's play, exploiting the pin on the e-file and eyeing the g7 pawn. *Nc6* This is probably Black's best bet, attacking the queen and entering a position a pawn down. *16.Qxc3 Bxc4 17.Qxc4* And Black objectively has some practical chances for a draw, but a pawn is a pawn. We are definitely the ones pushing in this position. 4C) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-6...a5 with 7...a4 #10*)* 13.Bxf6 Exploiting various geometrical motifs and the undefended state of the bishop on e6. gxf6 Taking with the knight with 13...Nxf6 is no better due to 14.Qxd8 Kxd8 15.Bxe6 . 14.Bxd5 Bxd5 15.Qxd5 Qxd5 16.Nxf6+ And White wins back the queen and will end up with two extra pawns and a winning position. 4C) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-6...a5 with 7... a4 #7;

B2b2) 8...a3 This is the most natural and consistent move, pushing the pawn all the way down the board and trying to create some havoc on the queenside. 9.bxa3 This is, unfortunately, necessary. 9.b3 is now met even more strongly with 9...d5 10.exd5 Bb4! , when the undefended state of the knight on c3 is a crucial factor that makes the entire line not viable for White. It is interesting to mention that White scored 57% in the lichess database after 9.b3 CC StartBracket CC out of only 14 games, though CC EndBracket CC , even though the line is pretty bad objectively, which just confirms openings matter much less than we probably all think CC StartBracket CC which is not the best marketing for an opening course but what can you do :D CC EndBracket CC . d5 This thematic blow is very sensible, as White is prevented from achieving the desired setup with Nc4. *(9...Qa5* Developing the queen and attacking the c3

knight is also quite sensible, but Black can't build up the pressure that easily in this line. *10.Bb2* Even though it is not possible to defend the knight from the d2 square, we can exploit the fact that we took on a3 and opened the b2 square to develop the bishop there. Now it turns out that the queen on a5 is exposed to some Nb3-Nc4 ideas which means we will be able to push Black back relatively quickl. *Be6 11.Bb5+ Nbd7 12.Nb3* And the queen has to go back, after which we can improve on our position by playing a4, then maybe jump to d5 and/ or eventually seek to castle. It is true that our a-pawn is doubled and not going anywhere, but it does provide our pieces with some nices squares and it is an extra pawn at the end of the day, which means we have some edge as White here CC StartBracket CC although a lot of play remains, of course CC EndBracket CC . 4C) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-6... a5 with 7...a4 #2*)* 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Nde4 Similarly as in the line with the immediate 8...d5, we go for this move, attacking the knight on d5 and trying to get into an endgame. Since our pawn on a3 controls the b4 square, we don't have to worry about any potential pins with Bb4. On the other hand, our pawn structure is ruined, so the endgame is less favourable for us than in the other variation. Nxc3 Virtually the only move, as something like 11...Be6 is met strongly with 12.Nb5 , defending the a3 pawn and hinting at c4 ideas. 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8 13.Nxc3 Be6 Taking the important e6-a2 diagonal under control and preventing the deployment of our bishop on c4 is probably better than taking the a3 pawn. But it allows us to keep it and create a nice outpost on b5. *(13...Bxa3* Recapturing the pawn is natural, but we can get a nice edge here due to the tempo gains associated with capturing on a3 and castling lon. *14.Bxa3 Rxa3 15.0-0-0+ Ke7 16.Kb2* And this endgame is somewhat similar to the pure 'Prins' endgame analyzed previously. We can play Bc4 or Bb5 next and also have Nd5 ideas in the position. Our slight lead in development provides us with some advantage here and Black actually has to thread with care in this endgame. 4C) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-6...a5 with 7... a4 #3 *)* 14.a4 Preserving

the pawn is quite natural and obvious. Nc6 15.Bb2 Bc5 16.0-0-0+ And even though our queenside pawn structure is quite ugly, we have managed to preserve the pawn so far and have a nice outpost for the bishop on b5. At some moment we can also jump with the knight to d5 and try to pressure the e5 pawn.At a minimum, we are not risking anything in a position like this and can only be better, but at best Black needs to be careful as things can quickly go wrong for them in a practical game. Once again, endgames like this are not what Black players are hoping for when they play 1.e4 c5!, so we should be reasonably content here, even if this endgame doesn't provide us with any 'objective' advantage. 4C) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-6... a5 with 7...a4 #4;

B3) 6...d5?! This move feels so natural. The alternatives are 6... a5 , 6...Be6 and 6...Nc6 . There are alternatives, although if Black plays it too soft and White gets a good bind with 7.c4, then Black is in quite some strategic danger, with a chronic weakness of the d5-square. From the various other options than 6...d5 , I would like to single out 6...a5!? , which contains a remarkable trap I learned about just a few days ago when watching some random tournament commentary. Apparently 7.c4? is bad there because of 7...Nxe4!! 8.fxe4 Qh4+ and the point is that after 9.Kd2 suddenly the b3-knight is trapped after 9...a4! Very pretty, but White shouldn't go for 6...a5 7.c4? and instead can look for some opening advantage with one of the alternatives 7.Bb5+ , 7.Nc3 or 7.a4 . Immediately liberating the position and not allowing c4. This is important. We stop Ne5 before playing ...b5. This is the move that I decided to analyse more deeply. Usually, 6...Be6 is played but the disadvantage is that it allows 7. c4 - a pawn structure that I wanted to avoid ! The text move breaks in the centre and stops c4. White has to work hard to prove that his setup makes sense. 7.Bg5 The only decent move. This is the correct move order for White, as after 7.exd5 we immediately get a comfortable position with 7...Nxd5 . For comments up to this point, please check the Overview variation in the Overview chapter! For comments up to this point, I refer you to the Overview variation in the Overview chapter. This is the downside of delaying ...b5. With ...b5 stopped, White will be able to win back our c4-pawn. But we don't mind too much, as the arising structure will be very similar to the normal Slav lines, which we should be well-familiar with. The only move to

fight for anything. White pins the Knight and puts pressure on d5.

B3a) 7...Be6 This solid move, reinforcing the d5 point and allowing White to capture on d5, entering the so-called 'Prins Endgame variation' by force, can be regarded as one of the main two options in this position. It was recommended by Anish Giri in his Lifetime Repertoires: Najdorf, as well as in Kamil Plichta's Anti-Anti Sicilians. This is a much less combative option for Black than the fighting 7...d4 , but also an option considered to be a very sound one. I have been unable to find a clear advantage for White in these lines, but on the other hand - I have always considered it easier to play White in these types of positions in practice and have experienced very decent results with White in this line - especially when my opponents just play optically good-looking move and don't exactly know the details of the resulting variations. Defending the centre. Somewhat more active than placing it on e7. Additionally, that square is excellent for the queen instead. The strongest move at Black's disposal. 7...d4 ?! amazingly scores better than the text move but it is mostly due to the fact that White didn't continue in the most critical way. 8.c3 Nc6 9.cxd4 leads to an advantage for White and we have to avoid this line. The text move keeps the tension and just defends the pawn on d5. 8.Bxf6 Again the only correct move order. After 8. exd5 first we have 8...Qxd5! when we have the Qxd1 intermezzo in case of Bxf6, while 9.Nc3 leads to comfortable equality for Black after 9...Qxd1 10.Rxd1 Nbd7 . This looks like beginner play, but this move reveals the point behind White's play! We willingly give up our bishop pair in order to create a weakness in our opponents' pawn structure and enter an endgame where we claim we can exploit the existence of this weakness CC StartBracket CC together with some other factors CC EndBracket CC . A critical try forcing Black to recapture with the pawn and weaken the kingside pawn structure. gxf6 This move is forced as the Black queen has to keep an eye on the d5 pawn. 8...Qxf6 just loses a pawn to 9.exd5 . A forces line starts now. 9.exd5 There is no point including 9.Bb5+ first, because of 9...Nc6 . The logical follow-up to the previous move, intending to draw the queen out and force the exchange, after which we should be able to gain a few tempi to develop quickly, create some threats, or exchange the right set of

pieces, so that we can try to exploit the superiority of our pawn structure.The drawback is, of course, that we enter an endgame by force CC StartBracket CC which might not appeal to all 1.e4 players willing to play attacking chess CC EndBracket CC. And also that our opponent does get the open g-file and the bishop pair in return. Very rare but, in my view, logical. It gives up a second pawn, but the modern way of handling these Catalan positions often involved giving up a couple of pawns. We don't need to pick up the challenge, but I also see no reason not to. *(9.Bb5+ Nc6* White just wins. If White intends to develop both knights on moves 3 and 4, they usually start with *10.exd5* but, from our perspective, it doesn't really matter, as we reply in the same way. The Slav! By playing the move ...c6, we support the d5-pawn, but the major difference to *10...Qxd5* is that our light-squared bishop is not getting blocked in. Indeed, one of the main advantages of the Slav is that we rarely get bad pieces. Having played the Black side of the Queen's Gambit Declined and the Catalan, I have too many times experienced great suffering due to the c8-bishop never entering the game. That's one of the main reasons I was so happy incorporating the Slav in my Black Repertoire. *11.Qxd5 Bxd5 12.Nc3)*

B3a1) Starting with 9...Bxd5 Black can't really avoid the exchange of queens in this line as recapturing with the bishop is inferior. is also reasonable, but I prefer not to weaken the long diagonal too soon. In the last couple of years, the move 10.Nc3 Developing the knight with a gain of tempo and forcing Black to retreat the bishop and allow the queen exchange after all. , the Semislav, has gotten more popular. One big reason for this is that it can also be used via the move order CC StartFEN CC rnbqkbnr/ p p p p p p p p / 8 / 8 / 8 / 8 / PPPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq - 0 1 CC EndFEN CC 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4. Nc3 c6 . However, part of the reason I like the Slav so much is precisely that we can play it via 1...d5, thereby avoiding both the Catalan and the Nimzo. In reality, it feels to me like we have to learn only one opening, instead of three. Stylistically, the Semislav is sharper and more concrete than the real Slav. Normally nothing I mind, but it also means that the amount of existing theory one needs to know as Black is many

times bigger than in the real Slav. Be6 This leads to an inferior version of the endgame, but the alternative 10...Bb4 is even worse, as after 11. Qd3 Nc6?! 12.O-O-O White has quick development and can create some problems along the d-file. As a matter of fact, the engine claims White is already clearly winning. *(10...Bb4?* is really what we would like to play, and if given time to play ...e6 as well, all would be good. However, it falls a tempo short. *11.Qd2! Be6 12.Qxd8+* The point. The idea of Qb3, attacking d5 and b7, is one of the most important themes to be aware of when playing the Slav as Black. Here it more or less just wins on the spot. *Kxd8 13.0-0-0+! Kc7 14.Nd5+ Bxd5 15.Rxd5)* 11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 12.0-0-0+ Of course, we castle with a gain of tempo. Now we can see we have reached a position similar to a position we analyzed via 7...dxe4 move order CC StartBracket CC with a small difference that White is not a pawn down CC EndBracket CC . We can execute the very same idea of planting the knight on d5 and eliminating the enemy light-squared bishop, obtaining a good version of the endgame. Kc7 Other moves are inferior as they similarly allow the knight to jump to d5 under slightly more favourable circumstances, e. g. 12...Nd7 13.Nd5 or 12...Ke8 13.Nd5 One could make an argument that the endgame with the king on c7 is the best version of these lines for Black, although the difference is probably not that fundamental and the verdict remains clear - White is clearly better. 13.Nd5+ A familiar idea, forcing the exchange of the bishop as f6 pawn is hanging. Bxd5 14.Rxd5 And once again we obtain this favourable version of the endgame, where we have eliminated the enemy bishop pair and have a better structure. Since our pawn is on f3 and not on e4 in this version, our bishop on d3 will have more scope, but on the other hand, we can't create some pressure with the rooks along the f-file.White's position is simply more pleasant and easier to play, although the advantage we yield is by no means decisive and there are some drawish tendencies due to opposite-colored bishops. Even so, I do believe in the hands of a

competent technical/ endgame player, this is a 'two-results' game. 4A) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e- Endgame Line - 7...Be6 with 9;

B3a2) 9...Qxd5 The most common move in the position, allowing White to exchange the queens and enter the aforementioned endgame. With the pair of bishops Black is fine in the endgame. After a weaker 9...Bxd5 ?! 10.Nc3 we have to move the Bishop and allow white to take on d8. 10.Qxd5 Of course, we capture on d5 in order to lure the bishop to the exposed d5 square and gain a few tempi to hit it with moves like Nc3 and O-O-O next. Playing 10.Nc3 immediately is inferior, as after 10...Qxd1 11.Rxd1 the bishop is on d5 and is not exposed and Black obtains a far superior version of the endgame. Bxd5 Greed is sometimes good! The important thing to keep in mind here is not to try to hold onto the material for too long but rather give it back to regain the initiative. 11.Nc3 All logical, developing pieces. The point! Now the bishop on d5 is exposed. We are aiming to play O-O-O next and Black doesn't have time to play Bb4 and create a threat of doubling the c-pawns. Be6 We have to preserve our bishop pair. This move is almost forced - or at least by far the best move in this position. We will also examine 11...Bb4 in a trainable, but as we will see - the pin leads to almost losing position for Black. Black has the pair of bishops while White has the better structure and a slight lead in development. With some precise play Black can neutralise White's trumps. After Alternatives exist, but this looks safe enough. An important move to remember. Black sometimes plays ... Bb4 ... Bc6 or ... Bxb3 but all of them are MUCH worse than the text move. It is necessary to keep both Bishops on the board to secure us good counterplay. *(11...Bc6* or *12.0-0-0* , as in the course). If you have the Grünfeld on your repertoire, I believe 5...g6 is an excellent solution. But if you don't, the Semi-Slav has to be entered. *a6 13.Na5±* 1-0 Hess,R (2588)-Andriasian,Z (2588)/Chalkis 2010/CBM 137 Extra (57) *)*

B3a21) 12.Nb5 A one trick pony CC StartBracket CC pun intended CC EndBracket CC . I believe we have excellent compensation

here. The d5-square is huge, our bishop will be fantastic on the long diagonal, and our pawn structure is very solid. The white rooks are not doing that much, and having played g2-g3 should hurt White in the long run. The engines are giving it as equal, but Black is certainly the one having more fun. Na6 Protecting from the fork. *(*Or *12...Kd8 13.0-0-0+* first. This is a rare move, but actually really annoying for us! The reason it's rare is that it gives Black the possibility of transposing either to a Grunfeld (by playing *13...Kc8*) or to a Semi-Slav (with*)* 13.0-0-0 Ke7 The king is comfortable on e7. Next, we want to go Bh6 or even better h5 first, and then harmoniously develop with Bh6. In these endgames, White should also be careful, as we've got the strong dark-squared bishop and our doubled pawns are in the center and we can potentially create a passed pawn. 13. 4.Qxd4 and 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f-4. Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5 6.Nb3 #1 *(13...Bh6+ 14.Kb1 Ke7* Black is quite alright as he's ready to start active play by ...Nb4. 5.f3-5.f3 Variation 6 *)*;

B3a22) 12.0-0-0 The most critical. The most common move in the position, completing the development, waiting to see where Black will develop the b8 knight and intending to execute the thematic Nd5 jump, if applicable. The move 12. Nb5 was played in some high-profile correspondence games, but after 12...Na6 13.O-O-O Bh6 14.Kb1 Ke7 I was unable to find any real advantage - or at least prudent ways in posing some practical problems.Now Black is at big crossroads. After 12. Nb5 Na6 13.O-O-O Bh6+ 14.Kb1 Ke7 Black is quite alright as he's ready to start active play by ...Nb4. The most popular move for White.

B3a221) 12...Nd7 Apart from the move 12...Nc6 , which will be analyzed at the end of the chapter, the text move is a very valid option. The idea is to block the d-file and prepare to castle long. The only drawback of the move is that the knight on d7 doesn't really cover the a7 pawn.Before I started

working on this course, I never really considered this move to be particularly good, but I realized my way of treating the position was actually not optimal. Else, we simply play ...Rc8. 13.Nb5 The best move and virtually the only move that prevents Black's idea of castling long, as the a7 pawn would be hanging in that case. The text move also creates the threat of Nc7 which can't be met with Rc8 as once again the a7 pawn would be hanging. In the past, I used to play 13.Nd5 exclusively here, with the idea that 13...Bxd5 14.Rxd5 leads to an even more favourable version of the endgame as the knight on d7 is quite passive. However, after 13.Nd5 , Black can simply play 13...O-O-O when they already have a better position CC StartBracket CC in lichess database, Black scored 57% out of 7 games CC EndBracket CC . Other moves are no better, e.g. if 13.Bb5 then 13...O-O-O comes all the same, with a great position for Black. I also investigated 13.Bd3 , but after 13...O-O-O 14.g4 h5 15.h3 Black has 15...Nb6 , when the idea of Nc4 is quite annoying and guarantees a better game to the second player. Bh6+ This check is the most natural move in the position - especially since now the c5 square is protected with the knight on d7. *(13...Ke7∞* ½-½ McShane,L (2615)-Lupulescu,C (2599)/Novi Sad 2009/ CBM 133 (61)*)* 14.Kb1 Ke7 The only way of dealing with the threat of Nc7 that doesn't drop the a7 pawn. 15.Nc7 Nevertheless embarking on this move - but not with the aim to eliminate the bishop on e6, but to jump to d5. I also checked 15.g4 , which is interesting, but after 15...Bf4 16. Bd3 h5 17.h3 Nb6 , the fact that the knight is on b6 and not on c6 works in Black's favour as some Nd5 or Nc4 jumps are possible and this version of the

endgame is more favourable for the second player than the endgame analyzed via 12... Nc6 move order. Rad8 The strongest reply, anticipating the knight jump to d5 and impeding action on the d-file. This move equalizes the game. *(15...Rac8* This natural looking move is just bad here as it allows White to execute the main idea without any problems. *16.Nd5+* The point. We don't take the bishop in this case with 16.Nxe6 as after 16...Kxe6 the king would be quite active and Black would have no problems. *Kf8* Probably better than taking on d5, although this is not an easy move to make. 16... Bxd5 17.Rxd5 leads to a dream scenario for White. *17.Bb5* The point! This move creates a discovered threat to the d7 knight and also the f6 pawn and Black is unable to meet both. *Kg7 18.Bxd7 Bxd7 19.Nb6* The point of White's play! *axb6 20.Rxd7* And with the active rook on the 7th rank and better pawn structure, White has a clear edge in this position. We are threatening to take on b7 or to double the rooks, and we can slowly improve with c3-Kc2 etc. Black faces an uphill struggle for a draw. 4A) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Endgame Line - 7...Be6 Mainli*)* 16.Nd5+ The most logical execution of the plan. I also analyzed the move 16. Bd3 all endgames seemed quite drawish for my taste. The text move is the most common move and was also played in some correspondence games. I do consider it as the best practical attempt to keep the game going. Bxd5 The only move. 16... Kf8 17.Nxf6 loses the f-pawn, whereas 16... Ke8 17.Bb5 is even worse. 17.Rxd5 Nc5 The point of 15...Rad8 is revealed. Due to the back-rank issues, Black manages to exchange a pair of rooks and the knights, reaching the ending of opposite coloured bishops. 18.Bc4 The only move to keep the game going,

defending the rook and intending to place the bishop on an active square. Nxb3 Taking on b3 would allow White to place the bishop strongly on d5. 19.Bxb3 Rxd5 20.Bxd5 And despite the presence of opposite coloured bishops, this endgame is not at all that easy for Black due to the strong light-squared bishop and better pawn structure. We are playing for two results here without any risk and can torture our opponent for many moves. 4A) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Endgame Line - 7... Be6 Mainli;

B3a222) 12...a6 This move, covering the b5 square has been played a few times, but it can't be good as it doesn't develop a piece nor prevent White's main idea of jumping with the knight to d5. 13.Nd5 Now there are many ideas - Nxf6 and Nc7 and Black has to take the steed on d5. Bxd5 Remember - whenever we force our opponent to make this exchange in the Prins variation, it can be regarded as a huge achievement as they give up the bishop pair and make their light-squares even more vulnerable. 14.Rxd5 Nc6 15.c3 Restricting the knight on c6. White intends to continue with either Bd3 or Bc4, potentially get in g4 if we get the chance, slowly reroute the knight and take it from there. We basically have a pleasant version of the endgame as Black doesn't have the bishop pair to show for their damaged pawn structure. 4A) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Endgame Line - 7... Be6 with 1;

B3a223) 12...Bh6+ This move is extremely rare and I have never really paid too much attention to it before I started working on this course. However, it is legitimate to ask yourself - why should Black develop the knight to d7 or c6 first and not give this check instead? Well, it is actually quite instructive to figure it out.There are two drawbacks of the

premature development of this bishop - first of all, the h-pawn has been blocked, which means that White can execute a favourable version of the Bd3-g4 plan in case Black goes for Nd7. Moreover, the bishop also no longer controls the c5 square, meaning White can also go for the Nc5 jump in some cases. 13.Kb1 Now no matter where Black develops the knight, the drawbacks of the early bishop development are revealed. Nc6 Trying to develop the knight on an active square, but now this allows an annoying Bb5 pin under better circumstances for White. 14.Bb5 Directly transposing to the 12...Bh6 line. Rc8 Black tries to play in accordance to the Giri recommendation, but with the bishop on h6 and the king on b1, this is a better version for White due to Black's lack of control over the c5 square. 15.Nd5 This knight jump is very thematic in the whole Prins Endgame line and here it comes under favourable circumstances. f5 We have seen this move in the position with the bishop on f8 and king on c1, but here it doesn't work due to the fact that the c5 square is not protected. With that being said, 15...Bxd5 16.Rxd5 is also very favourable for White. 16.Nc5 And now all our pieces are very nicely placed, we have ideas of Nxb7 and even Nb6 in case of a6 and are simply much better. The sample line continues 16...Kf8 17. c3 Covering the d4 square, when White has total control over the position, very active pieces and the better pawn structure. We can also take on e6 and eliminate the bishop pair at our leisure and Black needs to be very careful not to lose very quickly. 4A) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Endgame Line - 7...Be6 with 1; **B3a224)** 12...Nc6 The alternative is 12... Nd7 , but this move has served me well against Harikrishna. We don't need to

castle long, our king will be fine in the center for now. The most natural and active knight development, which is also the most commonly played move in the lichess database and a move that was recommended by Anish Giri in his Lifetime Repertoires: Najdorf Sicilian course here on Chessable. The knight is more active here than on d7 and also eyes the d4 square in some lines. The drawbacks are that it runs into the potential Bb5 pin and also that now the d-file isn't covered, meaning that Black can't castle queenside so easily. Developing normally and limiting the knight on b3 since its movement would allow ...Nd4. We are ready to develop with ...b6 next. Once our bishop comes to b7, all our problems will be solved. The difference from the previous moves is that White has one more active pieces and the ideas connected with Na5 or Nb5 would be more dangerous.

The difference from the previous moves is that White has one more active piece, and the ideas connected with Na5 or Nb5 would be more dangerous.

13.Bb5 The most challenging, setting up a pin. 13.Ne4 is met with 13...Ke7! getting out of the check on d6. This seems to be the most aggressive and critical move in the position. Trying to exploit the position of the knight on c6 and also profit from the fact that Black can't castle long with the d-file not being covered. White intends to follow up with potential Nd5 or Na5 moves and definitely poses some concrete questions to Black. If the 2nd player knows what they are doing, they should be okay, but even in that case, we can pose some practical problems. It is worth noting that we can't execute the desired 13.Nd5 jump due to 13...O-O-O and we are in considerable trouble. It is also worth noting that the move 13.Ne4 , intending to jump to c5, was played

in some games, but it doesn't seem to yield White anything tangible, e.g. 13...Ke7 14.Nec5 Bh6 15.Kb1 Rad8 and White is unable to capture the b7 pawn in time. This does seem like another safe line worth investigating further, though. Last, but not least - please note that 13.g4 doesn't work now as the h-pawn roams free and after 13...h5 we are in considerable trouble. White continues to develop too. The alternative 13.Ne4 is rather harmless in view of Bh6+ 14.Kb1 Ke7 and Black is fine. By far the best move, fighting against ...b6. The most topical option for White. Note that the engine's evaluation might be misleading in the beginning. *(13.Nd5* This is a bad move that leads to a much better position for Black. *0-0-0* White just lost time since taking on f6 is very risky. *14.Nxf6* 14.c4 f5 is no better. *Bh6+ 15.Nd2 Nb4* White is in big trouble. This will be a long line but it is pretty forced, so I hope you forgive me. *16.a3 Na2+ 17.Kb1 Rxd2 18.Rxd2 Bxd2 19.Ne4* White tries to get back the Knight on a2 but it is surprisingly hard to carry through. *Rd8 20.Bd3 Be3* A strong move forcing the Rook. to e1. Our main threat is ... Nc1 which forces White to play the next move. 20...Bh6 21.Nc5 Nc1 22.Nxe6 forces fxe6 and Black is ONLY better. *21.Re1* It is useful to force the rook to e1. *Bh6* Let's see the line mentioned in the comments to White's 20th move. *22.Nc5 Nc1* White is forced to take on c1 leaving Black with a more or less winning endgame since the following line doesn't work any more. *23.Nxe6 Nxd3* The reason why we forced the Rook to e1 - Black wins a piece. 5. f3 ----- for 2...d6-5.f3 ----- for 2...d6 #11*; 13.Ne4* White prepares Nd6 or Nc5 while Nxf6 is a threat. *Ke7* Simply covering two weaknesses and preparing ... Rc8 with ...

Nb4 to follow. *14.Nbc5* The most popular move. *f5* White will have problems maintaining equality *15.Nd6 b6 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Nb5 h5* ... Rc8 followed by ... a6 and ... h4 are our main ideas. 5.f3 ----- for 2...d6-5.f3 ----- for 2...d6 #10 *)*

B3a2241) 13...Rg8 In his course, Giri also mentioned this move as a possibility and a way to avoid the forced repetition that could arise after 13...Rc8 It is indeed a very prudent and logical move CC StartBracket CC what can be more natural than placing a rook on the semi-open file CC EndBracket CC, although it is apparently less clean of an equalizer than 13... Rc8, which will be analyzed at the end of this chapter. 14.g4 This seems to me to be the most logical move here, removing the pawn from the attack and grabbing some space on the kingside, now that Black's h5 move comes with much less effect. This position is very rare - I only managed to find one game in the lichess database which was won by White. I also analyzed the move 14.Na5 , but after 14...a6 I was unable to find any advantage. I think playing in a non-forcing fashion is a better way of trying to pose some practical problems to Black in this slow endgame. Also note that 14.g3 a6 is inferior, as now after 15.Bd3 Black has 15...f5 , gaining some space on the kingside and restricting our light-squared bishop. It is precisely a scenario our g4 move is trying to prevent. h5 It is very logical to try and undermine the pawn on g4 at once. This is a standard idea in this Prins Endgame and something we should always be mindful of when advancing our g-

pawn forward. 14... a6 15.Bd3 h5 16. h3 would transpose. *(14...f5* This was played in the afore-mentioned lichess game. The move has some logic, but runs into trouble. *15.Na5* Now trying to exploit this pin is very annoying. *a6 16.Ba4* Maintaining the pin! *b5* The only move! *17.Nxc6 bxa4 18.Nxe5* And White has an extra pawn, for which Black has yet to demonstrate the compensation. Furthermore, Black has a terrible pawn structure with the a4 pawn now hanging. Due to all of these reasons, White is clearly better! 4A) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Endgame Line - 7...Be6 Mainli*)* 15.h3 Of course, we reinforce the g4 pawn and maintain the integrity of our pawn chain. A move like 15.gxh5 would be highly undesirable as it would ruin our pawn structure and not even gain a pawn, as Black would be able to recapture the h5 pawn at their leisure. a6 Posing a question to the bishop and eliminating the annoying pin. 16.Bd3 Now that we have achieved the move g4 and control the f5 square, we retreat the bishop in order to add some more control to the light-square complex on the kingside. 16.Bxc6 is also possible, but after 16...bxc6 17. Ne4 Ke7 a complex battle ensues where we have a better pawn structure but where Black has a bishop pair and I am not at all convinced about our chances here - especially since I think our position is more difficult to handle in practice. I think the text move is a much more practical way of keeping the game going. 0-0-0 The main point of Black's preceding play was to castle queenside under favourable

circumstances. Now they have solved their development issues and are objectively very close to equality. Still, I feel we can keep the game going with the knight maneuver to c5. 17.Ne4 Hitting the f6 pawn and preparing to jump in to c5. Be7 Defending the pawn. 18.Nec5
And now we will manage to eliminate the enemy bishop pair and have a slightly more pleasant position. With very accurate play, Black should probably be able to hold this queenless middlegame/endgame, but due to our better pawn structure and nice control over the light squares, I think our position is easier to play and at the very least, we shouldn't be in any serious risk of losing.Some of our next moves are Be4, then slow improvement on the queenside with something like a3/b3 and Kb2 and then taking it from there. In the future we might also want to rotate our knight to f5/h5 squares, say via g3.It is not much, but with the best play for Black it is hard to expect any real advantage anyway and I am personally happy to have a variation in my repertoire that allows me to get a slightly more pleasant endgame in the worst-case scenario. 4A) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Endgame Line - 7...Be6 Mainli;

B3a2242) 13...a6
This automatic move, trying to eliminate the pin on the knight, is the third most common move in the lichess database and 2nd most common move in MegaDatabase. It is not the best move, although it does force White to give up the light-squared bishop as well, and play a knight vs. bishops endgame - albeit a very favourable one. 14.Bxc6+
In this situation, this capture is basically

forced, as 14.Bd3 makes no sense without g4 played and after 14...f5 Black gains space on the kingside, moves the pawn chain into motion and obtains a very favourable position. bxc6 15.Ne4 Hitting the pawn on f6 and eyeing the c5 square CC StartBracket C C and d6 square as well, although that seems to be less relevant CC EndBracket CC . Now Black has a few options at their disposal. Be7 This move has been played in some lichess games as well as two games on the master level CC StartBracket CC both of which ended in a draw CC EndBracket CC , but I don't think it is particularly good. *(15...Bh6+* This move is a bit premature because in some variations, it is important that bishop controls dark squares on the queenside from f8. It is also not at all clear whether this move is necessary yet. *16.Kb1 Ke7 17.Na5* Attacking the weak c6 pawn and preparing Nc5. *Rac8 18.Nc5* And now White will capture on e6 with a good position, as the bishop on h6 is a little bit out of play for the moment. Note that after 18... Be3 we don't capture the pawn on a6 due to 19.Nxa6 Bb6 20.Nb3 c5 when our knight on a6 is trapped. That is why after 18... Be3 we should simply go 19.Nxe6 Kxe6 20.Nc4 , rerouting the knight nicely to an active square with a gain of tempo. We have a good endgame here due to defects in our opponent's pawn structure. 4A) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Endgame Line - 7...Be6 Mainli*)* 16.Nd6+ Once again, we give this check because Black is now unable to get the king to e7. This means that we will be able to take on e6 and force our

opponent to recapture with the f-pawn.In general, we would like to avoid the bishop vs knight scenario if Black has their dark-squared bishop established on h6 and king on e6. However, other versions of the bishop vs knight endgame should be at least slightly favorable for us. Kf8 17.Nc5 With the not-so-subtle intention of capturing on e6, executing our main plan in the position. Rg8 18.Nxe6+ fxe6 19.g3 And White obtains the favourable version of the knight vs bishop endgame where we have managed to obtain everything we wanted CC StartBracket C Cactivate the knight, get in g3, ruin the pawn structure CC EndBracket CC and can face the future with optimism.Our overall plan consists of utilizing the weak a5, c5, c4 squares with the knight, slowly improving our rooks, and potentially targeting the weak queenside pawns. It is a long way to go, of course, but White is on the pleasant side in this endgame. 4A) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Endgame Line - 7... Be6 Mainli;

B3a2243) 13...Rc8! Again, there are alternatives, but this move, reinforcing the c6-knight seems totally alright. In case you can't afford to allow a move repetition, which this move does, you can look into 13...Rg8!? or even the direct 13...a6 , which leads to a complex endgame with White having a superior pawn structure, but us having the two bishops. Defending the knight against Na5 ideas and allowing for ...Rc7 in some lines in order to defend b7. But we play it anyway! This is what I meant by being ready to give up on the material. We simply need to develop our bishop, even at the cost of some material.

Initially, Stockfish doesn't like it but it is the most reliable move. We should be able to recapture on c6 with the Rook. 14.Nd5 The best move. An important nuance is that 14. Na5 falls into 14... Ke7! 15.Nxb7 Nd4! when Black has a huge initiative all of a sudden. The alternative is 14. Ne4 but after the already familiar reaction Bh6+ 15. Kb1 Ke7 Black is fine as 16.Nec5 Rc7 defends everything. The best way of creating problems. *(14.Na5* It looks strong but as usual, we give up something to get something else! *Ke7 15.Nxb7*
This doesn't work well. 15.Bxc6 is better but after 15... bxc6 16.Rhe1 Rg8 17.g3 h5 Black has a typical counterplay on the kingside. *Nd4 16.Bd3 Bh6+ 17.Kb1 Rhg8*
White can't defend his kingside pawns. *18.Rhg1 f5*
... Be3 followed by ... f4 is next and White is in huge trouble. 5. f3 ----- for 2...d6-5.f3 ----- for 2...d6 #13*)*
14...f5! An excellent move, moving the pawns up a little. It is still possible to avoid a move repetition with more passive moves 14... Bg7 or 14...Be7 , if you are in a must-win, when even objectively, Black might not be that much worse. The pawn was attacked so Black pushes it forward to activate his central majority. White's position may look very active, but Black is solid. He wants to give the check from h6 and play .. .Kf8, thus untangling. White is actually hard-pressed to find something concrete before Black untangles and starts playing for a win with his pair of bishop and mobile central majority. The pawn was attacked so Black pushes it forward to activate his central majority. White's position may look very active, but Black is solid. He

wants to give the check from h6 and play ...Kf8, thus untangling. White is actually hard-pressed to find something concrete before Black untangles and starts playing for a win with his pair of bishop and mobile central majority. Much like on the previous move, we are not afraid of giving up more material to fight for the initiative. Simply defending against Nxf6+. Our basic plan is ... a6 and ... Bh6+ followed by ... Kf8. Simply defending against Nxf6+. Our basic plan is ...a6 and ... Bh6+ followed by ... Kf8. 15.Nf6+ White can give two checks first, though Harikrishna didn't and played 15. Na5?! immediately. Probably he was worried about the option of 16...Bxd5 after 15.Nf6+ Ke7 16.Nd5+ , which isn't that good for Black. *(15.Na5* Putting more pressure on Black's queenside, but it amounts to nothing. Putting more pressure on Black's queenside, but it amounts to nothing. The alternative 15. Rhe1 is met with the same Bh6+ 16. Kb1 Kf8 and Black has nothing to fear as he wants to play ...Kg7 connecting the rooks. *Bh6+* The typical reaction to get the king out of the pin. *16.Kb1 Kf8* The typical reaction to get the king out of the pin. *17.Bxc6* If White goes back with 17.Nb3 then after Kg7 Black slowly starts to take over, as shown in the model game Harikrishna-Giri. *bxc6 18.Nb4 c5* The knights are not very stable and this move accentuates it. *19.Nbc6 e4* With very sharp endgame where Black can look confidently ahead with the passed e-pawn and the pair of bishops. Note that the pawn on a7 is poisoned as after *20.Nxa7 Ra8 21.N7c6 Rg8*

White's kingside crumbles. 5.f3-5.f3 Variation 11; *15.Rhe1 a6* The only reasonable move. *16.Bxc6+ bxc6 17.Nb6 Rb8 18.Na4 f6* White's pieces look active but Black can extinguish White's initiative without many problems. *19.Nac5 Bd5* Sacrificing the pawn but keeping the pieces active. *20.Nxa6 Rb7* ... Ra7 is next. *21.Kb1* White tries to keep the a2-pawn protected but it backfires. *Ra7 22.Nac5 Rg8* The kingside can't be kept together. 5.f3 ----- for 2...d6-5.f3 ----- for 2...d6 #14*)* 15...Ke7 16.Nd5+

B3a22431)

16...Bxd5

16...Ke8 17.Nf6+ Ke7 18.Nd5+ allows White to get a draw by repetition. The text move is riskier but allows us to play for a win. 17.Rxd5 Ke6 ... h5-h4 followed by ... Rg8 is the plan that I am sure you are aware of. 18.Rhd1 The best move for White. *(18.Bc4* This might scare you in the beginning but it works beautifully for Black. *Nb4 19.Rc5+* Oops... Have we been tricked?!?! *Kf6 20.Rxc8 Bh6+* Not at all! We will take back on c8 and enjoy a much better position. 5.f3 ----- for 2...d6-5.f3 ----- for 2...d6 #15*)* 18...Nd4 We force White to sacrifice an exchange. 19.Nxd4+ Kxd5 20.Nxf5+ Kc5 The position is quite double-edged but if you don't like it, then 16... Ke8 is for you. The whole line is quite interesting for Black and I think we might see more of that in the future - hopefully, due to the enormous amount of sales of this course! $$$ 5.f3 ----- for 2...d6-5.f3 ----- for 2...d6 #16;

B3a22432)

16...Ke8

The problem with 16...Bxd5 other than that it gives up a bishop is that after 17.Rxd5 Ke6 White can play 18. Rhd1! Nd4 and now sac the exchange with 19. Nxd4!+ Kxd5 20. Nxf5+ with light-square domination. 17.Ba4 This is a sophisticated move, stepping out of a6. Bh6+ 18.Kb1 Kf8 Moving out of the pin and heading to g7, in order to connect the rooks. Getting away from the pin is virtually the only move here. Note that this whole conception with f5-Bh6-Kf8 is a bit abstract for those not specifically acquainted with this position - especially if we are talking about lower end of the rating scale. 19.Nc5 Now there are a couple of options. I like the positional pawn sacrifice. Of course, White takes the opportunity to jump in with the knight to c5. And even though it objectively shouldn't lead to an advantage, it does give Black some choice. Kg7 An interesting new idea: sacrificing the pawn for long-term compensation. *(19...Nd4* Even though our Ba4 move was aimed at preventing this jump, it is still possible. Now both of our knights are under the attack so we don't have time to take on b7. *20.Nxe6+* Forced. *fxe6 21.Nf6* There are still some tricks left in the position as we are hoping to win the e5 pawn. Note that the bishop on a4 protects the c2 pawn which is very important. *Ke7* Avoiding the move Nd7 with a check. 19...b5 is also possible, but it seems less practical, as after 20.Nd7 Ke7 21. Nxe5 Black has no better move than 21...Rhd8 22.Bb3

Bg7 transposing to the game. *22.Nd7* Nevertheless, we play this move and target the e5 pawn. *Bg7* Defending the pawn is possible, but it requires Black to find a very difficult move later on. *23.c3* Kicking the knight away. *Rc4* Another only move Black has to find in these lines to survive. 21...Nc6 22.Nc5 leads to a completely lost position. *24.cxd4 Rxa4 25.dxe5* And with accurate play, Black should be able to reach equality, e.g. 23... b6 24.Rd3 Rd8 25.Rhd1 Ra5 . Nothing we can do if Black players really know their stuff and are able to reach this point - whether it is realistic to expect in a practical game CC StartBracket CC Especially if the opponent hasn't specifically prepared CC EndBracket CC is another question. 4A) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Endgame Line - 7... Be6 Mainli*; 19...b6* This crude move, removing the pawn from the attack and forcing the knight away from c5 is not at all silly as it looks, even though it has been rarely played. *20.Nxe6+* Revealing another idea behind the Nc5 move - elimination of Black's bishop pair. *fxe6 21.Bxc6* Another important moment - now that Black can't recapture with the b-pawn and open the b-file, we take a moment to eliminate the pesky knight, prevent any Nd4 jumps and obtain another knight vs bishop endgame. *Rxc6 22.Nb4* Gaining a tempo on the rook and intending to reroute to d3. *Rc7* Preventing Rd7. *23.Rhe1* Eyeing the vulnerable e5 pawn. *Bg7 24.Nd3* Increasing the pressure and retaining some

practical chances in this equalish position. Black has to play 22...Rd7 , but after 23.c3 Ke7 24.Kc2 we still retain some chances and Black has to be accurate, for example 24... Rg8 25.g3 Rd5 26.a4 h5 27.Nb4 Rxd1 28.Rxd1 when our queenside pawn majority and active knight give us some practical chances, although with correct play Black should be able to draw. 4A) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Endgame Line - 7...Be6 Mainli*)* 20.Nxb7 The most critical is to go for it, at least White gets a pawn. Nd4 21.Nc3 Rhg8 Setting up the rook on g-file. 22.Nb5 Kf6 The king is comfortably sitting on f6 and the rook on g8 is opened up. 23.Nxd4 exd4 The g2-pawn is hanging for now and our bishops are raging with Be3 and Bd5 incoming. The knight on b7 is completely misplaced. 13. 4. Qxd4 and 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f-4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5 6.Nb3 #3;

B3b) 7...dxe4 In order to understand why 7...Be6 is necessary, let's first investigate the endgame that arises after Black captures on e4 at once. It seemingly looks like a good idea as it might saddle White with an isolated e4 pawn. But in reality, Black can't really play like this as this allows White to quickly mount a big initiative. 8.Qxd8+ Of course, we start by eliminating our opponent's castling rights! Kxd8 9.Nc3 The point of the variation! We are not concerned with recapturing the pawn at once, but aim for the swift initiative. This move develops a piece, prepares to castle with a check, and then intends to follow up with a jump to d5 or b5, with dangerous threats. Be6 The best move in the position, covering the important d5 square. However, now Black gets an inferior version of the mainline. *(9...exf3 10.0-0-0+ Bd7 11.gxf3)* 10.0-0-0+ Castling with check is very natural. Kc7 This is a natural move, getting away from the check by moving the king. Other king moves are inferior, e.g. 10...Ke8 11.Bb5 Nbd7 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Nxe4 with a

winning advantage. While 10...Kc8 can be met with the same 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.fxe4 and the king is inferior on c8 than on c7 . 11.Bxf6 This capture is thematic and justified as we ruin our opponent's pawn structure and eliminate one of the defenders of the d5 square. gxf6 12.fxe4 Next we are ready to jump to d5 with the knight. Nd7 The best square for the knight. Black would like to play 12... Nc6 but then after 13.Nd5 Bxd5 we can change our plan and exploit the position of the knight with 14.exd5! CC StartBracket CC a move we would usually refrain from making as we want to occupy the d5 square with a piece. But here the tempo gained on the c6 knight justifies this CC EndBracket CC . Now Black is left without a good reply and we can quickly follow up with c4 next, obtaining a strong and mobile pawn mass, with a clear advantage. 13.Nd5+ The thematic idea in these positions is to exploit the d5 square, force Black to give up the light-squared bishop and the bishop pair and try to exploit the structural advantages and somewhat better pieces in the endgame. Bxd5 14.Rxd5 And now we have actually transposed to the variation examined previously. White's advantage consists primarily of a better structure and a slight lead in development. We have nice control over the light squares. Usually, in these endgames, the pawn is not on e4 but on f3. On one hand, it does restrict our light-squared bishop a bit, but on the other hand - the f-file is semi-open so we can potentially hope to attack the doubled f-pawns. 4A) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Endgame Line - 7...dxe4 #5;

B3c) 7...d4 Not the most popular, but definitely the most ambitious move. It complicates the game and gives Black an excellent chance to fight for an advantage. The most popular move is 7...Be6 . Instead of being satisfied with the endgame that arises almost by force after 7...Be6 , Black can also try to play this very ambitious move, advancing the pawn to d4. This is a much more combative continuation that leads to some very complicated lines where Black is often virtually forced to sacrifice a pawn for the bishop pair and for compensation. It was recommended by GM Ivan Cheparinov in his Lifetime Repertoire: Cheparinov's Najdorf here on Chessable.If you are a 2...d6 Sicilian player who is looking for a more combative weapon against the Prins, this may be a move you want to investigate. This approach definitely entails more risks for Black, but also

for White, as the margin of each move is much higher and the game can also go quickly downhill for the first player if we don't exactly know what we are doing. 8.c3 White must exchange this very strong central pawn on d4. This move, undermining the pawn on d4 immediately, is almost a must, as we can't allow Black to grab space so easily and then continue developing naturally. Nc6 White has two main options here, 9.cxd4 and 9. Bb5 . Black shouldn't be tempted by taking on c3, which would merely justify White's idea and accelerate our development. Instead, this natural move, defending the d4 pawn for now, is the main continuation. Now already White has a decision to make - do we capture on d4 immediately or do we try to intensify the pressure by pinning the knight on c6.

B3c1) 9.Bb5 It seems logical to put more pressure in the center. This move, pinning the knight on c6, increasing the pressure on the d4 pawn and threatening to capture this pawn is by far the most common move played in this position. It is also a move I have played almost exclusively in my career, but when working on this course I realized that the move 9.cxd4 is also not as silly as I initially thought, which is why I decided to mention it as an alternative in this chapter, as well. After 9.Bb5 , the game inevitably takes a very sharp character. Black is still unable to capture the pawn on c3, but also has some trouble defending it. The second player is basically forced to sacrifice a pawn, in compensation for which they will get the bishop pair and also some potential dynamism. There are two main continuations here we will check in great detail.

B3c11) 9...Qb6 This early queen development, attacking the bishop on b5, defending the knight on c6 - and more importantly - the pawn on d4, is played almost as frequently as the move 9 . . . h 6 CC StartBracket CC that will be analyzed later in the chapter CC EndBracket CC and can be considered the 2nd important mainline of the entire 8...d4 complex, so we will also devote some attention to it! Black tries to temporarily sacrifice a pawn in a slightly different manner - by forcing White to give up their light-squared

bishop! 10.Bxc6+ The most natural move in the position - taking on c6 and then taking on d4 afterward, forcing Black to demonstrate the compensation for the pawn. In some correspondence games, as well as some human games, the move 10. Qd3!? , defending the bishop, was played. It is also a very interesting option that I spent some time analyzing, but ultimately I decided that the resulting lines are a bit too complicated and 'enginey' for my taste. But feel free to investigate them further on your own if you are looking for an alternative weapon in this variation. bxc6 The point of Black's play is this deliberate ruining of the pawn structure. Not only does this move keep the queen on b6, from where her majesty keeps an eye on the d4 pawn, but it also opens the c8-a6 diagonal, allowing the bishop to come quickly to a6. 10... Qxc6 is way inferior as it simply drops a pawn after 11.cxd4 . 11.cxd4 Of course, White takes the pawn on d4 as this was the whole point of our previous play. Now Black is at a big and important theoretical crossroads and has some options at the disposal. a5 This move, played extremely rarely and mostly on correspondence level, is apparently the strongest move in the position. The idea is to dislodge the strong knight from b3 - which not only prevents the queen from attacking the b2 knight but also protects the d4 pawn. Black also makes an argument that Ba6 move will be more harmonious with the pawn on a5.With that being said, it is really not so obvious for a human to move the a-pawn, disregard development and also leave the e5 pawn hanging. In the lichess database, this move was only played 2 times out of 179 games, and in MegaDatabase, 2 times out of 30 games. Still, it is not completely impossible that it will gain some more traction in the future given that the engines point it out immediately. *(11...Ba6* This is the most common move in the position, placing a bishop on a very active diagonal and preventing White from castling. It is

not the easiest move to make if you don't know about it beforehand CC StartBracket CC especially at lower levels CC EndBracket CC since Black does leave the e5 hanging. However, White can't really afford to capture on e5 and fall in development even more, but has to immediately start mobilizing the forces and get the pieces into play. *12.Na3* This knight move seems to be the best reaction to the development of the bishop and the strongest move in the position. In the lichess database, it was played only 6 times, but White did score 67%, which is somewhat indicative of its practical strength.So, what is the point behind the strange placing of the 'knight to the rim'? Well, White aims to get the knight to c4 as quickly as possible. The reason why the knight goes via the a3-c4 route instead of the d2-c4 route is simple - the d4 pawn is kept defended, which wouldn't be the case after 12.N1d2 exd4 . Also note that taking on e5 is too greedy and after 12.dxe5 Nd7!? 13. Qd4 Black can even go for the queen exchange with 13...Qxd4 14.Nxd4 Nxe5 when they have tremendous compensation due to the massive lead in development and the bishop pair. *Rd8* This move seems very sensible, trying to create a pin along the d-file and take on d4 after all. Note that 12...exd4 13.Qxd4 keeps an extra pawn for White. *13.Rc1* White continues with the plan of planting the knight to c4 and is willing to give up the d4 pawn in the process. *exd4* It is very logical for Black to take the pawn on d4, but this allows us to get our knight to c4 without problems. *14.Nc4* A nice multipurpose move, hitting the queen and blocking the a6-f1 diagonal. *Bxc4* Black doesn't really have a better move than taking the knight. *15.Rxc4* Now the smoke has cleared somewhat and we are very happy with the position as we have managed to get rid of the enemy bishop pair. Our next moves are Kf2 CC StartBracket CC Again! CC EndBracket CC, Qd3, bringing the rooks, etc. Black's pawns are targets

for now and I do believe our position is a bit easier to play. 4B) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Mainline with 9.Bb5 Qb6 #6*; 11...Bb4+* This check, played as frequently as 11...Ba6 , also deserves some attention. *12.Bd2* This way of meeting the check by retreating the bishop, which will be very common in this chapter, seems the simplest. There is something to be said about 12.Nc3 , as well. I think both moves lead to some advantage for White, but the text one does so in a slightly less complicated manner. *a5* Other moves are just inferior, e.g. 12...Bxd2 13.Qxd2 or 12...exd4 13.Bxb4 Qxb4 14.Qd2 , in both cases with an advantage for White, due to the better structure and the fact Black has given up the bishop pair. *13.Bxb4 axb4* Now Black has at least opened the a-file for the rook. *14.N1d2* And White has some advantage, either in case of 14...Be6 15.Nc5 or 14...Ba6 15.Qc2 , with the idea of Qc5. Black has given up the bishop pair and their position is losing dynamism somewhat - and it is not yet so easy to recapture the pawn on d4. When we combine all that with their bad structure on the queenside, you can understand why it is safe to say that White is clearly better! Note that capturing on e5 with CC StartFEN CC r1b1k2r/5ppp/1qp2n2/4p3/1p1PP3/1N3P2/PP4PP/R N 1 Q K 2 R w - - 0 14 CC EndFEN CC 14. dxe5 is also possible. In fact, it is the top recommendation of the engine, as pointed out by a diligent beta-tester Benner. However, the lines do get a bit messy after 14...Ba6 15.Qd4 Qb5 , so from the human perspective, I prefer the text continuation. 4B) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Mainline with 9.Bb5 Qb6 #2 *)* 12.dxe5 The most logical move - the pawn is hanging and then we take it. 12.Nc3 was played in the correspondence games Szczepanski, Z. - Salcedo Mederos, ICCF email, 2018., but after 12...a4 13.dxe5 the game transposed to text. I like the text move more as it attacks the knight and forces Black to find the correct follow-up. a4 A very difficult move to

find, but apparently the best move. Black ignores the threat to the f6 knight and counterattacks the knight on b3 instead. For engines, it may be 'obvious' that this works, but it is not so easy for humans to evaluate the consequences of the resulting complications. *(12...Nd7* Retreating the knight is more logical, but it allows White to consolidate a bit with the help of the following maneuver. *13.Qd4* Defending the pawn and threatening the queen exchange. *c5* Almost forced, as 13... Qxd4 14.Nxd4 leads to a queenless middlegame that is favourable for White. However, the text move does weaken the d5 square. *14.Qd2* Retreating the queen and covering the b2 pawn. *a4* Kicking the knight away. *15.Nc1* And now we see one of the advantages of having the queen on d2 - the b2 pawn is protected and the d5 square is weakened. We want to continue with Nc3-Nd5 and castle as soon as possible. Black might have some compensation for a pawn, but it is not so easy to prove it and I would be very happy to play White in a position like this. 4B) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Mainline with 9.Bb5 Qb6 #7*)* 13.exf6 axb3 14.Nc3 Obviously, due to the pin on the a-file, we are unable to touch the b3 pawn, but we can simply develop normally instead. Note that the immediate 14.fxg7 Bxg7 15.Qd6 doesn't work due to the existence of the pawn on b3: 15...Bf8 16.Qe5 Be6 17.Qxh8 Rxa2 and Black is the one who wins. You can obviously see the computer's influence in these variations. gxf6 Taking on f6 is another very logical move in this position, but it does allow White to exchange some pieces and eliminate the enemy bishop pair. *(14...Rg8* The only move that leads to equality, played exclusively in correspondence games. Black removes the rook from a potentially exposed h8 square and also anticipates the opening of the g-file, trying to prove that the rook will be quite active on that square. Black also prepares to develop the dark-squared bishop without leaving the pawn on g7 hanging. *15.Qd2* The best move, covering

the bishop on g5 and the pawn on g2. *Bc5* Preventing any sort of Be3 and inhibiting castling even further. *16.a4* Finally removing the hanging pawn. 16.g4 was played in another correspondence game Geryk,M. - Guerra, R., ICCF email 2015, that also ended up in a draw. *gxf6* Finally opening up the rook on g8. *17.Bf4* Keeping the bishop on the d2-h6 diagonal and not allowing the Be3 killer blow as would happen after 17.Bxf6 Rg6 18. Bh4 Be3! when Black is winning. The current position is very difficult to play for both sides as both kings are stuck in the center and the pawn structure is quite wild. The correspondence game Szczepanski,Z CC StartBracket CC 2463CCEndBracket CC-Salcedo Mederos,P CC StartBracket CC 2385 CC EndBracket CC, ICCF email 2018, ended up in a draw, although there is a lot of play left.I do suspect Black's position is a bit easier to play in practice, but on the other hand, they do really need to know a lot to get here and that is the 'risk' I am willing to take, given how rare the whole 11...a5 idea is. 4B) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Mainline with 9.Bb5 Qb6 #10*)* 15.Bxf6 Hitting the rook on h8 and preparing to place the bishop on d4. Rg8 16.Bd4 Hitting the queen and blocking the a7-g1 diagonal for the moment. Bc5 Black has to allow the exchange of the dark-squared bishops in order to prevent White from castling. 16...c5 is virtually losing to 17.Nd5, while 16...Qd8 17.O-O is clearly better for White, whose king is now safe. 17.Bxc5 Qxc5 18.Qd2 And I believe White has a clear edge. For the moment we are two pawns up and next we want to play Qf2 and then castle. I believe it is very hard for Black to demonstrate compensation - especially in a practical game between two humans. 4B) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Mainline with 9.Bb5 Qb6 #8;

B3c12) 9...h6 To include ...h6-Bh4 is always in Black's favour. Apart from 9...Qb6, this is the most common move in this position. Black immediately challenges the bishop on

g5 and asks the piece to declare its intentions, making an argument that forcing the bishop to h4 leads to a more favourable version of the 9...Qb6 lines. It is true that Black decides to sacrifice a pawn with this move CC StartBracket CC Because White now has the option of taking on f6CC EndBracket CC, but - just like in the 9...Qb6 lines - the argument is that the bishop pair and lead in development will more than compensate!

B3c121) 10.Bd2 It is very harmless. Qb6 11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.cxd4 a5 Black has a fantastic initiative. 13.dxe5 The point is that after the text move, Black can simply reply with ... Nd7. Nd7 14.Nc3 a4 15.Nc1 Be7 The most accurate! 16.Nxa4 Qa7 17.Nc3 Nxe5 Black is having all the fun. 29) 5.f3-5.f3 e5 6.Nb3 #4;

B3c122) 10.Bxf6 White is trying to equalize with this move. The other options are 10.Bh4 and 10.Bd2 . The most logical move, giving up the bishop pair but gaining a tempo to grab a pawn on d4. This is the move I almost exclusively played in this position, but I wasn't fully aware that there are some alternatives available. First of all, the move 10.Bh4 was played by a very creative grandmaster Alexander Morozevich, among others. We indeed need to stop for a moment and ask ourselves - what exactly has Black gained by forcing the bishop away from the h6-c1 diagonal. Well, Black makes a strong case that having the bishop away from the afore-mentioned diagonal is beneficial for the 2nd player. For example, after 10... Qb6 , White can't really follow the same prescription as against immediate 9...Qb6, as after 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.cxd4 Ba6 13.Na3 is not good, as after 13...Rd8 14.Rc1 Bb4 is very annoying. Not only do we not have the Bd2 resource here, but also after 15.Kf2 exd4 White doesn't have the possibility to cover the discovered

check with the timely Be3 retreat. Instead, after 10.Bh4 Qb6 11. Bxc6 bxc6 12.cxd4 Ba6 White should go for something like 13. Bg3 , with unclear consequences. It is true that the move 10. Bh4 might have some surprise value, but I don't objectively think it is theoretically better than 10. Bxf6 - nor that it leads to positions that are easier to play for White, so I decided against recommending it. On another note, 10.Bd2 is another move that was played at the correspondence level you might want to investigate on your own as an alternative. Qxf6 The only sensible move in the position and far superior to the capture of the pawn. Black really doesn't want to allow the shattering of the pawn structure. 11.cxd4 We have to take the pawn on d4, as otherwise, we would have nothing to show for the enemy bishop pair! Bb4+ An important intermediate check. The only reasonable move for Black and the move that is played almost exclusively in this position. Black gives a check and tries to disturb White's coordination, either by forcing the knight to come to d2, preventing the queen from attacking the d4 pawn, or to come to c3, when Black's argument is that the knight will not be ideally placed after the inevitable Bxc6 in the future.With that being said, it has to be mentioned that White scores 55% from this position, according to the Lichess Database CC StartBracket CC Although it is true that White's result on the higher level is lower - 48.7% according to my MegaDatabase CC EndBracket CC . Now White is at a crossroad - how exactly do we want to meet the annoying check? *(11...exd4* Black can't really take on d4 as the knight on c6 is pinned. *12.Qxd4* Due to the pin on the c6 knight, we can recapture immediately with the queen and challenge the enemy counterpart. Black doesn't have much to

show for. *Qg5* This might be considered somewhat annoying due to the fact that both the bishop on b5 and the pawn on g2 are attacked. However, White can simply return the material to gain a massive lead in development. *13.Nc3* Defending the bishop and preparing long castling. This is much stronger than 13.Bxc6 , as played in the game Zierk, S - Belous, M, Chesscom, 2020. *Qxg2* Black really shouldn't take this pawn, but then they have nothing to show for the lack of pawn. *14.0-0-0* And White has a tremendous advantage due to the lead in development. The immediate threat is Qd8 and even in the endgame after 14... Qg5 15.Kb1 Qxb5 16. Nxb5 Nxd4 17.Rxd4 White's lead in development is decisive. 4B) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Mainline with 9.Bb5 h6 #2 *)*

B3c1221) 12.N1d2 Apart from the 'more natural' move 12. Nc3 , analyzed previously, this alternative knight development is also very legitimate. On one hand, this does break the queen's contact with the d4 pawn, allowing Black to immediately capture the pawn. On the other hand, the knight on d2 is not exposed to potential threats by the pawn on d4 as the knight on c3 is, as we have just seen. White wants to continue with d5 in case Black doesn't take on d4 at once.It has to be said that this move is very unexplored, featuring only 8 games in the lichess database and 2 games in MegaDatabase CC StartBracket CC at the moment of writing CC EndBracket CC - and White's results are very decent. This move was also not mentioned in Lifetime Repertoires: Cheparinov's Najdorf. exd4 In this variation, Black is virtually forced to take on d4

and prevent White from going d5. Now the drawback of 12. N1d2 is revealed - White is unable to recapture the pawn on d2. *(12...0-0* This move was really reasonable against 12.Nc3, is not so good here as it allows White to reveal the main point of placing the knight to d2. *13.d5* The point of the previous play! *Nd4* Here this doesn't work as the knight is on d2 and not on c3. However, White also retains some edge against other knight moves. *14.Nxd4 exd4* And here we can see that the knight on d2 is not under attack so White has the time to redeploy the bishop. *15.Bd3* And White has an overwhelming position due to his extra pawn and strong central pawn structure and can consider castling either way. The engine already gives a decisive advantage for White - and who am I to argue :CC EndBracket CC. 4B) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e- Mainline with 9.Bb5 h6 - The *)* 13.0-0 In this line, White does manage to castle and now we want to push our central pawns to gain some space and kick the enemy pieces away. Black does have the bishop pair, but the pawn on d4 is somewhat exposed and Black is somewhat behind in development. 0-0 A very natural move, finishing the development and waiitng to see what White will do. 14.f4 This move, putting the central pawn mass into motion, is most logical and somewhat tricky for Black to handle. White wants to follow up with Bd3 next. The immediate 14.Bd3 is met with 14...Ne5 . This move was played in 3 lichess games CC StartBracket CC At 2800 level CC EndBracket CC and White won all

three of them. The engine does think Black is more than fine here and that they even have a chance to fight for the initiative. However, the game remains complex and - given that the best line involves the sacrifice of the d-pawn - I would say White has a fair share of chances. d3 This is the critical move, sacrificing the d-pawn but opening the d-file and preventing White's harmonious setup which would arise after 14...Bd7 15. Bd3 or 14...Be6 15.Bd3 . Black also eyes the b2 pawn, which will be relevant. 15.Bxd3 Of course, there is nothing else but to capture the pawn. Rd8 The strongest move, trying to create pressure and profit from the newly opened d-file. *(15...Qxb2* Black can also consider capturing the b-pawn, but this seems inferior to 15...Rd8 . *16.Nc4* A useful tempo gaining move. *Qc3* The most annoying, keeping the d3 bishop under attack and intending a nice tactical shot. 16... Qf6 17.e5 seems to present White with a nice advantage. *17.Rc1* Gaining a tempo on the queen and seemingly making Black's last move obsolette. *Bg4* The point, exploiting the overloaded White queen. *18.Be2* The best move, allowing Black to make some exchanges and ease their position. *Bxe2 19.Qxe2 Qf6 20.e5* Nevertheless, the pawn manages to advance forward. It is true that White would love to have the light-squared bishop here and that the engine gives 'all zeroes' here, but I suspect with the dangerous e- and f-pawn duo, White's position is somewhat easier to play. Remember that Black needs to know a lot to even get here! 4B) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-

Mainline with 9.Bb5 h6 - The *)* 16.Nc4 The best move, defending the bishop with the queen and moving some pieces from the d-file. Ne3-Nd5 is an idea here. Be6 A logical move, attacking the knight and still trying to exploit the pin. 16... b5 was played in some online game, when after 17.Ne3 Black went wrong with 17...Nd4 and after 18.Nd5 was totally lost. Instead, after 16...b5 17. Ne3 Qxb2 is better, when 18.Nd5 leads to an unclear, fighting position, where once again I suspect White's play is easier. 17.e5 A useful inclusion, forcing the queen away from the d4 square. Qh4 The most active, keeping an eye on the f4 pawn. 18.Qe2 Nd4 The move that allows Black to equalize, exploiting the weakness of the f4 pawn as well as the instability of the c4 knight and White's absence of the dark-squared bishop. 19.Nxd4 Rxd4 Here Black has definite compensation for the pawn due to ideas such as Rad8, Bc5 and also the crude Rxf4. 20.Ne3 Removing the knight that was somewhat vulnerable and aiming to get to the f5 square. Rxf4 Simply taking the f4 pawn. 21.Nf5 And the position remains very complicated, although there is no denying Black is fighting for the initiative due to the better pawn structure and the bishop pair. However, White's position shouldn't be underestimated and we can very likely simplify to an equalish endgame very soon. As mentioned earlier, I would be shocked if a variation like this arose in an actual game, given how much specific knowledge is required from the 2nd player. I therefore still claim

that the move 12. N1d2 is a reasonable practical weapon that needs further testing, a weapon that allows us to stay flexible in terms of our opening preparation and a weapon that can be used very effectively against an unprepared opponent.However, given the existence of variations such as this one, I have decided to keep it as an alternative, as with correct play Black can probably not only equalize but also fight for the initiative. 4B) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Mainline with 9.Bb5 h6 - The;

B3c1222) 12.Nc3

This move seems very natural - what can be more normal than developing the knight to the most natural c3 square and keeping contact with the d4 pawn? However, due to very concrete factors - namely, the potential appearance of the pawn on d4 which would then hit this knight, it is not yet 100% clear whether it is better to develop the knight to c3 or d2. As a matter of fact, I have also included move 12.N1d2 as the alternative. Also note that 12.Kf1 , just stepping out of the pin, but also not falling into the pin along the b6-g1 diagonal, has been played in a few games, but I couldn't really force myself to recommend such a move. But I do mention it as a possibility for those who 'want to know more'. 12...0-0

It is clear that the dark-squared bishop secured Black a fantastic compensation for the pawn. The most natural and dynamic move in the position , removing the king from the center and breaking the pin on the c6 knight CC StartBracket CC and thus freeing the knight to defend the d4 point CC EndBracket CC. The downside for

Black is that White now can capture a pawn, but the second player will get compensation in form of the lead in development and an active bishop pair. *(12...exd4* This recapture is just a bad move, but it was played 19 times in the lichess database CC StartBracket CC Although it is seen much more rarely on the master level CC EndBracket CC. *13.Qxd4* The point! Due to the pin on the c6 knight, White manages to recapture this pawn with the queen, challenge the enemy queen and also attack the bishop on b4. *Qxd4* Nothing else is really better. White has a massive advantage in all lines. 13...Qg5 is now met with 14. Qxb4 when White wins. *14.Nxd4* Creating more pressure on the knight on c6. *Bd7* Black can try to take on c3 and give us an isolated pawn with 14...Bxc3 15. bxc3 , but due to the limited material this weakness is not particularly bothersome for us and we still retain an extra pawn and the advantage. *15.0-0-0* And White just has a clean extra pawn, as well as very active pieces.The engine already gives like +2 and it is safe to say White is technically winning already. 4B) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Mainline with 9. Bb5 h6 #3 *)* 13.Bxc6 White is worse after 13.d5 Nd4 14.Bd3 Nxb3 15.Qxb3 Bc5 White cannot castle and the bishop pair gives Black the better chances, despite being a pawn down. A very critical moment for White. There are multiple ways in which we can try to either keep our pawn, or develop swiftly. After analyzing the position for a little bit, I have concluded that this move - which is the one I exclusively played in this position before I

started working on this course - is still the best practical attempt CC StartBracket CC Although I do think Black is objectively fine, from the theoretical standpoint CC EndBracket CC. I considered no less than three alternatives. First of all, the obvious 13. d5 seems like a no-brainer, but after 13...Nd4 14.Bd3 Nxb3 15.Qxb3 Bc5 Black has very decent compensation due to our weak dark squares and inability to castle. Castling with 13.O-O would be the best move, were it not for a small tactical detail in form of 13...Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Bc5!? and once again the dark squares are inconvenient for us and yield Black tremendous compensation. Last, but not least, there is this crazy move 13.Kf1 here, which avoids the aforementioned Bc5 shot and also introduces some Nd5 ideas. However, the obvious drawback is that we lose the right to castle. The line continues 13...Nxd4 14.Nd5!? Qd6 15. Nxd4 exd4 16. Qxd4 when you can see why not having the king on g1 was important. Still, after 16...Bc5 the position is highly unclear, even though after 17.Qc3 the engine screams all zeroes. I would suspect this is easier for Black to handle in a practical game, although you can investigate this position a bit further if you want a rare alternative to 13. Bxc6. *(13.0-0* This continuation is not enough to equalize the game right away. *Nxd4 14.Nd5* 14.Nxd4 Bc5 A nice move, Black wants to take on d4 with the bishop. *Qd6 15.Nxd4 Bc5 16.Kh1 Bxd4* Black was slightly better in the game Bruzon Batista, L CC StartBracket C

CC 2664 CC EndBracket CC - Cheparinov,I CC StartBracket CC 2681 CC EndBracket CC, Tromsoe 2014. 29) 5.f3-5.f3 e5 6.Nb3 #5)

13...bxc6

It is absolutely crucial for Black to recapture with the b-pawn here, in order to open the b-file and the a6-f1 diagonal for the bishop. Recapturing with the queen with 13...Qxc6 is much inferior as after 14.Rc1 we cover the c3 knight, eye the queen on c7. White has the advantage in all lines as Black's activity is significantly reduced and slower coming.

14.dxe5

Here we absolutely have to take on e5. 14.Rc1 has no point without the queen on c6 and after 14...Rd8 15.O-O exd4 we are in significant trouble.

Qxe5

Of course, Black simply recaptures the pawn and activates the queen on e5.

15.Qd4

After 15.O-O very simple and good is 15...a5 where the bishop pair may be very strong. This is the main move in this position, played almost exclusively on correspondence level. White challenges the enemy queen and attacks the bishop on b4. And even though this move centralizes the queen, the drawback is that the queen on d4 might be exposed to some attacks here. The only alternative is the move 15.O-O, which was played in 3 games in lichess database CC StartBracket CC although all at the level below 2500 online rating CC EndBracket CC. However, after 15...a5 Black seems to have compensation all the same, so why not play the best move and provide our opponent with an opportunity to go wrong?

Qe7

Defending the bishop and avoiding the queen exchange is the best move. It

is not surprising that Black wants to keep her majesties on the board given that White's king is still in the center of the board and potentially weaker long-term - especially when we know that Black also has two bishops. 16.0-0 Finally we castle and bring the king to safety. 16. O-O-O was played in some correspondence games, but it seems to be a bit too much for a human game. Be6 Black has excellent compensation. 29) 5. f3-5.f3 e5 6.Nb3 #6 The main and best move and the recommendation in Lifetime Repertoires: Cheparinov's Najdorf. The bishop is more actively placed than on a6, as after 16...Ba6 17.Rfd1 the bishop would hit nothing, whereas from e6 it does eye the b3 knight and the a2 pawn, potentially. Cheparinov ended the analysis here with the comment that Black has excellent compensation. It is indeed so, but we are still a pawn up. Let's continue the line for a few more moves. 17.Kh1 Stepping away from any sort of shennanigans on the b6-g1 diagonal. Rfd8 The most natural move in the position, hitting the queen and placing a rook on the open file. There are other possibilities like 17... a5 , but since we are already quite deep and play is non-forcing, let's limit our investigations to one very human line. 18.Qe3 And even though the engine gives some slight edge for Black CC StartBracket CC between -0.2 and -0. 3
CC EndBracket CC and even though Black definitely has compensation for the pawn, it is an extra pawn for White. I also like the fact we have the better structure here

CC StartBracket CC 2 pawn islands versus 3 pawn islands CC EndBracket CC and that Black's best approach is probably to give up the bishop pair immediately and take on b3. I understand this might not be the outcome everyone is searching for, but Black does need to display a certain level of knowledge and readiness to give up some material to get here + there are also some alternatives we can spring upon them along the way. 4B) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Mainline with 9.Bb5 h6 #5;

B3c123) 10.Bh4 Qb6 11.Bxc6+ 11.Qd3?! Nh5! This was the point in including ...h6. bxc6 12.cxd4 Ba6 Looks extremely good for Black. 13.Bg3 The only decent move. Much worse is 13. Bf2? Rd8 14.N1d2 exd4 and Black was nearly winning in the game Morozevich, A. - Fedoseev, V., Moscow 2016.Black has many interesting options. Bd6 The most ambitious move. 14.Bf2 The point is after 14.Nc3 to play 14...Nh5 and the resulting position looks very promising for Black. Rd8 15.dxe5 Bc5 An important trick! 16.Qxd8+ 16.Qc2 Bxf2+ 17. Qxf2 Rd1+ 18.Kxd1 Qxf2 and White can resign. Qxd8 17.Nxc5 Nd7 The bishop on a6 is defended tactically. 18.Nxa6 Qa5+ A simple double attack. 19.Nc3 Qxa6 White still must fight to equalize. 29) 5.f3-5.f3 e5 6.Nb3 #2;

B3c2) 9.cxd4 Definitely the most critical. In all other lines, White risks being worse. Before I started working on this course, I exclusively used to play the move 9.Bb5 in this position. However, when checking some of the recommendations for Black in this position in the course Anti-Anti Sicilians by my good friend and Chessable author Kamil Plichta, I noticed he awarded the move 7...d4 a '?!' sign, mentioning precisely the text move as a move that yields White an advantage.

This was a bit surprising to me, given that I remembered analyzing the move in the past and not being able to find any real advantage for White whatsoever. And indeed, a new analysis did confirm that 'zeroes' are guaranteed to Black. However, the continuation leading to these zeroes was not the most obvious one and I realized this line does indeed give White decent chances for an advantage against an unprepared opponent and does score relatively well in practice. That is why I decided to include it in the course after all, albeit only as the alternative, since I do believe that the move 9.Bb5 is a bit more difficult to handle - at least theoretically, if not practically.

B3c21) 9...exd4

Immediately taking on d4 is bad as White can continue building pressure on the center very similarly as in lines with the immediate 8.Bb5 - but this time Black doesn't really have a good way of dealing with this. 10.Bb5

A very primitive move with the simple idea of taking on d4. Bb4+

The only move to pose even remote difficulties, otherwise Black simply loses the pawn on d4. 11.Bd2

As we have seen in the lines with 9.Bb5, this bishop retreat is the best way to meet the bishop check as we are challenging the bishop immediately and threatening to take it due to the pin on the c6. Even though this allows Black to potentially exchange the bishops and quickly castle, it still doesn't solve the issues with the d4 pawn. Bd6

Was played in a game between Grischuk and Vachier Lagrave from Khanty Mansiysk 2015 and also in an online game by Young Firouzja. Here we need to remember the key Ba5 maneuver. *(11...Nxe4*

This move, which is a good antidote in the 9... Bb4 lines doesn't work in this position as the e-file is now opened. *12.fxe4*

Now we can simply take the knight. *Qh4+ 13.g3 Qxe4+ 14.Qe2*

The point! The queen exchange is forced and White remains a clean piece up and is winning.

4B) The Prins Sicilian: 5... e-Mainline With The Alternative*)* 12.Ba5

White can also first take

on c6. 12. Na3 was Grischuk's move against MVL and that game ended in a draw, but White can play stronger! Qe7 13.Bxc6+ Even stronger than the immediate capture on d4. bxc6 14.Qxd4 And White had a clean extra pawn, although he did went on to lose the game against his formidable opponent: Willow - Firouzja, Chesscom, 2019. 4B) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Mainline With The Alternative;

B3c22) 9...Bb4+ A very important intermediate check. Worse is 9...exd4?! 10. Bb5 . This 'obvious' move CC StartBracket CC A check! CC EndBracket CC is not that difficult to see CC StartBracket CC It is the 2nd most popular move in the lichess database and the 1st most popular move on master level CC EndBracket CC , but the follow up is not at all obvious.

B3c221) 10.Nc3 exd4 11.a3 Be7 The most accurate way to equalize. 12.Nb5 0-0 13.N3xd4 *(13.N5xd4* It is much worse than taking with the other knight. *Nxe4 14.Nxc6 Qxd1+ 15.Rxd1 Bxg5* Black is clearly better. 29) 5.f3-5.f3 e5 6.Nb3 #8 *)* 13...Qb6 It leads by force to equality. 14.Be3 Rd8 15.Qd2 In case of 15. Qd3 good is 15... Qa5+! 16.Bd2 Qb6= with a draw. Bc5 16.Rd1 Nxe4 All the moves are very forced. 17.fxe4 Bg4 18.Be2 18.Qc3?! is worse because of 18... Rac8 . Bxe2 19.Kxe2 Rd7 The final touch. 20.b4 Bxd4 21.Nxd4 Rad8 Black will regain the piece very soon. 22.Qc2 Nxd4+ 23.Rxd4 Rxd4 24.Bxd4 Rxd4 25.Rd1 Rxd1 26.Qxd1 g6 With an equal endgame in Oleksienko, M CC StartBracket CC 26 20 CC EndBracket CC - Cheparinov, I CC StartBracket CC 26 84 CC EndBracket CC , Doha 2014. 29) 5.f3-5. f3 e5 6.Nb3 #9;

B3c222) 10.Bd2 The only serious try. By far the best - or at least most practical way - of meeting the check on d2. Other moves allow Black to

take on d4, e.g. 10. Nc3 exd4 11.a3 Be7 and now it is a bit tricky to siege the d4 pawn as in the main-line, although 12.Nb5 might be worth investigating for those who 'want to know more'. 10...0-0 A very interesting novelty. Risky, but even White should know what to do. The theoretical move is 10...Nxe4!? 11.Bxb4 Qh4+ 12.g3 Nxg3 13. hxg3 Qxh1 . This was the move recommended by Ivan Cheparinov in the afore-mentioned course. Black decides to give up a pawn in a different manner - by allowing White to take on b4. As we will see, here also Black will very often rely on the same Nxe4 trick so I am not too concerned with Black players specifically not familiar with the whole idea CC StartBracket CC or Cheparinov's course CC EndBracket CC being able to find it over the board. *(10...exd4* Capturing on d4 is not good as it also also allows White to exchange the right pieces and start mounting the pressure on the d4 pawn. *11.Bxb4* Distracting the knight and exchanging the redundant dark-squared bishop in order to create pressure on the d4 pawn. In general, it is desirable for White to exchange the dark-squared bishops here given that Black gets less counterplay down the a7-g1 diagonal in case White takes on d4. *Nxb4 12.Qd2* Hitting the knight and making a useful developing move. 12. a3 Nc6 is not as clear. *a5* Black tries to defend the knight with the a5 pawn, but this weakens the b5 square. However, 12... Nc6 13.Bb5 is no better. *13.Bb5+* The point of this check is to force Black to cover the d-file so that we can capture on d4. Obviously, 13.Nxd4 is bad due to 13...Qxd4! 14.Qxd4 Nc2 , so please don't fall for such a cheapo. *Bd7* The only reasonable way of dealing with the check, but now indeed White can just capture

on d4. *14.Nxd4* And given that the b5 bishop is securely defended, we have simply gained a pawn. N1a3, N1c3 and/or O-O are next and then we can already start thinking about the technical phase. 4B) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e- Mainline With The Alternative*; 10...Nxe4* This move is the only way for Black to gain equality in this line. It is definitely not impossible to find/ know, but on lower level, I wouldn't expect everyone to be aware of it CC StartBracket CC especially if they are caught unprepared CC EndBracket CC. Still, it is the 2nd most played move in this position in Lichess database and I haven't really been able to find an advantage here, which led me to mentioning 9. cxd4 as an alternative and not the main recommendation. *11.Bxb4* The only reasonable move. 11. fxe4 Qh4 12.g3 Qxe4 is losing for White as now - in contrast to the line where Black takes on d4 - the e-file isn't opened so we can't really play 13.Qe2 due to 13...Qxh1 . *Qh4+* Black's point! we have no choice but to go for the following imbalanced position. *12.g3 Nxg3* Exploiting the pin on the h1 rook. *13.hxg3* We don't really have a choice. *Qxh1 14.Ba3* Now we have a total mess on the board. White has two pieces for a rook and pawn, but we are a bit behind in development and our king is not very safe. A sample continuation might be 14...Bh3 15.Qd3 O-O-O 16.N1d2 Bxf1 17. Nxf1 when the engine does give all zeroes, but where I doubt the actual game between two humans would end in a draw.With that being said, I do suspect White's position is a bit easier to play as White did win 6/9 games in lichess database CC StartBracket CC at the moment of writing CC EndBracket CC. However, this is a really small sample of games and I do believe the position requires

further tests. Play at your own risk!Conclusion: The line with 7...d4 is one of the critical and combative ways of meeting the Prins Sicilian, a line where both sides take some risks and where the stake for each individual move is very high.With that being said, I do believe Black is the one taking more responsibility due to the fact that they have to sacrifice material in multiple lines and find some creative resources CC StartBracket CC such as Nxe4 sacrifice in 9.cxd4 lines CC EndBracket CC , which is - in my mind - another testament to Prins being an ideal practical/ surprise weapon. 4B) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Mainline With The Alternative) 11.Bxb4 The critical line. Of course, we take the moment to take on b4 and divert the knight on c6 from the center. Nxb4

B3c2221) 12.Qd2 Nxe4 Once again this tactic! 13.fxe4 *(13.Qxb4* It is worse than 13.fxe4 . *a5 14.Qc4 Qh4+ 15.g3 Nxg3 16.hxg3 Qxh1* Black is better. 29) 5.f3-5.f3 e5 6.Nb3 #12 *)* 13...Qh4+ 14.Kd1 Bg4+ 15.Be2 exd4 Another important move. White should be very careful with his king in the center. 16.Bxg4 A draw is 16.Qxb4 Bxe2+ 17.Kxe2 Qxe4+ 18.Kf2 Qe3+ White cannot escape from the checks. 19.Kf1 Qf4+ 20.Kg1 Qe3+ . Qxg4+ 17.Qe2 Qg5 With a fantastic compensation. 18.N1d2 d3 19.Qf3 a5 Black's compensation and initiative are obvious. 29) 5.f3-5.f3 e5 6.Nb3 #13;

B3c2222) 12.a3 Another important move that needs to be known. I think this is a bit more challenging and simpler than taking on e5, although both moves require Black to display a certain dose of ingenuity. 12.dxe5 was Cheparinov's main

try for White when once again Black has to find 12... Nxe4 13.Qxd8 Nc2+ 14.Kd1 Nf2+ 15.Kxc2 Rxd8 and enter a position where they are a pawn and a piece down but where they have sufficient counterplay against our king for equality. I doubt such a line can be found over the board which makes this very practical choice for White, but given that it does objectively equalize CC StartBracket CC just like the text, though CC EndBracket CC I couldn't bring myself to suggest it as the main variation. Also note here that 12.Qd2 is met with the same 12...Nxe4 with complications. I believe the text move is by far the most practical. Nxe4 A very nice shot! A very difficult move. It seems to me that, if Black is not familiar with this idea, they will not find it over the board. And if they are, they are more likely to utilize it earlier, as now the knight on b4 is also hanging. Alas, this is irrelevant as Qh4 is a very strong threat, but we do have a nice move at our disposal. 13.g3 Dubious is 13. axb4?! in view of 13...Qh4+ 14.g3 Nxg3 15.hxg3 Qxh1 16.d5 e4! with a serious attack. Covering the h4 square. Now both knights are hanging and I think it is really easy for Black to go wrong in this position. Note that 13.axb4 Qh4 14.g3 Nxg3 15.hxg3 Qxh1 leads to an improved version of 10...Nxe4 lines for Black. exd4 Both knights are hanging! Absolutely the only move to maintain some hint of balance. Black sacrifices a piece in an optimal way. I would be more than happy to have this position on the board and force Black to find this response because - even if they remember this piece

of preparation - their subsequent play needs to be very accurate which makes things highly impractical - especially at lower levels. 14.fxe4 Of course, we take one piece and still attack the other. 14. axb4 Qe7 is less clear. *(14.axb4 Qe7* Another key move. *15.Be2* The most critical line. *Qxb4+ 16.N1d2 Nxd2 17.Nxd2 d3* A very important move, gaining a very important tempo! *18.Bxd3 Re8+ 19.Be2 Bf5* Threatening ...Bd3. *20.Ra4 Qxb2 21.Ne4 Rad8 22.Qa1 Qb6* White's king is still in the center. 29) 5.f3- 5.f3 e5 6.Nb3 #14*)* 14...Nc6 A very calm move. Black has a fantastic initiative. Retreating the knight and intending Ne5 next. 15.Be2 *(15.N1d2* Calmly completing the development and intending to play Qe2 and to castle long. Black currently only has a pawn for a piece, but apparently, due to their lead in development and activity, they should have enough compensation. Even so, they are walking a narrow thread as they have to keep making the best moves to prove that equality. In the course, Cheparinov continues 15...Ne5 16.Qe2 Be6 and concludes that 'Black has very nice attacking chances', but after 17.Qb5! Qg5 18.O-O-O the position is very complicated and dynamically balanced - according to the engine. Still, since we have an extra piece, I would be happy to play this as it is Black who has to prove that dynamic balance, and not White.*)* 15...Bh3 Cutting the possibility of castling. 16.N1d2 f5 Opening some lines towards the opponent's king. 17.Nc5 fxe4 18.Ncxe4 Kh8

Black is doing great. 29) 5.f3-5.f3 e5 6. Nb3 #16;

B3c2223) 12.dxe5 Nxe4 Once again this very important tactic! 13.Qxd8 Nc2+ 14.Kd1 Nf2+ Or 14...Rxd8+ first and then ...Nf2, is the same. 15.Kxc2 Rxd8 16.Rg1 Bf5+ 17.Kc3 a5 Black continues to attack even in the endgame! 18.N1d2 This line is dangerous for White. *(18.Nxa5* Does not change much. *Rxa5 19.Nd2 Rc8+ 20.Kb4* 20.Kd4 Rd8+ is a draw. *Rd5* A very important move! *21.Nc4 Bd3* After this move Black manages to equalize. Now a draw is 22.Kb3 Rb5+ 23.Ka4 Rd5 24.Kb3 and White must repeat the moves. 29) 5.f3-5.f3 e5 6.Nb3 #19*; 18.Kc4* 18.Na3 Rac8+ 19. Nc4 Nd1+ transposesto 18. N1bd2. *Bd3+* Other interesting options are: 18... Nd3 or 18...b6 . *19.Bxd3 Nxd3* White's king is still in danger. *20.Nc3* Another option is 20. N1d2 Nxe5+ 21. Kb5 Rd5+ Leads to a forced draw after 22.Kb6 Ra6+ 23. Kxb7 Rc6 Threatening ...Rd7+ 24.Rac1 Rd7+ 25. Kb8 Rd8+ with a draw. *b5+* A must-play move! *21.Kxb5* The only move, otherwise ... Rac8+ will be very unpleasant for White! *Rab8+ 22.Ka4* Or 22.Kc6 Rbc8+= *Nxb2+ 23.Kxa5 Nc4+* With a perpetual check. 29) 5.f3-5.f3 e5 6.Nb3 #20*)* 18...Rac8+ 19.Nc4 *(19.Bc4* Covering the king with the bishop isn't a great idea. *Rd3+* Black immediately take advantage of the pin on White's bishop. *20.Kc2 Re3+ 21.Kc1 Rxe5* ...b5 is coming! *22.Nd4 Bd3* Once again playing on the bishop's pin. *23.b3 b5* Black is better. 29) 5. f3-5.f3 e5 6.Nb3 #17 *)* 19...Nd1+

An important check. 20.Rxd1 Rxd1 21.a4 Be6 Accurate till the end! 22.Nbxa5 b6 23.Nb7 Rxc4+ 24.Bxc4 Rxg1 25.Bxe6 fxe6 26.g4 Rh1 Probably is very close to a draw. 29) 5.f3-5.f3 e5 6.Nb3 #18;

B4) 6...Be7 This natural developing move is a very obvious and common candidate employed in this position on all levels. Black continues developing normally and intends to play in the standard Najdorf style with O-O, Be6, Nbd7 next and then take it from there. As we will see, these positions can often be reached via 6...Be6 move order, when White plays Be7 on the later stage, but they will be primarily examined via the current move-order as starting with 6...Be7 is a bit more common. 7.c4 Of course, one of the main ideas behind White's setup is to erect the Maroczy bind with the pawns on e4 and c4. Since Black's last move didn't really prevent it, we are happy to execute it and put the d5 square under the permanent lock and key. *(7.Nc3 Be6 8.Be3 0-0)*

B4a) 7...a5 8.Be3 *(8.a4 0-0 9.Be3 Nc6 10.Nc3 Be6 11.Nd5 Nd7 12.Be2 Bg5 13.Bf2 g6 14.0-0 b6 15.Nd2 Nc5 16.Nb1 f5 17.Nbc3 Rb8 18.exf5 gxf5 19.Nb5 Kh8 20.Ndc3 Be7 21.Nd5 Bg5 22.Ndc3 Be7 23.Nd5* ½-½ (23) Mastrovasilis,D (2621)-Socko,B (2635) Porto Carras 2011 *)*

B4a1) 8...0-0 9.Nc3 a4 10.Nd2 Qa5 11.Bd3 *(11.Be2 Be6)* 11...a3 12.b4;

B4a2) 8...a4 9.Nc1 *(9.N3d2 Qa5 10.Qc2 Nc6 11.Qc3 Bd8!? 12.Be2 0-0 13.Kf2 Nd4 14.Rc1 Qa7 15.Na3 Bb6 16.Nb5 Nxb5 17.cxb5 d5 18.Bxb6 Qxb6+ 19.Qc5 Qa5 20.b4 Qd8 21.Qc7 dxe4 22.Qxd8 e3+ 23.Kxe3 Rxd8 24.a3 Be6 25.Nc4 Nd5+ 26.Kf2 Nf4 27.Bf1 f6 28.Nb6 Rd2+ 29.Kg1 Rad8 30.Nxa4 Bf5 31.Nc5 b6 32.Ne4 Bxe4 33.fxe4 Ne2+ 34.Bxe2 Rxe2 35.Rd1 Rxd1+ 36.Rxd1 Ra2 37.Rd8+ Kf7 38.Ra8 Kg6 39.Ra7 h5 40.h4 f5 41.exf5+ Kxf5 42.Rxg7 Rxa3 43.Rg5+ Kf4 44.Rxh5 e4 45.Rh8 Ra1+ 46.Kh2 e3 47.Re8 Rb1 48.Kh3 Rh1#* 0-1 (48) Ivanchuk,V (2787)-Gelfand,B (2736) Moscow 2007*)*

9...Qa5+ *(9...0-0 10.Nc3 Qa5 11.Qd2)* 10.Qd2 Bd8!? 11.Ne2!? Be6 12.Na3 Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Ba5+ 14.Nc3 Nc6 15.Nab5 Ke7 16.Be2 Rhc8 0-1 (40) Ivanchuk,V (2768)-Sutovsky,E (2700) Khanty-Mansiysk 2011;

B4b) 7...0-0 Castling before developing the rest of the queenside pieces is quite natural and can't be avoided for too long, although whether Black starts with castling or developing the queenside is less important as there is a big transpositional value between all these lines since Black can play the combination of the moves O-O, Be6, Nbd7/Nc6 in any order they want. 8.Nc3 Continuing with the natural development of the knight. Now that Black doesn't go for the Be7-Nbd7-Rc8 plan, there is no drawback to moving the knight to c3 early in the game and we should probably do so as soon as we can. Be6 A natural developing move. Note that the moves 8...a6 and 8...Nc6 can also be played interchangeably as they will very likely transpose back to the text, while 8...Nbd7 makes zero sense here as with the bind on the board, Black never wants to go b6-Bb7, given that the bishop will be completely blunted by the pawn chain f3-e4. *(8...a5 9.a4 Qb6 10.Bd3 Nc6 11.Nb5 Nh5 12.g3 Nb4 13.Qe2 Be6 14.Be3 Qc6 15.Nd2 Nxd3+ 16.Qxd3 f5 17.Nc3 fxe4 18.fxe4 Bg4 19.Nd5 Rae8 20.b3 Bd8 21.Ra2 Rf7 22.Rf1 Nf6 23.Nxf6+ gxf6 24.Nb1 f5 25.exf5 Bh3 26.Raf2 Bxf1 27.Rxf1 e4 28.Qd2 Re5 29.g4 d5 30.Qd4 Bc7 31.Bf4 Re8 32.Qxd5 Bxf4 33.Rxf4 Qf6 34.Nd2 Rd8 35.Qc5 Qc3* 0-1 (35) Short,N (2663)-Sasikiran,K (2711) Wijk aan Zee 2009 *)* 9.Be3 One of the reasons why I am so fond of the Prins Sicilian are variations such as this one, where it is possible to make moves almost without thinking. Against all these non-critical setups in the 5...e5 complex, our plan is simple - we go Be3-Qd2, then Be2 and O-O, then Rc1-Nd5 and then Na5.Before I started analyzing the lines for this course I thought that the move-order of these variations is not that critical - and it is indeed so for the majority of practical games.However, there are certain nuances that the 'all-seeing' eye of the engine notices. For example, one of Black's plans in the position is to play Nh5, then h6-Bg5-Nf4. The quick Qd2-Be3 line-up not only prevents this plan, but not moving the bishop on f1 to e2 is also a prophylactic measure against this plan, as with the knight landing on f4, the bishop on f1 is not hit, in contrast to the bishop on e2.Furthermore, the queen on d2 does control the a5 square, which can be relevant in the case of some Nc6-Na5 plans, or in situations where we jump Nd5 and want to play Na5 ourselves.Black is

now at a crossroads. They can develop their knight to two squares, or start pushing the a-pawn. Nbd7 The most common move in the position and a move typical for Najdorf. Black puts the knight on d7 in order to keep the c-file open. In some lines, the knight can also go to b6 and c5 and is also not in the way if White jumps on d5 and Black takes on d5. *(9...Nc6* Apart from the most common move 9... Nbd7 , this alternative development of the knight also needs to be considered as it is also very natural. On one hand, the knight is more active here and eyes the a5 and d4 squares, but on the other note, it does prevent some quick attacks against the c4 pawn - and is also far away from the c5 and b6 squares. *10.Qd2* When I first started playing the Prins, I played all these lines without much knowledge of theory and have always achieved very decent results. Before preparing them for the course I never did a very thorough analysis of them and I didn't expect any particular problems when preparing them for the course. Alas, to my surprise, when checking this position and the position arising after 9...Nbd7, I did decide Black's position has quite some resources and is much more resilient and rich than I initially thought. For example, my understanding was always that White shouldn't hurry with 10.Nd5 as that move will never run away and we might not want to open up the c-file without being properly developed. I also thought that I can play the moves Be2 and Qd2 in virtually any order, but I discovered that after 10.Be2 Nh5!? 11.O-O Nf4!? matters are not at all that simple, even though I always used to just give the light-squared bishop in this position.I also discovered that the text move has some drawbacks - most notably - it takes the d2 square from the knight, which makes the lines with a5 much more viable.With that being said, while it is easy to discover all these nuances with the modern engine, it is hard to say how relevant they are for practical play, as most players with the Black pieces are simply not that familiarized with them. You have to keep in mind that Prins Sicilian is still a sideline and that most Sicilian players spend their time studying the mainlines.Let's take a look at some possible continuations to show some of the ideas and some of the potential problems we may encounter. *Na5* One of the ways Black can try to justify the development of the knight to c6 is this knight jump, but we are not impressed.

11.Nxa5 Taking the knight brings the queen to a5 and prepares Nd5. *Qxa5 12.Nd5* We don't even need to hurry with this move, but it is so natural. *Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Nxd5 14.cxd5 Bd7 15.Bd3* And White basically gets a better version of the Maroczy endgame, as the pawn structure with d6 and e5 makes the dark-squared bishop on e7 extremely passive compared to the proper Maroczy where the pawn is on e7 and the bishop on g7. We will play a4 next to gain some queenside space, then maybe exchange light-squared bishops and then take it from there. Black has zero counterplay and White is playing for two results here. 4D) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Other 6th Moves: 6...Be7 #5*)* 10.Qd2 Just like in the 9...Nc6, we start with this move to avoid some Nh5-Nf4 ideas. a6 Even with the knight on d7, this move is not very good and is met with the same knight jump. Other variations are very similar to the lines after 9...Nc6, e.g. 10...Rc8 11.Nd5 or 10...Nh5 11.O-O-O . *(10...a5* Just as in the 9...Nc6 lines, this push of the a-pawn, profiting from the fact that the queen on d2 takes away squares from the knight on b3, is the best, but not the most common move in the position. We will follow the same recipe as in the 9...Nc6 lines and prepare the Na1-Nc2-Na3 maneuver. *11.Rc1* Once again, I wasn't happy with the alternatives, e.g. 11. Nd5 a4 12.Nc1 b5!? or 11. Be1 a4 12.Nc1 Qb8 and Rfc8 next, attacking the c4 pawn. I think the knight on c1 is less harmoniously placed than on a1, as strange and controversial as it may sound. *a4* The most natural move in the position. 11....Rc8 is apparently the best, but it was never played as it is very strange in conjuction with a5. White should probably sacrifice the pawn for compensation after 12.Bd3 Bxc4 13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.O-O , but I simply couldn't bring myself to put this as trainable or take it very seriously, considering it probably has zero relevance for practical play. *12.Na1* Going for our desired knight maneuver. *Qa5* It is very natural to bring the queen to a5, connect the rooks and open the c8 square for the other rook. However, it does allow us to execute our desired maneuver without any issues. *13.Nc2 Rfc8 14.Na3* And White has defended everything and has a very harmonious position. We go Be2-O-O next. It is hard for Black to find counterplay. 4D) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Other 6th Moves: 6...Be7 #11*)* 11.Nd5 Once again, we jump

to d5 and eye the a5 square. Due to the fact that the knight is on d7, Black's control over the a5 square is even less than in the other lines, which makes taking on d5 unviable. Bxd5 Despite the fact that the knight is not on c6, this capture is not good. *(11...Nc5* One way in which Black can try to exploit the position of the knight on d7 is this knight jump. White's simplest reaction is to capture and alter the pawn structure significantly. *12.Nxc5 dxc5 13.Be2* And we are not at all concenred with Black taking on d5. *Bxd5 14.cxd5 Ne8 15.a4* Yes, our passed pawn is securely blocked, but we have the bishop pair and total control over the position. Black can't really ever go for the f5 pawn break and aiming for b5 should also open the position even more for our bishops. In short, we have a very good position and can slowly improve by castling, playing a5, Qc3, then maybe b4 in some future, etc. 4D) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Other 6th Moves: 6...Be7 #8*)* 12.cxd5 Rc8 13.Na5 Once again, we see this thematic maneuver, hitting the b7 pawn and eyeing the c6 and c4 squares. Rc7 14.Be2 And White will castle next and put a rook on the c-file, with very easy game. I have reached similar position a dozen of times in practice and am always happy to play it as it is very easy and natural, while Black's pieces are very awkward. 4D) The Prins Sicilian: 5...e-Other 6th Moves: 6...Be7 #9]

[5...g6 Apart from moving the e-pawn or the c-knight on move 5 in the Prins Sicilian, Black can also go for this move, opting for some sort of Dragon setup involving the development of the dark-squared bishop. This is a very playable setup you can expect to face especially when facing Dragon players CC StartBracket CC but not only Dragon players CC EndBracket CC and now we have a choice - whether we want to play the Dragon Mainline or go for the Maroczy Bind after all. Black can also start with the 5...Nc6 move order, not yet disclosing whether they want to fianchetto the bishop or not, but after 6.c4 , the play transposes to variations examined elsewhere in the course after 6...e6 or 6...Qb6 , or to this chapter in case of 6...g6 6.c4 As usual in this course, whenever we get the opportunity, we decide to go for the Maroczy bind pawn structure, characterized by the pawns on e4 and c4. Actually, we will soon have a direct transposition into the Accelerated Dragon variation CC StartBracket CC once Black plays Nc6 and Bg7 CC EndBracket CC , where playing the Maroczy as White is much more usual and standard.With that being said, we will obtain a specific version of the Accelerated Dragon where White has already played the move f3. Even though it is a very standard move in this type of

structure, that was, for example, given in the Sicilian course by my compatriot Ivan Šarić, against the pure Accelerated Dragon move order White might have some even more ambitious options. However, it is very much a playable and objectively good option. Moreover, players who don't play the Accelerated Dragon and are primarily Dragon and Najdorf players will have much less experience handling the Maroczy structure, so tricking them into the bind can be regarded as a very useful practical decision. With that being said, it is also possible to go for the pure Dragon with 6.Nc3 here, so the choice is ultimately yours. Bg7 The most natural move in the position, preparing to castle. The move 6...Nc6 would most likely transpose after something like 7.Be3 Bg7 8.Nc3 O-O 9.Be2 *(6...Qb6* In this particular position, where Black has played 5... g6 instead of 5...Nc6, this queen move makes very little sense as the knight on d4 can't be pressured that easily. Moreover, the knight can come easily to c3, which will create taking on b2 impossible due to the important Na4 resource. *7.Nc3 Bg7* Now White can simply continue with the desirable development of the dark-squared bishop as the threat to b2 is only illusory. 7...Nc6 is met with the same 8.Be3 as b2 pawn is still immune - 8...Qxb2 9.Na4 Qa3 10.Bc1 Qb4 11.Bd2 Qa3 12.Nb5! *8.Be3* And now Black can't take on b2. *Qxb2* If this doesn't work, then Black's entire opening strategy and the early development of the queen make no sense. *9.Na4* The key difference between the lines where Black plays 5... Nc6 and 6... Qb6. Here the knight is on c3 and can go to a4, basically trapping the black queen. *Qa3* The only available square for the queen, but now comes a nice backward move. *10.Bc1 Qb4+ 11.Bd2 Qa3 12.Nb5* And the queen is finally caught and White is completely winning. 4G) The Prins Sicilian: 5...g-6... Qb6*)* 7.Nc3 White continues by developing the knight and now prepares to play Be3, Be2 and castle next. 0-0 Also very natural. Black castles the king, finishes the development of the kingside first before deciding what to do with the queenside pieces. It is also possible to start with 7...Nc6 but after 8.Be3 it is hard to imagine Black playing without castling kingside in the next few moves, transposing to the game, as I have never encountered Black castling queenside in these positions. 8.Be3 The most logical move in the position, defending the knight on d4, preparing Qd2 and potentially hinting at castling long. It is more precise to develop the queen's bishop first in order to avoid potential problems on the dark squares and with the d4 knight, although there is nothing wrong with the natural 8.Be2 either, given that 8...Qb6 is still met with 9.Be3 Nc6 The natural move in the position, returning us back in the mainline of the Accelerated Dragon Maroczy variation. As mentioned earlier, the drawback for White is the fact that we have already committed to the move f3, which is not always necessary in this structure. On the more positive

side, the setups with f3 are still considered to be more pleasant for White and we have avoided some other possibilities along the way, such as Gurgenidze variation that can arise after the move order CCStartFENCCrnbqkbnr/pppppppp/8/8/8/8/PPPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq - 0 1 CCEndFEN CC 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Nxd4 , for example. Moreover, most players who start with the 1... c5 and 2. ..d6 move-order are not used to playing against Maroczy, so it can be regarded as a practical victory for us, as well! *(8...b6* Black can delay the development of the knight and aim for the queenside fianchetto first. These double-fianchetto setups against Maroczy are considered to be a more fighting attempt to play for the win, but I feel we simply have a good version of the bind where the bishop will stare at the e4 pawn. *9.Be2 Bb7 10.0-0* White just continues to develop normally and enjoys the space advantage in the center. *Nbd7* The logical follow-up to the fianchetto on the queenside is to develop the kngiht to d7 and keep the c-file open. This is the most common move in this position, but we are not particularly impressed. *11.Qd2* Continuing our natural build up. *Rc8 12.Rac1* And now we have a weird hybrid of the Hedgehog and Dragon structures where it is hard to say where will the counterplay come from. White has numerous ideas at disposal, like Rfd1 and then following up with Nd5 and potentially b4. We can also just play b3, secure the c4 point and prevent any sort of counterplay from Black. A dream scenario for a Maroczy player. 4G) The Prins Sicilian: 5...g-6...Bg7 - 8...b6 #2 *)* 9.Be2 The most natural move in the position, developing a piece and seemingly preparing castling short. However, it is not yet given that White will castle short - as we will see in the subsequent variations, we will actually go for castling long almost as often. Therefore, you might be wondering why we don't start with 9.Qd2? Well, as we will see in some variations where Black takes on d4 with 9... Nxd4 the queen is sometimes better placed on d3 than on d2 so it is good to retain the flexibility when it comes to choosing the square.

A) 9...a6 This nimble little pawn move prepares the b5 advance and is very thematic in a number of Maroczy structures. Usually, it occurs in a different situation - once Black has exchanged the knights on d4, played Be6 and/or Qa5. However, it is an idea worth examining in a number of positions, so we might as well do so here, since it is the 3rd most popular move in the lichess database, although not as common on Master Level. 10.0-0 For the moment, we continue normally and castle queenside. As a rule of thumb, once Black determines on the a6-b5 plan this early, we don't really want to contemplate castling queenside as the counterplay would come really quick. Rb8 This move, played in some games, is one of the rare options in the 9...a6 move order that has some independent

value. 10...Bd7 and 10...Be6 would transpose to respective lines examined via 9...Bd7 and 9... Nxd4, 10...Be6 move orders. The idea of the text move is to execute the main idea of the variation and push b5 as fast as possible. However, Black is not yet really threatening this move so we can safely ignore these plans and then it will transpire that the Rb8 move is a lost tempo. 11.Qd2 The most natural move in the position. As a rule of thumb, as long as the knights are not exchanged, we don't want to commit the queen to d3 with 11. Qd3 as in that case some Ne5 or Nd7-Nc5 ideas come with greater effect. Now White has a very pleasant version of the Maroczy and scores around 60%, according to the lichess database. Nxd4 Black tries to exchange knights on d4 and execute b5. But it is not so easy to achieve. 12.Bxd4 Bd7 Now indeed b5 is an idea. 13.a4 It is not even necessary to play this move yet, as 13.Ba7 or 13.Rfd1 b5 14.c5!? are both possible. But for simplicity's sake, I decided to recommend a standard prescription, preventing any counterplay on the queenside and maintaining complete control over the position. Once again White has a very pleasant position with different ideas, such as Qe3-Bb6-Rfd1-e5/c5, standard advance with b4-a5 or even f4-Bf3. Not to mention the Nd5 knight jump. White is pleasantly better in a typical Maroczy middlegame. 4G) The Prins Sicilian: 5...g-6...Bg7 - 8...Nc6 and 9... a6;

B) 9...Qb6 This move, which was employed by some Accelerated Dragon specialists such as Gadir Guseinov, creates some pressure on the d4 knight and threatens some cheapos, but objectively it is not the bast move in the position. 10.Nxc6 A highly unexpected move, but very strong. Due to the undefended pawn on e7, we can get away with this discovery on the queen and even give up our dark-squared bishop in the process. 10. Qd2 seems safer, since the trick 10...Nxe4 doesn't work due to 11. Nxc6! Nxd2 12.Nxe7 Kh8 13. Bxb6 Black should therefore go for 10.Qd2 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 Qa5 12.O-O , when I believe we also have a pleasant Maroczy, but why not go for the more pronounced refutation of Black's dubious concept? Also, note that 10.O-O is one of those cheapos Black is hoping for: 10... Ng4 11.fxg4 Bxd4 and Black is better. Qxe3 Black can't really take on e3 due to a nice and typical intermediate check. 11.Nxe7+ The point of White's play. We manage to snatch a pawn with a check. It is a bit annoying that we had to give our nice dark-squared bishops and that the queen is active on e3, but it is a small price to pay. Kh8 12.Nxc8 The safest! We eliminate the enemy bishop pair! Raxc8 13.Qd2 And now we challenge the queen and enjoy a healthy extra pawn. d6 is also quite weak. The only annoying thing in this position is that we can't castle, but Black's play is non-existent and our pawn structure is extremely

secure, so we may even do it manually with g3-Kf1-Kg2 if required.In any case, White is winning, which is a verdict confirmed by the engines. If this is not up your alley, you might consider the move 9. Qd2 instead. In any case, I believe White is spoilt for choice and that this line won't attract many Accelerated Dragon lovers. 4G) The Prins Sicilian: 5...g-6...Bg7 - 8...Nc6 and 9... Qb;

C) 9...Nh5 This move, which was played by Rauf Mamedov CC StartBracket CC another champion of the Accelerated Dragon CC EndBracket CC back in 2015 and since repeated by some strong players -most notably Jeffery Xiong - is a typical 21st century Grandmaster move that is probably not to be expected at lower levels CC StartBracket CC although there are over 100 games featuring it in lichess database CC EndBracket CC. Black uncovers the attack on the d4 knight, intending to go for either Nf4 or Qb6 ideas. A very modern approach! 10.0-0 After checking all the options, I have concluded that we don't need to fear Black's conception and can simply go with this natural move. The resulting lines might be a little bit more concrete/atypical than the regular Maroczy lines, but in modern chess, it is sometimes unavoidable. As for alternatives, 10.Nxc6 was recommended by my compatriot, Croatian nr. Ivan Šarić, in his excellent Sicilian course here on Chessable, while the move 10.g3!? , preventing the knight jump to f4, was also seen in some high-level games. Nxd4 Black can also try to exchange a pair of knights before jumping to d4. *(10...Qb6* This attempt to create pressure on the knight on d4 and the pawn on b2 is a logical follow-up to Black's previous play, but it leads to another version of the b2 pawn sacrifice. It is not surprising it was only seen in 1 game on master level. *11.Nc2* Uncovering the attack on the queen. This is way stronger than 11.Ncb5 seen in Vocaturo - Medarde Santiago, Sitges, 2018. *Qxb2 12.Nd5* A very strong move, threatening a combination of f4 and Bc1, trapping the queen. It is important that the knight is on c2, protecting the a1 rook - a motif we will see in a number of other lines in the course. *e6* A natural move like the move of the e-pawn loses to a nice queen trap combination. *13.Bc1 Qe5 14.f4 Qxe4 15.Bd3* And the queen is caught! Black might have some practical compensation, but objectively, White's position should be winning. 4G) The Prins Sicilian: 5...g-6...Bg7 - 8...Nc6 and 9... Nh*)* 11.Bxd4 Nf4 Executing the main idea of the variation. However, it turns out that White can simply ignore this knight. 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.Qd2 Simply attacking the knight on f4, although 13.Rf2 is definitely a worthy alternative. g5 Trying to preserve the knight on f4, but this has tactical issues. 13....Nxe2 14. Nxe2 is no better, though, as White would end up in a nice position

where the knight is superior to the bishop for the moment, due to the closed nature of the position and White chain restricting the enemy piece and guaranteeing more space. 14.Nd5 The strongest, exploiting the fact that the g5 pawn is exposed. e5 Virtually the only move. 14...Nxd5 15.Qxg5 is obviously very bad for Black. 15.Ne3 And White now has a very nice position where the backward pawn on d6 is a target, whereas Black has a gapping hole on f5. In the future, we might consider playing g3 and expelling the only active piece - the knight on f4. White is clearly better. 4G) The Prins Sicilian: 5...g-6...Bg7 - 8...Nc6 and 9... Nh;

D) 9...Bd7 By far the main and most classical move in this position, developing the bishop to d7 and intending the standard 'anti-Maroczy' plan consisting of a5-Bc6 and then Nd7-Nc5 and Qb6, leading to a very popular tabiya of the variation. Black also still keeps the option of exchanging on d4 simply because in some positions - say with the queen on d3 - having the extra option of Ne5 can be very handy. 10.Qd2 At this particular junction, White has a choice between moving the queen to d2 and castling short immediately. In this course, the former will be my recommendation, because, in a number of positions, White's idea will be actually to caste long - a possibility the text moves keeps open. On the other hand, when White determines the queen's position to d2, it can no longer go to d3, but in my experience, once Black determines the position of the bishop on d7, the queen rarely wants to go to d3 anyway. Here, placing the queen on d3 with 10. Qd3 would be dubious because Black would have some extra options associated with Ne5. With that being said, 10.O-O is, of course, a legitimate move and as frequent continuation as the text move, but I somehow like the lines where we castle long enough to keep the queen move as my first option - especially since we can still castle short should we want to. Also, 10.Nc2 , avoiding the knight exchange is a move, but it is not as popular and I personally never played it, so I couldn't really recommend it in the course.

D1) 10...Nxd4 This knight exchange is the most popular move on the master level. Since Black has less space, it is quite sensible to try and exchange pieces. Moreover, the knight on c6 is blocking the bishop on d7, which wants to go to c6, free the square for the f6 knight and achieve a harmonious setup. This can be considered an absolute mainline of the Maroczy vs Accelerated Dragon with f3 setup, although labeling something an 'absolute mainline' in this day and age is a bit controversial. 11.Bxd4 Of course, taking with the queen would run into some tactics, e.g. 11.Qxd4 Ng4 This is clearly something we want to avoid.

Now Black is at a big crossroad, though, and once again has several options at their disposal. Bc6 The main move in this position, emphasizing the point of the knight exchange and freeing the d7 square for the knight. Black's subsequent idea is to play for the dark-square control with the move a5, preventing any sort of b4 and then Nd7, offering the exchange of the dark-squared bishops. Should White agree to it, then the knight would be very nicely placed on c5. For a while, this was considered to be the main tabiya of the Maroczy bind against the Accelerated Dragon, but strong engines have had a significant impact on its viability and the way White players treat this position. *(11...Qa5* This move, bringing the queen on the active square and eyeing the unprotected queen on d2 is very thematic and logical. It not only reinforces the queenside counterplay with a6-b5, but also fights against White's plan of castling queenside. *12.0-0* In the given position, castling long is a bit too risky as after 12. O-O-O Rfc8 Black is much better prepared for the battle with the kings on opposite sides and can quickly orchestrate a6-b5. It is still playable for White, but I don't think it is necessarily the best way to treat the position. *Rfc8* The main move in the position. Black moves the f-rook as it avoids any theoretical problems with Nd5-Nxe7 tricks in the future, given that the king will be able to go to f8 and attack the knight on e7 in such a scenario. Now Black wants to go for the a6-b5 plan. *13.a3* I really like this little pawn move, simply going for the b4 pawn advance. 13.Rab1 with the same idea is also possible, while 13.Rad1 was given by my compatriot Ivan Šarić in his repertoire. In any case, White is spoilt for choice. *Be6* Trying to change plans and attack c4 is logical, but it does cost Black a tempo. 13...Bc6 would lead to similar lines to 12... Bc6 line after 14.b4 Qd8 15. Rad1 *14.b3* We also switch plans and overprotect the c4 pawn, emphasizing the fact that Black's piece configuration doesn't make that much sense. 14.b4 Qd8 wouldn't be as good as we would have some trouble with the defence of the c4 pawn and we don't want to play Nd5 prematurely. *Nd7* A logical move, trying to exchange the dark-squared bishops, then potentially queens as well and get the knight to c5 to pressure the weakened b3 square. *15.Kh1 Bxd4* Logical follow-up to the previous move. 15...b5 , trying to exploit the weak queen on d2, is still met with 16.b4! *16.Qxd4 Qb6* Trying to exchange queens and pressure the b3 pawn. *17.Qd2* In the given position without f4 being played, we don't want no queen exchange. *Nc5* Getting the knight to c5 and

increasing the pressure on b3. 17...Qxb3 loses the queen after 18.Rfb1 Be mindful of these little tactics when executing strategic goals, as they often come in very handy. *18.Rab1* And since the b3 pawn is still immune, Black's play makes very little sense and White is spoilt for choice - we can go for f4-f5 plan, we can contemplate b4 push and also have some Nd5 ideas in the future. 4H) The Prins Sicilian: 5....-Mainline with 9... Bd7 and 10*; 11...a5* Instead of moving the bishop to c6 first, Black can also start with this pawn move, taking the dark squares on the queenside under control. Still, it doesn't change the way we treat this position. *12.0-0-0* Going for the long castle anyway. White can also start the attack on the queenside immediately with 12.g4 or 12.h4 , but sooner or later we will castle queenside - so why not do so at once? These lines will often transpose to each other. *a4* Very consistent follow up to previous play, intending to push the pawn to a3 and weaken the enemy queenside. However, we shouldn't be worried about this at all as Black doesn't have a follow-up to the attack. *13.Kb1* A natural Sicilian move, tucking the king away. 13.a3 is also possible! *a3 14.b3* Of course, we don't want to open any files on the queenside. *h5* Trying to prevent White's kingside expansion, but it is doubtful whether Black should embark on this or not as now the hook on g4 is strong. *15.h4* Fixing the h-pawn and preparing g4. *Qa5 16.g4* I like this caveman approach, just trying to open the files on the kingside and go for an attack. It is also possible to play more positionally with 16.Nb5 or even 16.Nd5 , but the text move is more consistent with the general philosophy of the line involving long castling.Black shouldn't capture on g4, but otherwise, we intend to play g5 and then Nd5 and slowly use our space advantage to squeeze our opponent, who is devoid of any active possibilities. 4H) The Prins Sicilian: 5....-Mainline with 9... Bd7 and 10*; 11...a6* This move, preparing for the future b5 advance, is quite thematic and popular in this position, although I believe that it is more critical with the bishop on e6 than the bishop on d7, simply because the c4 pawn is under more pressure there and it is easier for Black to generate counterplay on the queenside. *12.0-0* In this particular case, we refrain from castling queenside because then Black's b5 would come very fast. As a rule of thumb - we use castling long to fight against the dark-square strategy with a5 and castling short when Black wants to go for quick a6-b5. In this position, we would maybe prefer to have the queen on d3 rather than on d2,

but since Black's bishop on d7 is also not optimally placed, it is not the end of the world. *Rc8* A natural move, placing the rook on the open file. The move 12... Qa5 would transpose to lines considered under 11...Qa5 move order. *13.Rac1* Also very natural, bringing the rook to the c-file and protecting the knight on c3 and the pawn on c4. Note that this is possible only because the bishop on d7 is not pressuring the c4 pawn. With that being said, sometimes we want to keep this rook on a1, either because there is a possibility to bring it to b1 and play for b4, or because we want to play a3-b4 and have the rook defending the a3 pawn. However, here it is not necessary, even though 13.b3 or 13.Rab1 are both valid alternatives. *Qa5* A very logical move, bringing the queen into the game and preparing b5. *14.a3* There are other possibilities, but I really like the idea of preparing the b4 pawn push in these lines where Black plays for Bd7 and a6, simply because our c4 pawn is under less pressure than in lines with the bishop on e6 CCStartBracket CC meaning we don't necessarily have to include the move b3 CCEndBracket CC. We will see this idea in 11...Qa5 lines as well. Here, it works tactically. *Be6* Attacking the c4 pawn. 14...b5 15.b4 Qxa3 16. Ra1 Qxb4 17.Rfb1 comes to the same. *15.b4* A surprising shot! *Qxa3* The queen should retreat, but then we jump in with Nd5 and have a dream Maroczy where we have already advanced our queenside pawns. *16.Ra1 Qxb4 17.Rfb1* And the queen is trapped and Black loses material. 4H) The Prins Sicilian: 5....-Mainline with 9... Bd7 and 10*)* 12.0-0-0 The line starting with 12.O-O a5 13.b3 Nd7 14.Be3 Nc5 was considered to be the main tabiya of the variation for a while. And even though White's play is objectively easier and White's results not at all bad at practice, you can bet that any self-respectable Accelerated Dragon player will have studied this position at some point in their career.On the other hand, this very aggressive move has also existed in this position, but it is not that well known. It was brought to the limelight after the World Champion Magnus Carlsen employed it in an online game on lichess against one of his biggest competitors, Alireza Firouzja and it seems to pose a serious challenge to the viability of the entire line for Black. Instead of going for the quiet positional play, White goes for the big kingside attack reminiscent of the standard Dragon and intends to follow up with g4-h4, etc. This is not only the immediate suggestion by the modern engine, but also a very powerful practical weapon that currently scores 58% for White in the Lichess database, 70% in Lichess Masters Database, and

close to 70% in MegaDatabase 2021.This move was also recommended by my compatriot Ivan Šarić in his course Play Like Champion here on Chessable and is one of the rare occasions where our recommendations coincide. With that being said, even though I aimed to avoid the aforementioned tabiya throughout this course, I was unable quite to do so with one specific move-order that will be analyzed in the Accelerated Dragon chapter. Those who want to avoid learning all these lines starting with 12.O-O-O can study that line instead and circumvent a part of the theory presented in this chapter. Even so, I would recommend against doing so, because I do firmly believe this line is the strongest against the given move-order and that we should aim for it if Black allows us to do so - which many Black players will. For completeness' sake, let me also mention that the move 12.b4 is possible, but due to White being undeveloped, Black makes an argument that some a5 push will happen under better circumstances. I find long castling way more critical, ambitious, and difficult to deal with over the board. Qa5 This queen maneuver is sensible - Black brings the queen closer to the king and prepares to bring the other rook to c8. However, this still doesn't look to appealing for Black and White can follow the very caveman plan all the same. *(12...a5* This move, which was feasible against the short castling, was Firouzja's choice in the afore-mentioned game against Magnus. However, it is not exactly to the point here as it doesn't help with the queenside attack and gives White free hands on the kingside. *13.Kb1* Calmly tucking the king away before starting the active operations on the kingside. *Nd7* Seeking to exchange the dark-squared bishops. *14.h4* Immediately pushing the h-pawn and not losing any time to preserve the dark-squared bishops, as exchange of that piece will weaken the dark squares around the king. *Bxd4 15.Qxd4* White's attack is obviously much faster than Black's counterplay. *Qb6* Trying to exchange queens. This is not the best move in the position, but it was the choice of Alireza. Alternatives are no better and White follows the same prescription of just pushing the kingside pawns, so we will not analyze them in great detail. *16.Qd2* Of course, White is not interested in the queen exchange, but in checkmate. *h5* Trying to slow down the initiative on the kingside, but Black goes from frying pan to fire. *17.g4* And White had a decisive advantage and went on to win in Carlsen - Firouzja, Lichess, 2021. Make sure to check the full game in the Model Games section.

Conclusion: Going for the kingside fianchetto against the 5. f3 variation is very much possible for Black, but in that case, they not only have to be ready to play the main line of the Dragon but also know all the nuances associated with the Maroczy bind - which is a structure players who usually play the Classical Dragon don't encounter.With that being said, Maroczy is a very rich, nuanced and complicated structure, where the non-forcing character of play and abundance of possibilities for both sides makes the move-per-move analysis almost impossible/ redundant.The general verdict is that White's position is much easier to play, but knowledge of the typical maneuvers and ideas and general understanding of plans will determine how successful our results will be. We do need to be alert as Black has several tactical ideas at their disposal and quite often, we need to choose somewhat strange looking/ unexpected moves over conventional ones. With that being said, I personally love placing the White side of 'Dragon' Maroczy and have personally testified that many Sicilian players absolutely hate playing the Black side of it. 4H) The Prins Sicilian: 5....-Mainline with 9... Bd7 and 10*)* 13.Kb1 First, we take a moment to safeguard our king as our counterplay will not escape. This move also prepares the Nd5 trick. Rfc8 Making the room for the king and also avoiding any Nd5 tricks. 13...h5 would be desirable, but after 14.Nd5 White is just better. Remember these typical tactical tricks! 14.g4 Then we start pushing the pawns, first by preventing Black from reacting with h5. a6 Black tries to counter on the queenside, but we are much faster. 15.h4 b5 16.h5 We can safely ignore the threat to the c4 pawn and just pursue our attack. The general idea is to open the h-file, then play g5, take the bishop on g7, weaken the king and then find a way to checkmate the opponent. This position was reached in two games in 2019 and both were won by White. The engine also gives +2 already and it is very reasonable to expect Black will be unable to hold - especially in a practical game. 4H) The Prins Sicilian: 5....-Mainline with 9... Bd7 and 10;

D2) 10...Rc8 This move is the most popular move in the lichess database, but it simply doesn't work as well in conjuction with Bd7 as with Be6 since our pawn on c4 is not as exposed. As we will see, Black will want to get the other rook to c8 more commonly with Rfc8, so an argument can be made that this rook development is not to the point and somewhat premature. 11.0-0 Here we can simply castle as Black's queenside counterplay is non existent and we can quickly acquire the desired setup. Ne5

A very logical way of following up the rook move, but this is not really good as White can easily deal with this one-move threat. 12.b3 And now Black is somewhat stuck. Here I tried to make the standard plan with a6 work. a6 It is indicative that engine thinks going back with the knight with 12...Nc6 is the best. Now White is spoilt for choice as b5 is not happening anytime soon. 13.Rac1 And White is in total control as b5 is nowhere near happening and if the queen comes to a5 we also have the Nd5 tactic because our queen is protected. Qa5 14.Nd5 Note that this is only possible because the bishop is on e3 and not on d4. In any case, Black's opening is a fail and White obtains an extremely favourable version of the standard Maroczy and can choose between numerous different plans CC StartBracket CC queenside play, kingside play, Nd5 and positional transformation, etc. CC EndBracket CC . 4H) The Prins Sicilian: 5....-Mainline with 9... Bd7 and 10;

E) 9...Nxd4 Apart from 9...Bd7 , this preliminary exchange on d4 is quite possible. The idea is to free the e6 square for the bishop and place it more aggressively on that square, instead of the d7 square. This is the 2nd most common move in this position in both lichess and master databases, scoring very well for Black, so it is definitely a move we need to be familiar with. 10.Bxd4 Be6 The point of the previous move. Black tries to play very aggressively, placing the bishop on e6, targeting the c4 pawn, and trying to provoke b3 from White, after which Black will continue with a6-Qa5-Rc8-b5 plan. Positions similar to this one can also arise via the Gurgenidze move-order in the Accelerated dragon. although here we should have a better version as we are able to take on d4 with our bishop. Nevertheless, positions such as this one are, in the humble opinion of yours truly, arguably more annoying for White players than the mainline, to which Black would transpose in the case of 10... Bd7 here. 11.0-0 For the moment, we castle short and anticipate further developments. Sometimes, it is necessary to safeguard the queenside before castling, but here, due to the fact our bishop is on d4 and not on e3, protecting the c3 knight, we can castle first and then think later.Note that against this Be6 plan we don't really want to castle queenside because Black's counterplay comes quite fast.Now Black has several options at their disposal. Rc8 The most natural and common move in the position, attacking the c4 pawn. *(11...Nd7* This knight move, seeking the exchange of the dark-squared bishops and utilizing the fact that the square on d7 is still available, is also quite logical. In general, one of Black's ideas when fighting against Maroczy is the so-called dark-squared strategy, for which the exchange of the dark-squared

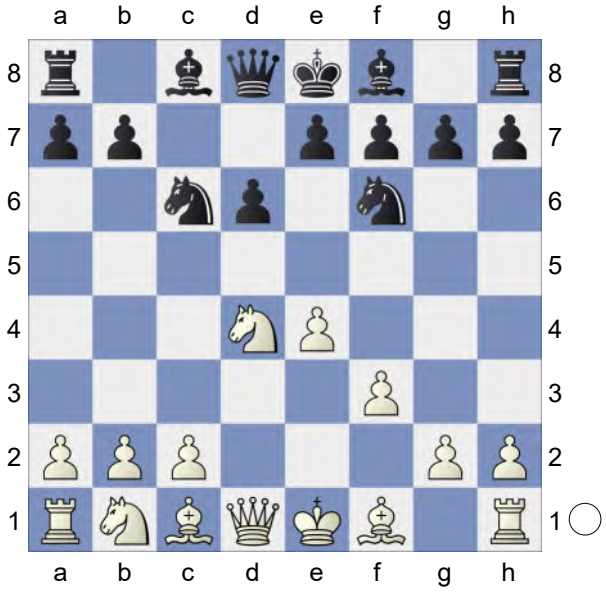
bishops is often a key maneuver. However, with the bishop on e6 being exposed to f4-f5 ideas, this strategy is likely to suceed, so White can simply ignore the opponent's 'positional threat'. *12.Kh1* The best move in the position, avoiding any tricks along the b6-g1 diagonal. Due to the fact we haven't played b3 nor f4, we can't really go for an endgame, say after 12.Rc1 Bxd4 13.Qxd4 Qb6 14.Qxb6 Nxb6 because we are very far from achieving f4-f5 and Black can meet 15.b3 with 15...a5 , achieving some counterplay. Neither does 12.f4 help, because after the same 12...Bxd4 13.Qxd4 Qb6 14.Qxb6 Nxb6 , our b-pawn is hanging, so we don't have time for f5. That endgame might still be better for us, but I find it less favourable than the one where Black has lost a tempo on a6. Finally, the move 12.Be3 , which is common in some other Maroczy positions, is not so good, as after 12...Bxc3 Black is more than happy to get that positional exchange and start playing against our doubled c-pawns. *Bxd4* Other moves don't make much sense here as White would get in f4-f5 quite fast. *13.Qxd4 Qb6* Inviting the endgame again, but since we moved the king to h1, we can now avoid this and play more strongly. *14.Qd2* Of course, as I explained earlier, 14.Qxb6 Nxb6 15.b3 is met with 15...a5! and Black has a decent version of the endgame. We, therefore, keep the queens on the board and clearly intend to follow things up with f4-f5. We will also play b3 at some point and Black would much rather have the bishop on c6 than on e6 in this type of position, which means White is clearly better. 4G) The Prins Sicilian: 5...g-6...Bg7 - 8...Nc6 and 9... Nx*; 11...Qa5* First of all, the queen's development is premature. Not only does the queen sometimes want to keep the option of going to b6 CC StartBracket CC after the preliminary exchange on d4 CC EndBracket CC . But the text move also does nothing to increase the pressure on the queenside, so White can start the action on the other side of the board. *12.f4* In these positions with the bishop on e6, Black usually tries to play on the queenside, while White tries to exploit the position of the bishop on e6 with the well-timed advance of the f-pawn. In this particular case, we can immediately start with our plan as Black's counterplay is too slow. *Rfc8* Attacking the c4 pawn. *13.b3* Defending the c4 pawn. Note that this is possible because the bishop is on d4. If the bishop were on e3, we would have had to play Rc1 instead of castling earlier to protect the knight on c3. *a6* Insisting on the b5 plan. *14.a4* Definitely preventing any sort of counterplay on the queenside. Now Black is stuck because the logical move 14...Nd7 , seeking to exchange the dark-squared bishops, is met with 15.f5 , winning the bishop on e6 after 15...gxf5 16. exf5 Bxf5 17.b4! Black should, therefore, give up all ambitions and

start playing passively, leaving us with free hands to prepare the timely f5 advance. White is very much better in these types of positions.A very instructive way of handling a position similar to this one - albeit a one that arise via pure Gurgenidze - was examined in the Model Games section. 4G) The Prins Sicilian: 5...g-6...Bg7 - 8...Nc6 and 9... Nx*)* 12.b3 Of course, we don't want to lose the important pawn in the bind! a6 The most logical move, preparing the b5 pawn advance. 12...Qa5 is very likely to transpose to either the main line or lines analyzed via 11... Qa5 move order. 13.Qd3 There are many moves possible here, but I really like this queen maneuver we have seen previously, eyeing the b5 square, defending the c3 knight and preparing for f4-f5. It is also possible to play something like 13.Kh1 or 13.a4 As usual in Maroczy - it is not so much about concrete moves as about conceptual plans, motifs and ideas. Nd7 A move with independent value. 13...Qa5 14.f4 would transpose back to lines analyzed via 10...a6 move order. 14.f4 Here, it is also possible to avoid the endgame with 14.Kh1 , but there is no need for that since our play with f4-f5 is very fast, since Black lost the tempo on a6 and since our c4 pawn is quite secure. Bxd4+ 15.Qxd4 Now f5 is a clear threat and Black has to deal with it. f6 Sometimes, Black meets the threat of f5 with this ugly pawn move, which is very likely to give a heart-attack to Ben Finegold and his connosieurs. Black simply creates a retreat square for the bishop, but this pawn move is very 'ugly' and somewhat slow. 16.Kh1 First, we now definitely want to avoid the queen exchange so we tuck the king away, avoiding any sort of Qb6 moves. Qa5 A very active square for the queen, introducing some b5 ideas, but it can be met with the thematic Maroczy knight jump. 17.Nd5 Other moves are also possible, but I like the clarity of this idea, aiming for a favourable transformation. This was played by strong Czech Grandmaster Jan Smejkal back in 1984. Bxd5 The knight can't be tolerated for long. If Black doesn't take on this move and plays something like 17...Rfe8 , then we can already start the queenside expansion with 18.b4 18.exd5 Of course, in this situation we go for asymmetric transformation, as after 18.cxd5 we would close the e-file and also give Black the open c-file for the rook. Now, however, we have a favourable version of the asymmetric pawn structure, as we are ready to start building up the pressure on the kingside CC StartBracket CC Especially since Black weakened it with f6 CC EndBracket CC and it is not so easy for Black to generate counterplay, as the typical CC StartFEN CC 2r2rk1/1p1np2p/p2p1pp1/q2P4/2PQ1P2/1P6/P3B1PP/R4R1K b - - 0 18 CC EndFEN CC 18...b5 break is met strongly with 19.cxb5 axb5 20.b4! when the b5 pawn might

become very weak and the knight on d7 doesn't have the c5 nor e5 squares available.It is not that easy to crack Black's position here, but with the proper technique, we are playing 'on one goal' and can be satisfied with the outcome of the opening. 4G) The Prins Sicilian: 5... g-6...Bg7 - 8...Nc6 and 9... Nx]

[5...e6 Now, I am sure some of you might be wondering - but if Black intends to go for the e6-d5 plan, why should they bring the knight to c6? Wouldn't it be more sensible to aim for the d5 push as soon as possible if that is the plan?Well, as it turns out, it is absolutely crucial to have the knight on c6 to control the e5 square and prevent White from pushing e5 in case Black elects to go for the d5 plan. In order to demonstrate this important rule of thumb, let's check one trainable where Black refrains from developing the knight to c6. 6.c4 Of course, White decides to go for the bind. We could also refrain from this and go for Open Sicilian with 6.Nc3 , but that type of play is outside of the scope of this repertoire. d5 It is important to understand that the very fast d5 push without the castled king and without the knight on c6 is usually not very good. Here, the prescription is to capture once on d5 and then give the annoying check on b5. 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bb5+ As a rule of thumb, whenever we are able to give this check in lines where Black goes for the e6-d5 plan, we should do it, as it is highly unpleasant for Black. Note that this is superior to 8.e5 in this particular position - we want to draw a piece on d7 and only then push e5. Note that this check is possible not only because Black hasn't castled, but also because the knight is not on c6 yet. Bd7 The only move. 8...Nbd7 is even worse as after 9.e5 Ng8 10.e6 Black is completely busted. 9.e5 Only now do we push the knight away and obtain a decisive advantage. Bxb5 The only critical line, but here White obtains an advantage thanks to the rapid development. 9...Ng8 is probably better, but one doesn't need to be Magnus Carlsen to realize that such a backward developing move can't be healthy for Black's position and that after some simple 10.Nxc3 White has an overwhelming advantage. 10.Nxb5 Nfd7 Kinda hoping that the attack on e5 might distract White. First of all - even if White protects the pawn, it is not clear how good Black's position is. But more importantly - White can play much more strongly. 11.N1c3 Rapid development is way stronger than trying to take the d5 pawn. a6 Probably the only move. If Black tries capturing the pawn, then after 11... Nxe5 12.Nxd5 Na6 13.Bf4 we have a tremendous initiative and advantage. The engine already gives +3 in our favour, which is not surprising given how active our pieces are. 12.Nd6+ Bxd6 13.exd6 Nf6 14.Qe2+ A highly annoying and disruptive check. Kf8 14...Kd7 is met with the simple 15.O-O when Black can hardly survive with the king on d7. 15.Bf4 And now White protects the pawn on d6, prepares to castle next and has a very nice position, mainly due to the weakness of the king on f8. Note that 15...Nh5 doesn't work here

due to 16.Qe7! Qxe7 17.dxe7! and now Black can't take with 17...Kxe7 due to 18.Nxd5 4E) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... e6 without Nc6 #1]
[5...a6 6.Nc3 *(6.c4)*]



This move, usually made by players who like to employ the Classical Sicilian, is another very popular move and healthy move. Black develops the knight in the center, puts some pressure on our d4 knight, and intends to continue developing after seeing what exactly we will do.Black also retains certain flexibility as this move-order still allows our opponent a wide variety of setups, depending on what we do. And even though some of them will transpose into options we will examine elsewhere in the course, at least two options will retain some independence - the setups with early Qb6, and setups with very fast e6-d5 pawn push. **6.c4** Of course, the advance of the c-pawn and the formation of the bind is the approach we will be taking whenever applicable in this course, so this position is no exception in that regard. It is also possible to play 6.Nc3 and transpose to a variation of the Classical Sicilian, but the whole point of starting with 5.f3 is to avoid these positions so that is what we will be doing here. **6...e6** One of the main moves that played in conjunction with 5... Nc6 in this position. Black continues developing normally and intends to play Be7 and then O-O when they will be ready to strike with d5, open up the center and exploit the fact we have been making a lot of pawn moves CC StartBracket CC f3 and c4CCEndBracketCC. The move 6...g6 would transpose to the 5...g6 that will be analyzed elsewhere. 6...e5 transposes into lines examined in the 5...e5 chapter. and 6...Qb6 is also a move that will be examined in a separate chapter.

[6...Qb6 Apart from move 6...e6 , which was analyzed in the previous chapter, and moves 6...g6 and 6... e5 , which transpose to other parts of this course, this early queen move is also very popular. It is the 4th most popular move in the lichess database, but the 1st most popular move in the lichess Masters database. Black tries to exploit the fact that White made some pawn moves CC StartBracket CC f3 and c4 CC EndBracket CC to attack the knight on d4 at the moment when White is unable to reply with Be3 due to the hanging pawn on b2.The idea is to follow up with g6 and obtain a strange version of the Accelerated Dragon position - kinda similar to lines with early Qb6 in the proper Accelerated Dragon move order. Alternatively, Black can also consider playing with e6.Of course, this move has a drawback, as well. The queen

on b6 is somewhat exposed to a future Be3. 7.Nc2 The best move in the position. White has to retreat the knight, and this square is much more useful than b3 because, from c2, the knight influences the e3 square and facilitates future Be3 move. Also, in many lines, the knight from c2 will be instrumental when it comes to the execution of the thematic b4 pawn push.

A) 7...g6 The main move. Black fianchettoes the dark-squared bishop and enters lines similar to the lines arising from the Accelerated Dragon. However, due to the inclusion of the moves Qb6 and Nc2, the situation is somewhat different and I will do my best to unpack these nuances of this complex pawn structure. This position can also be reached via an Accelerated Dragon move-order, for example after CC StartFEN CC rnbqkbnr/pppppppp/8/8/8/8/PPPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq - 0 1CC EndFEN CC 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 d6 7.f3 Qb6 8.Nc3 A natural developing move, not only developing the knight but also vacating the b1 square for the rook. White wants to play Rb1 to defend the b2 pawn next and then go Be3 to kick the queen away.Alas, the situation is a little bit more complicated than that as Black has some tactical ideas at their disposal which we should be aware of, but objectively, the position should work out in White's favour. Bg7 Also a natural move, developing the bishop to the long diagonal. 9.Rb1 The most common and also the best move in this position, in my opinion. The rook protects the b-pawn in order to allow the c1 bishop to depart. Also, in the future, the rook will help support the thematic b4 advance. *(9.Be2 0-0)*

A1) 9...Be6 Black can try to avoid castling in this position, but it shouldn't yield them any good. 10.Be3 The first step - White takes a moment to kick the queen away and execute the desired maneuver. I would like to point out the utility of the knight on c2 in these lines, as this steed is the one that protects the bishop on e3. Qd8 This queen retreat is very passive and White can obtain a good version of Maroczy with some simple moves. However, 10...Qc7 is no better, as here the queen is exposed to some future Nd5 jumps. *(10...Qa5* The best move, trying to provoke White into playing b4 in order to undermine the queenside structure later with a5. However, this is not particularly inspiring for Black compared to normal Maroczy. White actually scores very well in this position CC StartBracket CC 83% based on 12 games CC EndBracket CC. *11.b4* We decide to advance the b-pawn and hit the queen nevertheless. We intend to follow it up with the Nd5 jump. *Qd8* Once again, 11...Qc7 is inferior due to 12.Nd5 coming with a tempo. *12.Nd5* The knight is

extremely strong here. *0-0 13.Be2 a5* One of the points behind provoking b4 earlier. But here we don't need to react and can calmly reinforce the b4 pawn. *14.a3* The safest choice. In this particular position with the knight on d5, 14.b5 is not so good due to the somewhat surprising 14...Bxd5 15.cxd5 Nb4 , when Black is somehow active and has a better position than in the game. *axb4 15.axb4* Thus, Black has opened the a-file, but it is very unclear what exactly they can do with it. We will castle next, then eventually aim to get the knight back to d4, or once again go for the f4-f5 pawn push.This is a better version of the Maroczy for Black than some other versions examined elsewhere, but with the knight on d5 and the pawn already on b4, there is no denying that White has a very pleasant position. 4F) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6*)* 11.Qd2 0-0 12.Be2 Nd7 13.0-0 With a typical bind over the position. we intend to continue Rfd1-Rac1 or Rad1-f4-f5 and it is very hard for Black to find a concrete plan. The engine points out 13...f5 , but here we can just take 14.exf5 and once again enjoy a nice position where Black's central pawns are more of weakness rather than a strength. 4F) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6;

A2) 9...Nb4 This move, aiming to exploit the position of the knight on c2 to initiate some exchanges, is the 2nd most played move in the Masters database. I genuinely think it might be the best option at Black's disposal in this position. It was also featured in some games, so we should take a quick look at it. Since they have less space, Black wants to initiate some exchanges to ease their position. The goal is also to bring the queen to the active b4 square. 10.Nxb4 Even though exchanging on our opponent's terms is one of the most common mistakes in chess, here it makes sense to divert the queen in order to be able to develop the bishop to e3. 10.Ne3 is the alternative, but I find that move a bit confusing and, at the very least, highly impractical. Qxb4 11.Be3 Taking control over the important diagonal. 0-0 Continuing normal development. 12.Qd2 Due to the exchange of knights, the active Black queen, and our lag in development, the formation of standard bind doesn't work as intended, as Black's counterplay with Be6-a6-b5 comes very fast. White, therefore, shifts gears a bit and intends to play Nd5, exchange queens, and go for a typical Maroczy endgame. Be6 The most problematic move, attacking the c4 pawn immediately, preparing the future a6-b5 and virtually forcing our hand. 13.Nd5 A thematic move, forcing the queen exchange due

to the threat of Nxe7 check. The good thing about these Maroczy endgames is that White usually plays for two results CC StartBracket CC win or draw CC EndBracket CC . The downside is that sometimes they are relatively dry and drawish. Qxd2+ 14.Kxd2 Nxd5 The best move, preserving the bishop pair. 15.cxd5 Once again, we go for the symmetrical transformation, although our advantage is significantly less than in the variation where Black gave up the bishop and preserved the knight.However, with the exchange of queens, I don't believe that 15.exd5 should lead to any significant advantage, either, and the advantage of the text move is that it keeps things simple and steady. Bd7 16.Bd3 Finishing the development and preparing to go b3-Rc1 next. White's advantage is of academic nature, as we have more space, but not many weaknesses. Ideally, we would like to exchange dark-squared bishops and set our kingside pawns in motion, but it is difficult to achieve. In any case, we are risking very little and have some chances to try and probe our opponent. 4F) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6;

A3) 9...Ng4 This sudden and unexpected knight jump is one of those tactical possibilities created by the early Qb6 move. Due to the fact that the rook is already on b1, that White didn't play Be3 and that the queen is on b6, Black can create some tactical problems connected to the weakness of the dark squares and the potential pin along the b-file, as both Qf2 and Bxc3 are threatened.At the first glance, this looks somewhat scary, but objectively, this variation shouldn't be particularly good for Black - as long as we know what we are doing. 10.Qd2 This most obvious move, defending the c3 knight and the f2 pawn, looks somewhat artificial, as the queen is now hindering the development of the c1 bishop. However, White tries to make an argument that Black will have to lose time by retreating the knight and that the subsequent development of the bishop to b2 will be equally good. Now Black has several options at their disposal. Bh6 Last, but not least, the text move is by far the most common move played at both master and lichess level. Black exploits the position of the knight on g4 to attack the queen and exchange dark-squared bishops. From the positional viewpoint, this should usually be favourable for Black, as it makes it easier for them to go for the dark-squared strategy typical of Maroczy. But on the other hand, a lot of time has been invested in this exchanging operation and it is highly debatable whether that was worth the effort. *(10...Nf6* The calm retreat of the knight is met with the calm advance of the

b-pawn. The same would happen after the alternative move 10... Nge5 in the form of 11.b3 *11.b3* And our game plan is clear. We want to play Be2 and Bb2, then chase the queen away with Na4 and then finally castle. There is very little Black can do to prevent the execution of this plan. *0-0 12.Be2 Bd7 13.Bb2* All according to the plan so far. To be fair, within this course we have seen very few positions with the bishop on b2 and not on e3, but similar positions can arise in the Moscow Sicilian where White gives up the light-squared bishop earlier to obtain the bind - an exchange that favours Black due to their lack of space. Now we only need Na4 and O-O to obtain a perfectly harmonious Maroczy position. *a5* This move vacates the a7 square for the queen. *14.Na4 Qa7* And temporarily, castling is still prevented, but now comes the other knight. *15.Na3* The other knight is eyeing the b5 square and White is clearly better. It is kinda important to note that the logical 15...Nb8 , taking the b5 square under the control, is not a source of concern, as we can simply play 16.Nb5 nevertheless, obtaining a favourable transformation of the position after 16...Bxb5 17.cxb5 as our bishop will be quite strong on c4 and we will put the other bishop to d4 in order to ensure we can castle and have an enjoyable position with a strong bishop pair and more space. 4F) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6, 6 *)* 11.Qe2 The only sensible move. Bxc1 12.Rxc1 So, Black managed to execute the goal, but now has to lose some time to go back. Moreover, the knight on c2 can eventually rotate to e3 and influence the center, which is not the case in more standard Maroczy positions, so things are far from bad for White. Nf6 The knight has to go back. 13.Qd2 I think that covering d4 and preventing Nd4, is a tad more precise than 13. b3, as played in the game L'Ami - Esen, Kusadasi, 2006, although both move should lead to a typical Maroczy edge. Be6 The b-pawn is still immune of course. 14.Be2 0-0 15.b3 Finally removing the pawn from the attack, securing c4 and forming a typical Maroczy structure on the queenside. Next on the agenda is going Ne3 and then castling, after which White has a very pleasant Maroczy position where it is hard for Black to breathe, as the only active plan with a6-b5 is very slow and easily stopped with the timely a4. Meanwhile, White has a very potent plan of pushing the kingside pawns or eventually expanding on the queenside. As mentioned several times - few Black players actually enjoy playing a position like this one. 4F) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6;

A4) 9...0-0 The main move in

the position, castling and entering a standard Maroczy type of pawn structure. But I don't think this non-tactical way of handling the position is particularly problematic for us as we simply get a nice version of standard Maroczy positions. 10.Be3 Developing with the gain of tempo and highlighting the earlier point that the queen is somewhat exposed to this shot. Qa5 Usually, this is the most active square for the queen in these types of positions, but here, due to the fact our knight is on c2 and rook on b1, we have a nice strike available. However, alternative retreats are not better. After 10...Qc7 11.Qd2 the queen is prone to being hit with the future Nd5, while 10...Qd8 merely leads to an inferior version of the standard Marcozy after 11.Qd2 Be6 12.Be2 Rc8 13.O-O , where the tempi we lost on playing Nc2 and Rb1 are actually quite useful for us - more useful than Black's zig-zagging with the queen back to the starting position. 11.b4 Very thematic in Maroczy. White usually has much more trouble expanding on the queenside and here we get this move for free, basically. Qc7 Black is trying to make an argument that our advance on the queenside has made the pieces more vulnerable - in particular the knight on c3. It is also quite common to counterstrike with a5 once the pawn is on b4. However, in this exact position, this is only illusory and we actually have no problems. 12.Rc1 Now the rook has done its duty on the b-file and we switch it to the more useful c-file, mostly in anticipation of the subsequent Nd5 knight jump and opening of the c-file. Ng4 This tactical shot, hitting the knight on c3 and the bishop on e3, doesn't work here. White can simply calmly retreat the bishop. *(12...Ne5* Attacking the c4 pawn is a typical procedure once White embarks on the b4 pawn push because the pawn can never go back to b3 to reinforce the c4 pawn, but this isn't particularly good for Black as White has a nice way of disentagling the queenside and maintaining the control over the position. *13.Na3* Keeping the c4 pawn defended. Note that premature jump 13.Nd5 is not so good as after 13...Nxd5 14. cxd5 e6 Black opens up the position. We want to activate our knight a bit and also finish development first, before we go for Nd5. *Be6* Another typical move, attacking the c4 pawn one more time, but now White is ready with the thematic Maroczy jump. *14.Nd5* A very typical idea in various Maroczy structures, which is especially powerful with the queen on c7 and the bishop on e6. White uses the control of the d5 square to plant a knight to a square where it can't be tolerated. This move is now possible because the bishop on

e6 is blocking the undermining e6. *Bxd5* The knight has to be captured sooner or later. *15.cxd5* When it comes to the Maroczy structure, it is always a question of whether to capture with the c-pawn CC StartBracket CC symmetrical transformation CC EndBracket CC or the e-pawn CC StartBracket CC asymmetrical transformation CC EndBracket CC . In the great book about pawn structures by GM Marcelo Rios, special attention is given precisely to this topic. Every Maroczy player should get acquainted with both patterns. In the given situation, though, the question is not so difficult to answer - since our rook on c1 is eyeing the queen and since we are underdeveloped, we have to go for the symmetrical transformation, as after 15.exd5 the asymmetry works in Black's favour as they can start using their lead in development to mount the initiative with something like 15...e6 *Qb8* Other queen moves are no better. 15...Qd7 would grant a tempo with 16.Bb5 *16.Be2* And this position is very pleasant for White, who will castle next and then try to slowly push the pieces from the kingside with f4, then Nc4, Bf3, maybe e5, etc. It is very important to understand that Black can win the c5 square for the knight, but in itself it shouldn't be enough to generate counterplay. For example, after 16...a5 17.b5 Ned7 18.Nc4 b6 19.O-O Nc5 20.a4 the knight is very impressive on c5, but it doesn't really do that much and we can concentrate our attention to the kingside and advance our pawns there, as Black has absolutely no play.Conclusion: The line with 5...Nc6 and 6...Qb6 has a lot of similarities between the pure Accelerated Dragon and 5...Nc6 and 6...e6 lines. On one hand, due to the early queen move, we are forced to retreat our pieces and temporarily fall behind in development, which provides Black with some tactical opportunities we have to be ready to deal with. On the other hand, the exposed queen on b6 can allow us to gain a few tempi back and obtain a superior version of the regular Accelerated Dragon/5..Nc6 6...e6 lines. Therefore, I do think this system is somewhat inferior to the mainlines, but we do need to know what we are doing and study it to a certain extent. 4F) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6, 6 *)* 13.Bd2 Defending the knight and forcing the knight to move. Nge5 Way more logical than 13... Nf6 , but not necessarily better. In any case, White continues with the same 14.Be2 with a nice Maroczy position. 14.Be2 And now, one way in which Black can try to justify the previous play is the a5 advance - but it once again doesn't bring anything tangible. a5 15.Nd5 Taking a

moment to install the knight on the strong d5 square. Qd8 16.b5 And once again, we have a superior position, despite handing the c5 square into the hands of our opponent. Our space control prevents any sort of counterplay, and the knight on c5 can't do anything on its own. In the long term, we want to mount a kingside attack, although sometimes even c5 ideas come to mind. When the engine starts considering 16...e6 17.Nf4 or 16...Nb4 17.Ndxb4 axb4 18.Nxb4 as best continuations, it is clear something has gone wrong for Black in the opening. White is clearly better. 4F) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6;

B) 7...e6 This move, avoiding the fianchetto of the dark-squared bishop in favor of developing the bishop on e7 and going for the e6-d5, in a very similar fashion as in 5...Nc6 and 6...e6 lines, is actually quite playable and is the 2nd most common move both at master and below master level.One would think that the fact we played the knight to c2 and opened the d-file for the queen works in our favour and makes the entire d5 push more difficult to execute, but the situation is not that simple, alas. 8.Nc3 Developing the knight and adding some extra control to the d5 square is quite natural and can't be bad, as it is hard to imagine this knight ending up on any other square.

B1) 8...a6 This quiet move, taking the b5 under control, is actually the 2nd most played move in this position, both on master level and below-master level, but this loss of tempo - just like in 5...Nc6 and 6...e6 lines, can't really be good or justified. 9.Be3 This surprising move, suddenly abandoning the b2 pawn, is very rarely played, but the modern engine points it out immediately. It turns out that Black's previous move has made a crucial change to the position - weakened the b6 square. A change White is able to immediately exploit! Qc7 This sad retreat is a must, but now White gets a good version of the 'Maroczy vs. e6 and a6' scenario. *(9...Qxb2* Taking on b2 is not advisable, to put it mildly, as Black's queen is in grave danger and White gets multiple tempi chasing her majesty around the board. *10.Qd2* First, we start by protecting the c3 knight! Note that this move is only possible because of the knight on c2 that keeps an eye on the rook on a1 - an important pattern. Now, Rb1 is a deadly threat and Black has to do something about it. *Nb4* Absolutely the only move. Due to the threat to the c2 knight, we don't have time to play Rb1 and have to capture on b4. *11.Nxb4* This seems a bit problematic as our rook on a1 is hanging, but we shouldn't be worried at all about it. *Qxb4* 11...Qxa1 12.Kf2 leaves the Black queen stranded. Black is helpless against g3-Bg2,

trapping the queen next. *12.Rb1* Now, we chase the queen away nevertheless and seize the semi-open b-file. *Qa5* A natural retreat, but now we can see how the weakening of the b6 square is problematic for Black. 12...Qa3 13.Rb3 Qa5 14.Bb6 is very similar - there is no major difference between having a rook on b3 or b1. *13.Bb6* The point! The Black queen is incredibly short on squares and will eventually have to move away from the 5th rank, allowing a decisive e5 blow. It is not surprising that White has a gargantuan advantage due to the fact we have 4 pieces in play compared to Black's two, but just for clarity's sake, let me point out that 13...Qe5 14.f4 Qh5 15.Be2! Qg6 16.e5 , when Black can't take on e5 due to mate on d8, is decisive. 13...Qh5 14.g4 Qg6 15.e5 is very similar. Black simply can't play like this. 4F) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6, 6*)* 10.Rc1 This seems to me to be the most precise/consistent with the repertoire choice, as it completely takes a sting out of potential Ne5 and Na5 ideas, attacking the c4 pawn and hinting at d5 or b5 pawn breaks. It looks much more natural to play 10.Be2 , but then 10...Ne5 is a bit awkward to meet as the natural 11.b3 is met with the thematic 11...b5 break, exploiting the fact that the knight on c3 is not protected. It is also possible to play 10.f4 , but I would rather preserve our solid central structure and finish our development before starting to push the kingside pawns. Ne5 Attacking the c4 pawn. If Black doesn't embark on this move, we will have easy development with Be2, castling short, Qd2 and taking it from there. 11.Na3 This is another very typical move in various positions with the pawn on c4. Even though the general say principle states that the knight on the rim is always dim, in this particular case, the knight on a3 fulfills an important defensive function, not only covering the c4 square but also eyeing the potential b5 counter. Now we have managed to defend everything, are very solid and can finish our development. Be7 12.Be2 0-0 13.0-0 And White simply has a pleasant position with more space, good central control, potential weakness on the semi-open d-file to target and different improvement ideas, like Qd2, Qe1-Qf2, f4-Bf3, Na4-Nb6, b4-b5, etc. The main feature of a position like this is our flexibility and Black's lack of counterplay. I personally enjoy playing such positions where I am in total control and where my opponent's counterplay is very limited, if not prevented whatsoever. 4F) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6, 6;

B2) 8...Be7 The most natural move in the position, continuing the development, intending to

castle and then seeking the opportunity to push d5. 9.Bd3 An important moment. White would obviously want to play Be3 in this position to block the a7-g1 diagonal and castle the king. However, it turns out that the immediate 9.Be3 , a move that was possible in the situation where Black played a6 instead of castling, doesn't quite work here as now Black can indeed capture the pawn on b2 with 9...Qxb2 10.Qd2 Nb4 11.Nxb4 Qxb4 12. Rb1 Qa5 and now we don't have the option of playing Bb6 and can, at best, claim some compensation for the pawn. With that being said, the next question can be - why doesn't White play 9.Rb1 , defending the b2 pawn and preparing Be3. And indeed, this maneuver is the most common move in this position and it will be the main recommendation against Black setups with g6-Bg7. However, in the given instance, this is a bit too slow as it allows Black to strike with d6-d5 very quickly. Following 9...O-O 10.Be3 Qc7 11.Be2 Black can already go for the pawn sacrifice with 11...d5 , as after 12.cxd5 exd5 13.exd5 Black can utilize the lead in development to go 13...Rd8 , regaining the pawn and solving all the problems in the position! Therefore White has to find a different way of preparing Be3. The text move achieves that purpose. It is very important to place the bishop to d3 from where it protects the knight on c2 as it enables us to play Be3 on the next move. If we were to play 9.Be2 instead, then after 9...O-O 10.Be3 Qxb2 is possible, as after 11.Qd2 CC StartBracket CC threatening Rb1, CC EndBracket CC Black has 11...Nb4 , attacking the knight on c2. That is why we place the bishop on d3. And even though it looks somewhat awkward and blocks the d-file, there is no immediate way in which Black can exploit this. This move has been played by several strong Grandmasters, as well. 0-0 The most natural and common move in the position. But it allows us to demonstrate the idea behind our previous move. *(9...Ne5* This move, attacking the bishop and the c4 pawn at once, is quite sensible and is the 2nd most common move in this position, played in some games on both master and non-master level. *10.Be2* It is also possible to leave the bishop hanging, but preserving it is also possible as the knight on e5 should provide us with an extra tempo for the advance of the f4 pawn. *0-0 11.f4* In this repertoire, I have intentionally refrained from recommending premature advance of the kingside pawns, in order to keep the position within positional/ typical Maroczy waters for as long as possible. However, in the given situation where Black has positioned the

knight to a square where f4 is being invited, I figured I might as well make an exception and recommend this, more aggressive approach.It did seem more ambitious than 11.Be3 , when after 11...Qc7 does create some pressure against the c4 pawn and I wasn't 100% sure how much I liked the concept with 12.Na3 in this particular position. I feel the text move is more ambitious and also objectively strong. *Ng6* The best move, placing the knight on a square where it creates some pressure on the f4 pawn and also keeps Nh4 options open in case White ever decides to go for the Bf3 idea. *12.Be3* Finally developing the dark-squared bishop and profiting from the fact that the b2 pawn is immune. *Qc7* Black has to retreat the queen as the b2 pawn is immune. It is quite sensible to put her majesty on the c7 square from where the c4 pawn is eyed. *13.0-0* Finally, finishing development. Despite the fact that we have advanced our f-pawn and have somewhat weakened our e4 pawn, Black is in no position to exploit this, especially since we can always defend it with Bd3 if necessary.Next, we will also develop our heavy pieces and then decide to play on the queenside and prepare b4, or potentially play on the kingside with g4-g5 or f5 ideas. 4F) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6*)* 10.Be3 Finally developing the bishop on e3 and chasing the annoying queen from b6, facilitating castling kingside. Due to our previous move, we have rendered taking on b2 impossible and can now obtain a semi-standard Maroczy position where we have the knight on c2 and the bishop on d3 instead of on d4 and e2, which doesn't fundamentally change the evaluation/character of the position. Qa5 The best move in the position, not only eyeing the d5 square, but also exerting influence along the entire 5th rank, which will be highly relevant in some variations CC StartBracket CC where White will be unable to go Qh5 CC EndBracket CC. It has to be said that this move is far from obvious and was only played in two games on the master level. *(10...Qc7* Moving the queen to c7 is inferior as now we can take the e5 square under control. *11.f4* Preventing Ne5. 11.O-O Ne5 is mildly discomforting. *Rd8* Hinting at d5, but here it will not be so strong as the queen on a5 doesn't help with this advance. *12.0-0* This allows d5, but it shouldn't work out for Black. 12. Qf3 is a safer alternative. *d5 13.e5* 13.cxd5 exd5 14.Nxd5 is also possible, but then after 14... Qd6 15.Nxe7 Qxe7 16.e5 White has to be ready to sacrifice the queen with 16...Bf5 17.Bxf5! Rxd1 18.Raxd1 , which should retain the advantage, but which

seems completely unnecessary. Instead, after 13.e5 , Black is left without a good reply, as 13... Ne4 is met with 14.Nb5 , while after 13.e5 dxc4 White can obtain the edge by relatively simple means: 14.exf6 Bxf6 15. Bxh7 Kxh7 16.Qh5 Kg8 17. Ne4 and now with Rf3 coming, White has some initiative on the kingside and nice attacking prospects without even having to sacrifice any material. Black, in the meantime, doesn't have any real counterplay and there is no denying that White's position is clearly better. 4F) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6*; 10...Qxb2* This capture is now impossible. *11.Qd2* Defending the c3 knight and preparing Rb1. *Nb4* This move led to salvation in the previous line, but here the knight on c2 is defended, which allows us to get a decisive initiative. *12.Rb1 Nxc2+ 13.Bxc2 Qa3 14.Nb5* Another tempo on the queen. *Qxa2 15.e5* And here, due to the threat of Bxh7 with a discovered attack on the queen, Black loses a piece, for which they have some compensation after 15... Qxc4 16.exf6 Bxf6 , but after 17.Nxd6 White should come up on top due to the activity of our pieces and still a very complex and dynamic position. 4F) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6*)* 11.0-0 The downside of Black's previous move is that the c4 pawn is not under attack, so we don't need to concern ourselves with the move Ne5 all that much. Just for understanding purposes, let me point out that now 11.f4 is imprecise, as after 11...Rd8 12.O-O d5 is incredibly strong, as we don't have a move like 13. e5 as after 13...dxc4 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Bxh7 Kxh7 we can't follow up with 16.Qh5 due to the queen on a5 . Neither does taking on d5 with 13.cxd5 work since Black has sufficient control over that square due to the queen on a5 and can simply recapture with 13...exd5 14. Nxd5 Nxd5 when we are lagging in development and are pinned on the d-file, which means massive trouble. Black is, as a matter of fact, already winning in both these lines. Ne5 With the queen on a5, this knight move doesn't achieve anything as the c4 pawn is not hanging. *(11...Rd8* The most critical and consistent move, preparing the d5 pawn break. *12.a3* A very important moment. Black's threat of d5 is very serious, so we need to find a way to deal with it. This is where this nimble pawn move, preparing the move b4, comes into play. Our idea will be to meet d5 by taking with the e-pawn on d5 and then advancing b4-c5, obtaining a pawn majority and a decent blockade on d4. *Ne5* The best and far from obvious move, attacking the bishop on d3, but more importantly - the c4 square - which will be very relevant in the variations to come. *13.Be2 d5*

Now Black does indeed go for the advance of the d-pawn and claims that it happens under more favourable circumstances since the knight is pressuring the c4 pawn. *14.exd5* Alas, in the given situation, we don't really want to place a knight on b5 due to the following variation: 14.b4 Qc7 15.Nb5 Qd7 16.exd5 exd5 17.c5 Nc4! and now taking on c4 is bad, but we also can't remove the bishop from the attack with 18.Bd4 because our knight on b5 is hanging. *exd5 15.b4* The point! We kick the queen away and intending to play c5 next. *Qc7 16.c5* In general, this pawn structure is quite favourable for White, but here due to our hanging pieces on the queenside it is a bit tricky for us to consolidate it. *b6* The critical test! *17.cxb6* Exploiting little tactics to keep control over the position. *axb6* 17...Qxc3 is met with 18.Bd4 , regaining the piece under favourable circumstances. *18.Bd4* Defending the c3 knight from the active square. *Nc6 19.Nb5* Hitting the queen and clearing the diagonal for the bishop. *Qb7 20.Bb2* And now the bishop is nicely placed on b2 and we have great control over the d4 square. The position is complex and dynamic, but I believe our position is easier to play due to our better pawn structure.Black needs to mount some dynamism in the position which is not so easy in practical play, whereas we will play Re1-Bf1/ Bd3, plant something on d4 and then take it from there. 4F) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6*)* 12.Be2 Qc7 Reinforcing the attack on the c4 pawn, but now there aren't any threats along the c-file and we can simply reinforce the pawn. 13.b3 And this is a dream Maroczy for White. Qd2-Rc1/ Rad1-Nd4-f4-f5-g4-g5 are all in the air and Black should have very little counterplay. Note that, if we manage to prevent the d5 break, we will usually have a clear edge in these lines because the bishop on e7 is much more passive than, say, on g7. 4F) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6]

7.Nc3 The most natural move, following the principle of developing knights before bishops, is to add some more control to the critical d5 square. White can't really avoid making this move, so we start with it, in accordance with another principle that says we should first make moves we want to make anyway, before considering other options. **7...Be7** This is a necessary move when it comes to the whole e6-d5 plan. Black needs to castle before pushing d5 in order to prevent any sort of Bb5 resources. Also, this is way superior to taking the b5 square under control with a move like a6.

[7...d5 Allow me to emphasize one important point - before Black has castled and secured the king and/or taken the b5 square under control, pushing d5 is premature. This will be a theme we will see throughout this

chapter. 8.cxd5 The correct recapture, opening up the path for the bishop to b5. exd5 9.Bb5 A very annoying pin. Black can't avoid losing material as they are forced to cover the d-file and break the queen's contact with the d5 pawn. Bd7 Now White can snatch a pawn securely. 10.exd5 Nxd4 11.Bxd7+ Qxd7 12.Qxd4 And White has an extra pawn and it is hard for Black to demonstrate compensation, as long as we don't fall into 12...Rc8 13.O-O?? Bc5 Instead, after 12...Rc8 , we can play some developing moves such as 13.Bg5 when we are clearly better. Also, note that after 12...Rd8 13.O-O it is very hard for Black to recapture the pawn due to various Re1-Qxg7 ideas, e.g. 13...Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Qxd5 15.Re1 Be7 16.Qxg7 when White is just winning. 4E) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6, 6]

[7...a6 Some players like to go for the early advance of the a-pawn in these positions. The idea is to cover the b5 square in order to prepare the d5 push, but it turns out that this pawn move is a little bit too slow to allow the push of the d5 pawn under favourable circumstances. 8.Be3 We continue normally as we are not at all concerned with the d5 pawn push. d5 Black can try to go for the immediate d5 break, but it shouldn't work! 8...Be7 would transpose to the line analyzed via 7...Be7 and 8...a6 move order. 9.cxd5 exd5 10.Nxc6 As we will see in the mainline, this capture on c6 is not the greatest idea of all time when Black has castled. However, due to the inclusion of a6 here, Black has lost an important tempo and we can exploit that fact by attacking the weak c6 pawn and threatening to capture it with a check. bxc6 11.Qa4 Attacking the pawn and intending to play O-O-O on the next move to pressure the d5 pawn as well. Bd7 Probably the best move, but now we have managed to force the bishop to take away the d7 square from the knight. However, alternatives are not better, as follows: A CC EndBracket CC 11...Rb8 12.O-O-O and Bf4 will come next with great effect. B CC EndBracket CC 11...Qd7 is met with the same 12.O-O-O , C CC EndBracket CC while 11...Qc7 loses to 12.Nxd5 12.e5 Now we strike the knight away, exploiting the fact it can't go to the optimal d7 square. Things are a bit more complicated because our queen on a4 is exposed and this allows some c5-d4 tricks, but it turns out all tactics work in White's favour. Nh5 This knight move on the edge of the board should lose on the spot, but the situation is a bit more complicated than it initially seems. *(12...c5* This advance of the c-pawn with the knight on f6 has to be considered. The variations are a bit complicated, but the complications work in our favour. *13.Qc2* The most human move, simply retreating the queen and emphasizing that the d4 fork is not dangerous. 13.Qb3 is now met with 13...Rb8 and we can't take on d5 with the queen as the knight is still on f6. The newer Stockfish 15 that just dropped as I was writing these lines comes up with 13.Qh4 , but this seems too complicated for my taste. *d4* The most natural move, but

it is not good. *14.exf6* *dxe3* 14...dxc3 15.Qe4 is even worse. *15.Qe4+* The point! The pawn on f6 severely restricts the black pieces, Rd1 is coming and we are just winning due to numerous threats. A sample line could be 15...Be6 16.Rd1 Qc8 17.Qa4 Bd7 18.Rxd7 Qxd7 19.Qe4 and wins. Black can't survive such a position. 4E) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6*)* 13.g4 This works! The knight has no squares, but this is not yet the end of the variation. c5 Attacking the queen and introducing d4 ideas. 14.Qb3 In this variation, we can go to the b3 square and attack the d5 pawn, as the knight is no longer on f6. d4 The only way to try and justify the setup and Black's preceding play. 14...Rb8 is now met with the simple 15.Qxd5 15.Bc4 The point! We are threatening a devastating check on f7, the knight on h5 and can even consider castling long, say after 15...dxe3 16.O-O-O White's lead in development secures us a winning advantage. 4E) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6]

8.Be3 The most natural move in the position, reinforcing the d4 knight, placing the bishop on an active diagonal and - in some lines - keeping the option of castling long open. I have certain doubts about the viability of the other move 8.Be2 , but I have decided to include it as the alternative.

[8.Be2 The alternative is to start by developing the light-squared bishop to e2. At first glance, it is not 100% obvious what is the major difference between the moves, but this move has a concrete idea of trying to prevent the d5 advance in radical means. 0-0 9.Nc2 The point of the previous play! White tries to prevent the d5 advance by radical means, losing another tempo to add some additional protection to the d5 square. The reason why this idea is more potent with the bishop on e2 rather than the bishop on e3 is not immediately obvious - but in some of the resulting lines, it transpires that it is useful to have the square on e3 available for the knight to defend the d5 pawn. d5 The most critical move, almost exclusively played at the master level. Black shouldn't postpone it given that it is the most thematic break in the position. Something like 9...a6 10.O-O or 9...b6 10.O-O would lead to some sort of Hedgehog pawn structure similar to the one we will examine in a different chapter, where White retains nice prospects for the advantage. 10.cxd5 exd5 11.exd5 Nb4 The point of the pawn sacrifice and a very thematic move in these positions, reminiscent of the legendary 16th game of the 2nd Karpov-Kasparov match in 1985 CC StartBracket CC which you should definitely look up if you have never seen it CC EndBracket CC . Black seeks to regain the d5 pawn immediately or to gain sufficient counterplay should White take on b4. 12.Ne3 I think this is the move that poses most questions for Black, although the majority of games in this variation end in a draw anyway. I also investigated 12.Nxb4 , but thought that the position with ugly pawn structure arising after 12...Bxb4 13.O-O Bxc3 14.bxc3 Nd5 is impractical - especially at the club level. Bc5

The only move played in this position, seeking to eliminate the defender of the d5 pawn and regain it. The downside is that it costs Black the bishop pair. 13.a3 We chase the knight immediately and force Black to execute the idea and give up the bishop pair. Bxe3 14.Bxe3 14.axb4 Bb6 is not the way to go. Nbxd5 15.Nxd5 Forced, as 15.Bd4 Nf4 is a bit problematic. Nxd5 16.Bf2 And in this position, we have academic advantage associated with the bishop pair, although Black has several ways to equalize and utilize the activity. Objectively, the whole 8. Be2 and 9. Nc2 idea shouldn't give White much, which is why I am only giving it as an alternative, in case someone is not too keen on entering the sharp mainline that involves queenside castling. 4E) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6]

8...0-0 So Black finally castles and is now ready to strike with d5, prompting us to do something about this advance. This is the critical position of this line and one I spend quite some time investigating for this course, as I have always experienced some problems in practice whenever faced with this setup and an opponent who knew what exactly they were doing!

[8...a6 As mentioned previously, some players do like to include the move a6 into the equation, preventing b5 and preparing d5, but this is way inferior to going for castling, with the same idea. The important thing to point out is that this position can arise via various transpositions CC StartBracket CC e.g. when Black decides to include a6 earlier in the opening CC EndBracket CC . 9.Be2 In this particular instance, we can continue developing normally and aiming for kingside castling as the central d5 counterstrike is much inferior for Black. d5 We will once again check this thematic move, but here it is played under much less favourable circumstances as Black would much rather have the king castled rather than a pawn on a6. *(9...0-0* Black can also consider castling now, but then the move a6 definitely proves to be a loss of tempo. Still, it is instructive to consider what happens here and how is that difference reflected over the board. *10.0-0 d5* Black has to try and play this move in these positions. *11.cxd5 exd5 12.Nxc6* In positions where we are unable to punish Black directly for the premature d5 push CC StartBracket CC say, by playing Bb5 CC EndBracket CC , the exchange on d5 followed by capture on c6 should be our prescription. This eliminated the defender of the e5 square and allows us to play e5 on the next move, avoiding the exchanges in the center. *bxc6 13.e5* The point of our previous play. We advance the pawn in the center and intend to obtain favourable positions with the hanging c and d-pawns where we will be able to utilize the c5 square and attack the c6 weakness.However, please note that this transformation of the position is only possible because Black spent an additional tempo in the form of a6 - in the analogous position where White hasn't yet castled and Black's pawn is on a7, this continuation is not good for White as

in the resulting position we can't play Bf2 and recapture with the rook. *Nd7 14.f4 Bc5* This move is very annoying in the position where a6 and O-O haven't been included, but here we have a nice way of dealing with it. *15.Bf2* A very calm move, avoiding any problems along the a7-g1 diagonal and offering to exchange the bishops on White's terms. Note that this wouldn't have been possible if White didn't castle as then we would have to recapture on f2 with the king, which is obviously undesirable and it is also a stronger move than 15.Bxc5 We have a very pleasant position as we have managed to avoid immediate problems and constrain Black's activity, leaving us with nice prospects of exploiting the deficits of our opponent's pawn structure and utilizing static factors in the position to outplay them! 4E) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6*)* 10.cxd5 As usual, we capture on d5 with the c-pawn in these situations. exd5 11.Nxc6 And now, we take on c6 in order to secure the structural advantage and the advance of the e-pawn. Although, in this specific position, we actually will not follow this up with the advance of the e-pawn, as we can play even more strongly! bxc6 12.0-0 A novelty in the position, but apparently the strongest move in the position, according to the brand new Stockfish 15. Due to the fact that Black spent a tempo on a6 instead of castling, White can actually ignore the threat to the e4 pawn and invite Black to go for the endgame, which turns out to be quite unfavorable for the second player. I also checked move 12.e5 here which is not so bad, but after 12...Nd7 13.f4 Bc5 we are forced to go 14.Bxc5 Nxc5 and even though this position is not as bad for us with the pawn on a6 than with the black king castled, I still believe we can be more ambitious than that. dxe4 The most consistent follow up, ruining White's pawn structure! But this is not that favourable for Black in situation where the king hasn't yet castled. *(12...Rb8* Black can also try to gain a tempo by attacking the b2 pawn, but it is not a particular improvement. *13.Qc2* Calmly defending the pawn and intending to play e5 next. *0-0* Black can't really go for 13...dxe4 14. Nxe4 Nxe4 due to 15.Qxc6 , once again demonstrating the drawback of not castling the king early in the opening phase. *14.e5* And now we will manage to get the same favourable version of the structure with the hanging pawns. *Nd7 15.f4 Bc5 16.Bf2* And White is better, similarly as in the previously examined variation. 4E) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6*)* 13.Qxd8+ The point! Due to the fact Black is unable to recapture with the rook, this is highly desirable for White. Bxd8 13...Kxd8 14.fxe4 is even less desirable. 14.Nxe4 Inviting the exchange of knights. Nxe4 Black has to try to ruin our pawn structure as otherwise the whole opening idea hasn't achieved anything and Black is left with structural weaknesses on the queenside. 15.fxe4 And White has a small advantage here, as the weakness of the queenside pawns is a tad more relevant than the weakness of the e4

pawn, and White also has some ideas of playing Bc4, pressuring the f7 pawn, or inviting the exchange on e6, which would ruin Black's pawn structure even further. I like the prospects of playing a better queenless middlegame such as this one! 4E) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6]

9.Qc2 After a long investigation and internal conversation with myself, I decided to recommend this move, which I picked up after checking some games by Wesley So, who employed this continuation on three separate occasions in 2020 - scoring with three victories.What is the idea behind this move? Well, White admits that d5 is inevitable and intends to meet it in the sharpest possible way - by castling long and lining up the rook on d1 toward the enemy queen. The resulting positions with opposite-side castling are very sharp and not fully in the spirit of slow-grinding lines we want to obtain when playing 5.f3, but sometimes one has to bite the bullet and go for the kill. In order to fully comprehend why exactly we go for this sharp move instead of playing something more natural. I used to play the most natural move 9.Be2 here, which after something like 9...a6 10.O-O Bd7 11.Qd2 Rc8 play resembles the positions similar to those that will be examined under 2...a6 move order where White has a beautiful Maroczy, where Black is very passive and where we are able to eventually create play on the queenside. And indeed, the move 9...a6 is the most common move in this position. However, the drawback of the 9.Be2 is that it runs into 9...d5 , which is the 2nd most played move in the position. Due to the fact that Black didn't spend a tempo to play a6, this advance is more than sufficient to equalize. After 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.e5 Nd7 13.f4 Bc5 we are forced to take on c5 with 14.Bxc5 and after 14...Nxc5 , Black has a favourable version of the exact same position with the pawn on a6 and king not castled, which is simply a very good position due to the lead in development, open b-file and dark-square control. You can risk going for this and hoping your opponent won't go for d5 - which may happen at lower levels. But objectively, not paying attention to this advance by Black is wrong and I couldn't recommend it as the main option in the course, even though in practice you might get away with 9.Be2 a6 more often than getting punished after 9.Be2 d5 CCStartBracket CCalthough it becomes more difficult to avoid getting punished as your strength and rating increase CC EndBracket CC. Neither does 9.Nc2 bring us particular joy with the bishop on e3, as after 9...d5 10.cxd5 exd5 11.exd5 Nb4 we are unable to play Ne3 and after 12.Bc4 Qc7 13.Bb3 Re8 14.O-O Bd6 Black has more than sufficient compensation for the pawn. Last but not least, you might be wondering why we put the queen on c2 and not on d2. However, after 9.Qd2 d5 10.exd5 exd5 11.O-O-O it turns out that the queen is inferior on d2 because it is exposed to some Bxe3 tricks in some variations, for example after 11...Re8 12.Kb1 Bc5 when we don't have 13.Nxc6 due to 13...Bxe3 , as would be the case if the queen were on c2.

[9.Be2 d5 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 cxd5]

9...Qc7 This queen move, sometimes made automatically by Taimanov players, is inferior to 9...Bd7 in my mind.

[9...a6 This move does help prepare the b5 pawn push in the future, but it is very slow and it allows White to switch gears and go for the pawn with kingside castling. 10.Be2 Bd7 Insisting on queenside play, but due to the slow 9th move, White has time to consolidate. 11.0-0 Rc8 Hinting at Ne5 with counterplay. 12.Nxc6 Once again, we see this thematic exchange, stalling Black's intentions. Bxc6 Here, 12...bxc6 is bad due to 13.c5! 13.Qd2 And White retains absolute control over the position and has a dream Maroczy structure - especially since the opponent's dark-squared bishop is on e7 instead of the more active square g7. We will bring our rooks to the central files with Rfd1 and Rac1 next, prevent b5 with the timely a4, and then seek to expand on the queenside with b4 at the appropriate moment, while also keeping the alternative plans of f4 and g4 in mind. 4E) The Prins Sicilian: 5... N-5... Nc6,6]

[9...d5 The most common and consistent move in this position. Black finally embarks on the central push they have been preparing for quite some time now. 10.exd5 An important inclusion. Exchanging the e-pawn before castling long eliminates some tactical possibilities involving the rapid e5 advance, as would happen after immediate castling, for example after 10.O-O-O Nb4!? 11.Qf2 e5! and White is in some trouble. Also, note that taking with the e-pawn is better than taking with the c-pawn as after 10.cxd5 exd5 11. O-O-O I don't like the fact that the c-file is opened without the bishop coming to c4 in one go, even though this position seems playable as well. exd5 11.0-0-0 Of course, castling long is the main idea behind the whole concept starting with 9. Qc2!?. Now we have reached a very important tabiya of the entire variation. White obviously aims to consolidate the queenside and start the attack on the kingside with g4-g5, which would kick the knight on f6 away and win the d5 pawn.The thing I like about this position is that most routine moves by Black actually aren't the best and our opponent does need to play in a bit unorthodox manner. Let's examine some of the options available to the 2nd player to obtain a better feel for the position and the resulting middlegames.

A) 11...Re8 This development of the rook to the open e-file is logical as in some variations it can threaten the e3 bishop. 12.Kb1 The best move, simply stepping away from the h6-c1 diagonal and ensuring that any potential Bc5-Bxe3 ideas will not come with check. Bd6 The idea behind this move is to get to e5 to attack the d5 knight is logical, as Black also gains a tempo by attacking the e3 bishop. This move is way better than the alternative move 12...Bc5 which fails due to 13.Nxc6 and now, due to the fact that the king is on b1, Bxe3 is not a check. 13.Bf2 Retreating the bishop from the attack. 13.Qd2 is met with the paradoxical 13...Bc5 as now the

queen on d2 is exposed to captures after Bxe3 and some Rxe3 ideas are threatened, leading to a good position for Black. Also, note that here the position of the king on b1 works to White's detriment as after 14.Nxc6 Bxe3 15.Nxd8 Bxd2 16. Rxd2 , the fact that the king is on b1 allows the important Bf5 resource after 16...Re1 17.Kc2 Bf5+ when Black is more than fine. Be5 Attacking the d4 point in these lines is one way for Black to gain some counterplay. 14.a3 Taking a moment to stop any Nb4 ideas and not fearing the captures on d4. Bxd4 15.Bxd4 Nxd4 16.Rxd4 And White retains a small academic advantage in the resulting position, say after the approximate 16...Qb6 17.Qd2 dxc4 18.Bxc4 Bf5+ 19.Ka2 Our pieces are a bit more centralized and active than the enemy counterparts, although due to the symmetrical structure and absence of real weaknesses in Black's camp, the game should be within the margins of a draw, if played optimally. 4E) The Prins Sicilian: 5... N-5... Nc6,6;

B) 11...Bc5 This bishop move, attacking the somewhat vulnerable knight on d4 and exploiting the undefended position of the bishop on e3, is not at all silly as it looks and was played in 2 games on lichess, including my own game against a certain FM from Russia on 17th April, 2022. Black does violate the principle of moving the same piece twice in the opening, but concrete tactical ideas justify this violation. 12.Qd2 It is necessary to defend the bishop on e3 and move the queen away from the potential Nb4 jump here. In my game, I played the logical 12. Kb1? and after mass exchanged on d4 starting with 12...Nxd4 13. Bxd4 Bxd4 14.Rxd4 obtained a reasonable position. However, after 12.Kb1? Black could have played 12...Nb4 13.Qd2 Bxd4! eliminating the defender of the f5 square. 14.Bxd4 Bf5+ and White's king is suddenly in quite some trouble. Re8 This move, which was good in the position where the king was on b1, is not good here. *(12...Bb6* The best move, moving the bishop to a defended square and avoiding all sort of Nxc6 tricks. *13.g4* The most aggressive move, which is not so much an attempt to start a kingside attack as a move that tries to size some space on the kingside, threatens g5 and forces Black to simplify into an endgame. I also looked at 13.Nc2 in this position, but somehow concluded that 13... dxc4 14.Bxc4 Qxd2 15.Rxd2 leaves Black with less practical problems than the text continuation *CC* StartBracket *CC* Although the 2nd player should be fine in either case *CC* EndBracket *CC* . *dxc4* Reacting to the threat of g5 and liquidating into an endgame. *14.Nxc6* Trying to ruin Black's pawn structure a bit. *Qxd2+ 15.Bxd2 bxc6 16.Bxc4* And after the smoke has cleared, we have reached a very quiet and drawish endgame, in which I believe only White can try to

play for the win due to our better pawn structure. The engine points out that the best continuation is 16...Be6 , ruining the structure even further after 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18. Rhf1 , but claiming that Black's counterplay and the weakness of the f3 pawn compensate for the worse pawn structure. I will not debate the engine, of course, but I do think this endgame is very pleasant to play for White in practical play.Given that Black really needs to demonstrate some excellent preparation/theoretical knowledge in this rare line to get here, I think it is a very acceptable outcome. 4E) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6*)* 13.Nxc6 Discovering the attack on the queen and the bishop on c5. Bxe3 Forced. 14.Nxd8 Bxd2+ 15.Rxd2 And now, due to the fact our king is on c1 and not b1, Black doesn't have the Re1 resource. Rxd8 15...Re1 is now met with 16.Rd1 Rxd1 17.Kxd1 and our knight on d8 survives as there is no Bf5 and Rxd8 combo available to Black. 16.cxd5 And White emerges with a clean extra pawn and a winning position. 4E) The Prins Sicilian: 5... N-5... Nc6,6;

C) 11...Bd7 Developing the light-squared bishop to d7 is natural, but not the most critical and energetic continuation. It is much better than 11...Be6 , though, when we can play 12.Nxe6 which is a favourable transformation for us. 12.Kb1 This useful move is very typical in these positions so we might as well make it now. 12.g4 is also possible, but possibly a bit premature. I always tell my students - if you have a choice between the move you know you will have to make and a move you think you will have to make, always make the former first. Nb4 This resource is once again possible, but here it happens under less favourable circumstances. 13.Qd2 Here, we don't need to complicate matters with 13.Qf2 since Black has insufficient control over the d5 square. dxc4 14.Bxc4 And now knight jumps to d5 are possible, which means White has a more favourable version of the 11... Nb4 lines. Qc7 15.Bb3 And even though the engine points out that the game is dynamically balanced if Black plays accurately, I think White's game is easier because our pieces are more centralized and our ideas are a bit more straightforward. We want to play Rc1, then either Rhe1 and/or Qe2 or go for g4. 4E) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6;

D) 11...Nb4 Last but not least, in the highest profile encounter in this line to this date, one between Wesley So and Maxime Vachier Lagrave in one of the online games played on chess24 in 2020, a French Najdorf specialist played this move, hitting the queen on c2 immediately.It is definitely a valid move in this position, but I do not think it is the most practical for Black, as in the subsequent positions the knight is prone to be kicked with the timely a3 and Black often has to resort to sacrificing it with the pawn hook a5. 12.Qf2

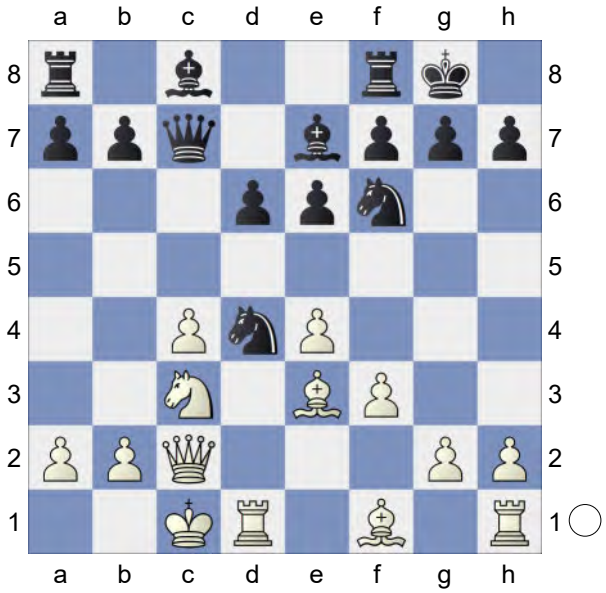
After analyzing the position for quite some time, I concluded that this move is White's most promising attempt to pose Black some problems. With this move, White maintains the potential pin on the d-file. The good thing about this move is that it forces Black to play very accurately and find some amazing resources in order not to be worse. In the game between Wesley and MVL, 12.Qd2 was played, but I am not sure how good it is to eliminate the potential pin on the d-file. Black can now play 12...dxc4 13.Bxc4 Nfd5 and due to the decent control over the d5 square and the non-existence of the pin on the d-file, the 2nd player is fine in this position. It is also worth mentioning that 12. Qb3 has also been played once, but I am not sure whether we want our queen on that square and prefer the text move. Re8 The most accurate move, which is very hard to explain without knowing the concrete tactical variations that can arise. Essentially, White's plan is to go for the g4-g5 push. The text move prevents this idea because of concrete tactical reasons we will demonstrate very soon. Also note that 12...a5 13. a3 Re8 would transpose to the game, but starting with 12... Re8 is more precise and sensible. *(12...Bd7* In order to understand the position better and understand why 12...Re8 is the best move in the position, let's see what happens if Black makes an alternative and very sensible move in the form of the bishop development. *13.a3* First, we start by kicking the knight on b4 - or at least attempting to do so. *a5* Black has to go for this 'fishing pole' trap as retreating the knight with 13...Nc6 allows White to take on d5 with 14.cxd5 However, in this position, in contrast to the one with the rook on e8, White has a very strong reply. *14.g4* And the threat of g5 is very strong and Black doesn't have a good reply. Note that we don't want to take on b4 as after something like 14.axb4 axb4 15.Nb1 dxc4 Black has a decisive advantage due to the weakness of the white king. *Bxg4* This now doesn't work as there is no rook on e8. *15.fxg4 Nxg4 16.Qg3 Nxe3 17.Rg1* But not 17.Qxe3 Bg5 , of course. Now, White is completely winning as there is no rook on e8, as CCStartFENCCr2q1rk1/1p2bppp/8/p2p4/1nPN4/P1N1n1Q1/1P5P/2KR1BR1 b - - 1 17 CCEndFENCC 17...Bf6 is impossible due to 18. Qxe3 Also CCStartFENCCr2q1rk1/1p2bppp/8/p2p4/1nPN4/P1N1n1Q1/1P5P/2KR1BR1 b - - 1 17 CCEndFENCC 17...Bg5 18.Qxg5 Qxg5 19.Rxg5 Nxd1 20.Nxd1 leads to a position where White has a decisive material advantage. 4E) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6*)* 13.a3 Just like in the 12...Bd7 line, we start by kicking the knight. a5 Once again, this fishing pole trap is mandatory. 14.cxd5 Unfortunately, this move is mandatory here. The desirable 14.g4 runs into 14... Bxg4 here, as after 15.fxg4 Nxg4 16.Qg3 Black has 16...Nxe3 17.

Rg1 Bf6! and now we finally see the point of having the rook on e8 - the knight on e3 is protected and Black is completely winning. Also, note that we once again don't want to have anything to do with 14. axb4 axb4 Nbxd5 The most logical and natural move, finally removing the hanging knight, is way superior to 14...Nfxd5 as then after 15.Nc2 White can stir up some trouble. 15.Nc2 Trying to exploit the pin on the d-file. Now Black has to find a very precise sequence in order to maintain the balance. Bf5 Absolutely the only move to obtain the equality. Black doesn't defend the knight but actually creates a hidden tactical threat against the knight on c2. *(15...Be6* Trying to defend the knight is not so good as now White can develop the light-squared bishop. *16.Bc4* A very annoying move for Black, increasing the pressure on the d5 knight. *Rc8* The natural rook move is not particularly good due to the following nice sacrifice. *17.Bxd5 Nxd5 18.Rxd5* Of course! *Bxd5 19.Rd1* And now Black's best bet is to return the exchange. *Rxc3 20.bxc3* But even here, the troubles are not over. c4 is threatened, and if 20...b5 21.Bc5 is very annoying. The pin on the d-file is not easy to deal with, and White has a clear advantage, despite the weakened kingside pawn structure. Concrete play sometimes trumps general considerations. 4E) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6*)* 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.Bc4 Now it seems that White will win the piece on d5, but Black has an amazing tactical resource. Rc8 An amazing move. Black just gives up the piece, but obtains sufficient counterplay due to the pressure on the c2 knight. 18.Rxd5 Rxc4 But not 18...Qxd5 19.Bxd5 Rxc2 20.Qxc2 Bxc2 21. Kxc2 when White is up a piece. 19.Rxd8 Rxd8 20.Re1 And Black will regain the material and obtain an equal endgame after 20...Bxc2 21.Qxc2 Rxc2 22.Kxc2 when White has some academic advantage, at best, which is very difficult to convert into something tangible unless your name is Ulf Andersson. With that being said, Black does need to know/see a lot to get to this point and I would be personally very surprised if a variation like this actually appeared on the board.Conclusion: Black's setup with Nc6-e6 is not the most common choice against the Prins CC StartBracket CC especially at lower levels CC EndBracket CC, but it is not to be underestimated.If Black doesn't go for the most critical plan with d5, White obtains an easy and very pleasant game, but the simple plan of O-O, Be7, and d5 is very testing for White.The proposed line with Qc2, first employed by Wesley So, is relatively unexplored and leads to very sharp variations. Even though I believe Black is fine, I believe the analysis presented here did showcase some ideas and themes that allow you to pose some practical problems to your opponents. 4E) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6,6]

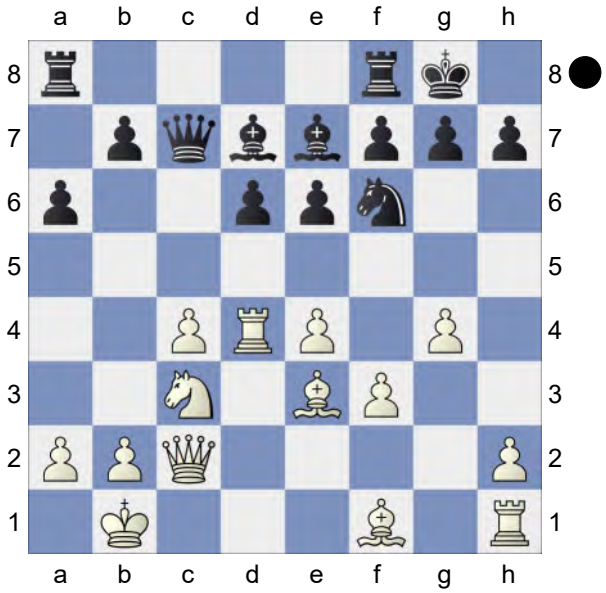
[9...Bd7 Apart from the move 9...d5 , some other alternatives have been played. This natural developing move should be considered, as Black is anticipating White castling long and makes a claim Bd7, preparing quick a6-b5 counterplay, is a better idea than going for the d5 push. However, Black also keeps the d5 push in the reserve in case we switch gears and decide to go for the kingside castling. 10.Nxc6 After some analysis, I concluded that this move - which is somewhat standard in a number of Maroczy structures CC StartBracket CC e.g. it is recommended in numerous positions in Wesley So's 1.e4 course in the Moscow variation CCEndBracketCC - is the best way to threat the position. White can also go for 10. O-O-O, but I wasn't 100% sure about the resulting position and wanted something more stable. On the other hand, I couldn't make 10.Be2 Rc8 work because, with the queen on c2 the counterplay with Ne5 is somewhat annoying as the c4 pawn is a bit tricky to defend and 11.Qd2 d5!? is also not something we necessarily want. So, what is the point of this capture? Well, usually Black refrains from making it in similar Sicilian structures, but in this particular position, the argument is that the recapture with the b-pawn is not as strong for Black as the d5 break, which is a logical follow-up, is not as strong here - mainly due to the fact that White has vacated the d1 square for the rook and also due to the fact that d5 can be met with e5 in some positions. bxc6 10...Bxc6 is less flexible and leaves White with the choice between 11.O-O-O and more positional 11.Bd3 11.Bd3 Lining up the bishop toward the h7 pawn. This is also where the position of the queen on c2 comes in handy. Qc7 Preparing the d5 push. The immediate 11....d5 12.e5 is not desirable. 12.0-0 Finally finishing the development and bracing for the d5 push. d5 Thematic in positions where Black has the pawns on e6 and c6, but with the Maroczy structure, White can saddle Black with the isolated pawn. 13.cxd5 Ignoring the demonstration with something like 13. Rad1 is also possible, but I find the text move a bit simpler. cxd5 14.exd5 Bd6 A nice tempo move, attacking the h2 pawn and improving the bishop somewhat. 15.h3 exd5 16.Rad1 And even though Black achieved everything they wanted, they are still left with a position with an isolated pawn, which can be easily blockaded with a move like Bd4 and then potentially Qf2, if needed. It is true that our dark squares on the kingside are somewhat weak and that Black's dynamic chances shouldn't be underestimated, but I do believe our opponent's isolated pawn provides us with a very pleasant game.If you are seeking something sharper/different, I recommend you look up some alternatives on move 10 in this line. 4E) The Prins Sicilian: 5...N-5... Nc6, 6]

10.0-0-0 Here, we continue with our plan as Qc7 doesn't reinforce the a6-b5 plan, in the same way, the move Bd7 does. In the game between Wesley So and Li Chao, played online in 2020, Wesley went for 10.Nxc6 , but after 10...bxc6

11.Bd3 d5 the thematic advance was achieved without any problems, as the queen on c7 now controls the e5 square. **10...Nxd4**



Exchanging the knight on d4 does clear the d7-b5 diagonal and helps prepare the b5 pawn push, but it is not so easy to achieve this push nevertheless. **11.Rxd4** The right recapture! There is no downside to placing the rook in the center and it is important to keep the d6 pawn under fire, as we will soon see. **11...Bd7 12.Kb1 a6 13.g4**

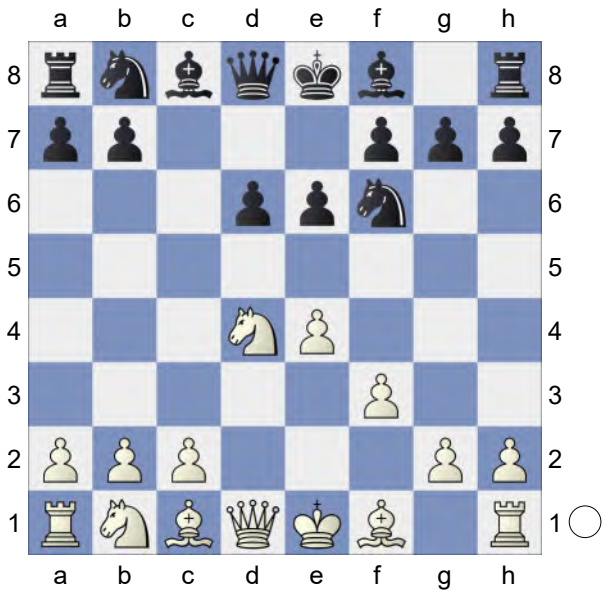


And White's play on the kingside is once again faster than Black's counterplay on the queenside. It is important to note that the advance of the b-pawn with 13... b5 doesn't work as White can simply take it: 14.cxb5 axb5 15.Bxb5 Bxb5 16.Nxb5 Qxc2 17.Kxc2 Rxa2 and now we have 18.Nxd6 because we put the rook on d4 back on move 11. White is a pawn-up, although the conversion task is far from easy at this point.

184 **A31**
□ **Kasparov,Sergey**
■ **Mrdja,Milan**
66 Padwa 2012
[Sergey Kasparov]

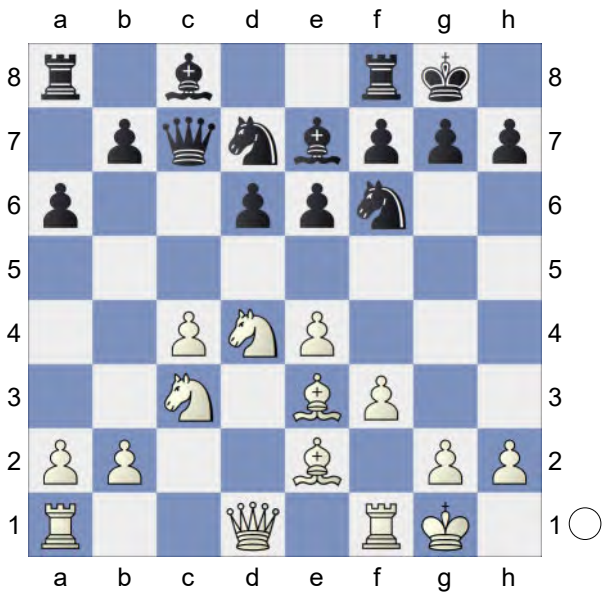
A31: Symmetrical English: 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 d4

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e6

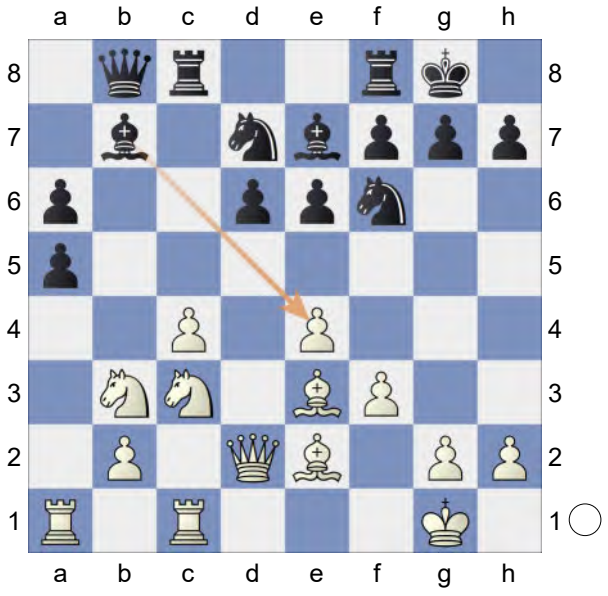


6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Nbd7

(Diagram)



11.Qd2 b6 12.Rfc1 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8
[Now the idea of 13...Ne5 doesn't work. Black would like to go 14.a5 bxa5 *(*not *14...Nxc4? 15.Bxc4 Qxc4 16.Nd5* with a huge advantage*)* 15.Nb3 Nc6? , but because of the rook on c1 16.Nd5! works. After exd5 17.cxd5 Black is in poor state.]
14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8

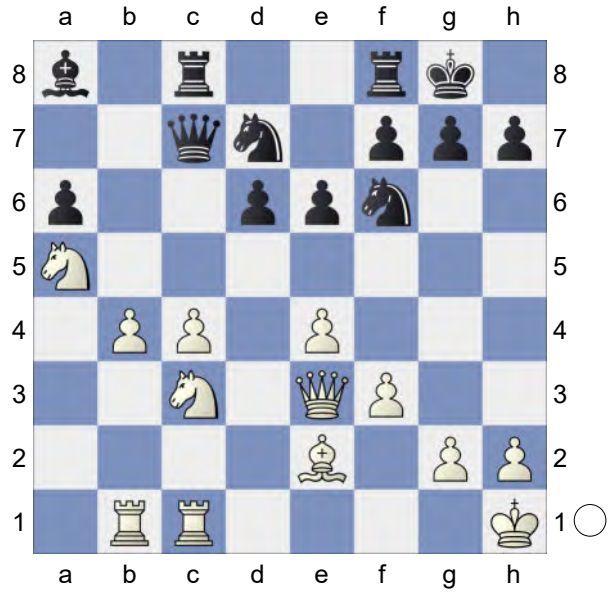


16.Nxa5 Ba8 White is slightly better.
17.b4 Bd8N 1.31/20
[The Croatian master avoids 17...Qxb4?? 3.60/19 17...d5 0.30 18.Rcb1 and wants to trade the dark-squared bishops, but in this particular situation it isn't a great idea.]
[17...Qxb4? 18.Rcb1 d5 19.Rxb4+-]
[Black should try 17...d5!± 0.36/20 18.cxd5 *(18.c5 dxe4 19.Nxe4 Nxe4 20.Qxd7 Bg5 21.Bxg5 Nxg5 22.Qd2 Qe5 23.Nc4 Qf6 24.h4 Nh3+ 25.gxh3 Qxh4 26.Kg2 f5 27.Rxa6 Rf6 28.Ne5 Rh6 29.Qd6 Qg5+ 30.Kf2 Qxc1 31.Qd7 Rf8 32.Ra7 Qg5* 3.c3 ♗g7 4.♗g5_35004 (2125)-7.♗b3 ♘bd7 8. ♗g5 Qa5 (2371) Astrakhan 2022 CBM 72 ext [John Watson] ½-½ (43) *)* 18...exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 Nxc6 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Nxe3 26.Nxb4 Qxb4 27.Qxe3 1-0 (27) 6.♗e3 e5 7.d5_54471-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B]]
18.Kh1 0.69/20 &Bianco is more active.
[After the energetic 18.c5! Black doesn't have an adequate response; in all lines he suffers irreparable losses. dxc5 *(18...Qxb4 19.Nc4* threatens Rcb1 and is very strong *)* 19.Bxa6 nothing good can be found:
A) 19...cxb4 2.35/19 19...Rc7 1.35 20.Bxc8 bxc3 21.Qxc3 with an extra exchange. *(21.--?? -13.98/21 21.Qxc3 2.75)*;
B) 19...Rc7 20.bxc5 Nxc5 1.71/20 *(20...Rxc5±* 1.08/22 was called for. *21.Rcb1 Rxa5)* 21.Rcb1+- Qa7? 3.02/23 *(21...Qxb1+±* 0.96/20 was necessary. *22.Nxb1 Nxa6)* 22.Nc4 and White has a huge advantage.;
C) 19...Bc7 20.Bxc8 Bxh2+

21.Kh1 Rxc8 22.bxc5 and again White has a won position.]

[Better is 18.c5± 1.31/20]

18...Bb6 19.Rab1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 Qc7



Against c5 **21.Nb3** 0.54/19

[All the time a good option was the simple 21.c5 dxc5 22.Na4 Qa7 23.bxc5 .

Please pay attention to this pawn structure. The 'breakwater' g2-f3-e4 limits the bishop on a8 and the knight on f6, and Black can no longer break with ...d6-d5. The difference in the activity of pieces is significant, the pawn on a6 is weak and Black is in a difficult state. . Please pay attention to this pawn structure. The 'breakwater' g2-f3-e4 limits the bishop on a8 and the knight on f6, and Black can no longer break with ...d6-d5. The difference in the activity of pieces is significant, the pawn on a6 is weak and Black is in a difficult state.]

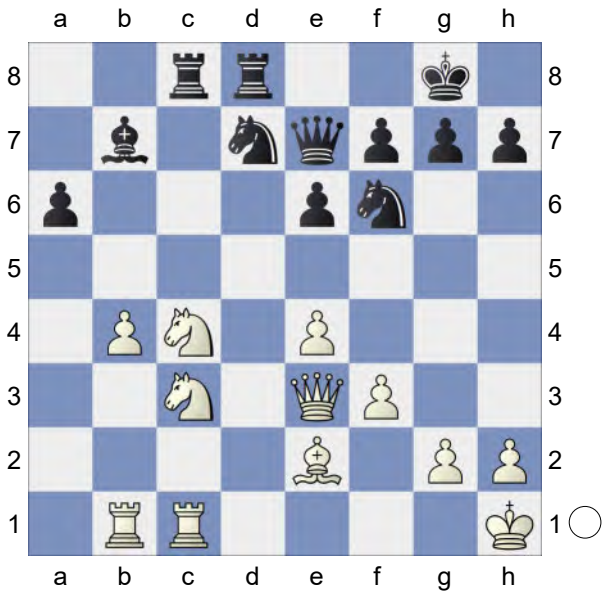
[21.Na4± 0.92/21]

21...Qb8 22.Nd2 Rfd8 0.93/20

[22...Bb7± 0.52/18]

23.c5!± Finally. **23...Bb7 24.b5?** -0.03/22 Why all these subtleties? I wish I knew.

[The simple 24.cxd6 was stronger. Following . Threatens to win with Nc4. Qxd6 25.Nc4 Qe7 1.26/21 *(25...Qb8± 0.69/21)*



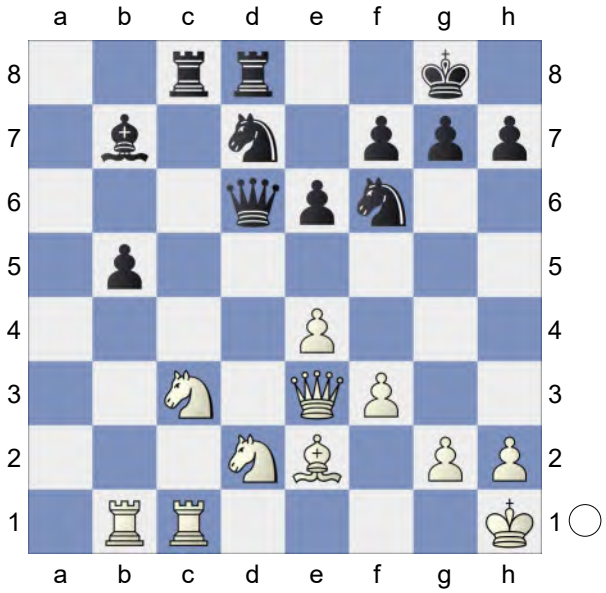
26.Na5! a favourable pawn structure for White with a weakness on a6 to target emerges.]

[White should play 24.Nb3± 0.79/21]

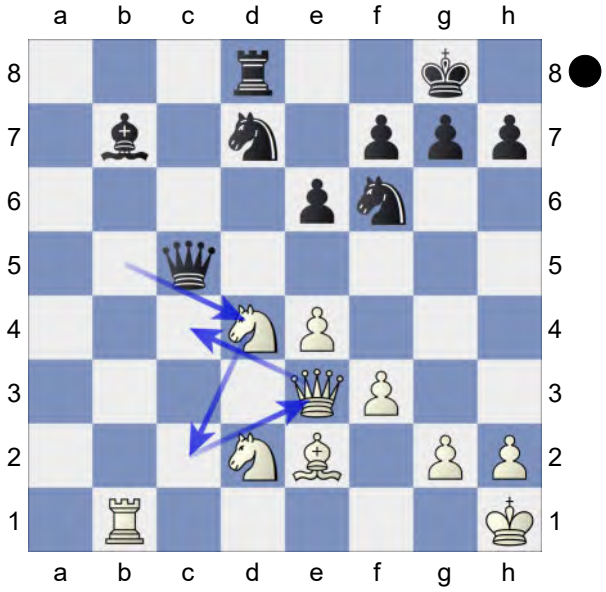
24...axb5= 25.cxd6

[25.Rxb5 is more complex. Rxc5 26.Rxc5 Nxc5 27.Nc4]

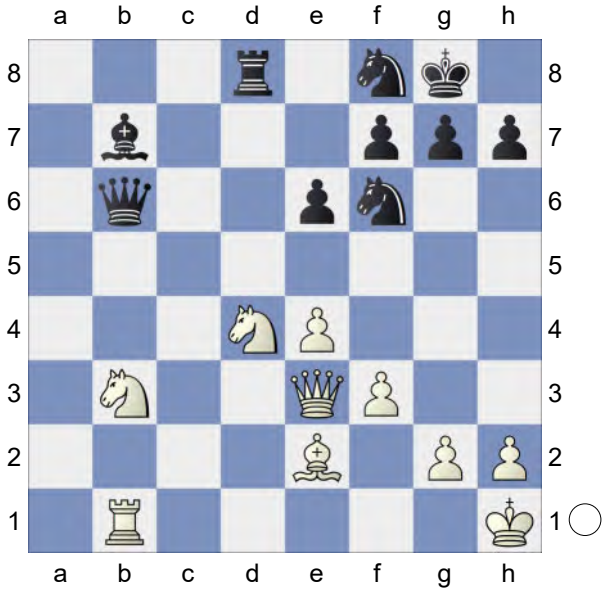
25...Qxd6



26.Nxb5 Rxc1+ 27.Rxc1 Qb4
Do you see what all the difference is about? There are no pawns left on the queenside and that pawn on a6 was White's key to success.
28.Rb1 Qc5 29.Nd4

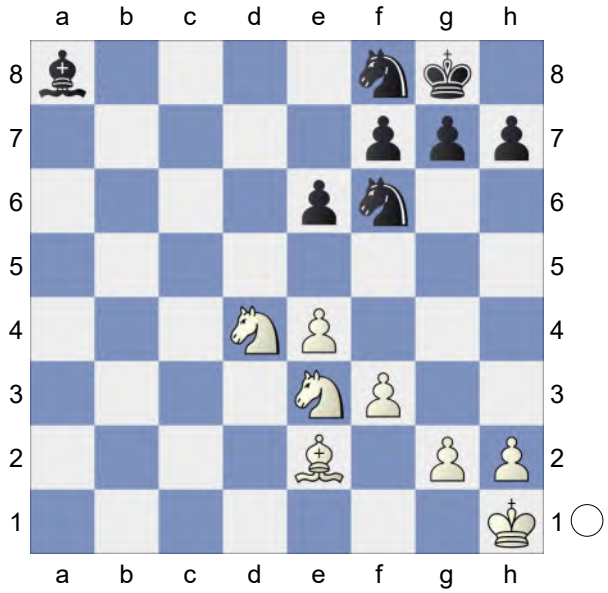


Nf8! 30.N2b3 Qb6
[30...Qe5 feels hotter. 31.Nb5 Bc6 32.Qb6 Ng4]

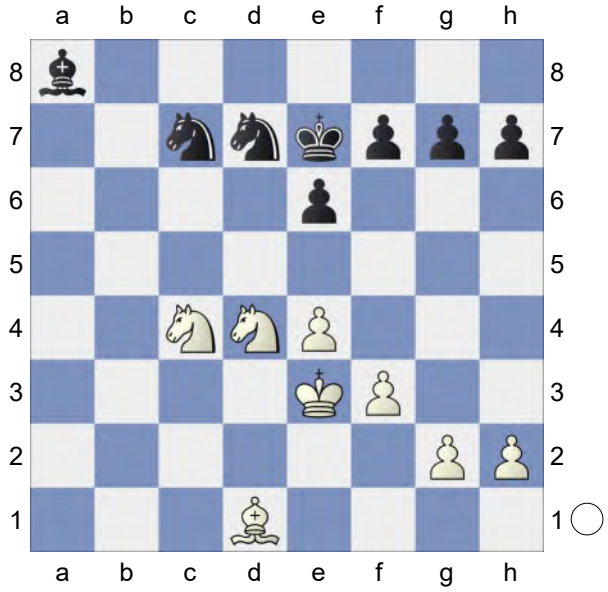


31.Nc2 Qxe3
[31...Qc7 keeps more tension. 32.Ncd4 h6 33.Nb5 Qc2]

32.Nxe3 Ra8 33.Nd4 Ba6 0.38/20
[33...Ra4= 0.07/18]
34.Ra1!± Bb7 35.Rxa8 Bxa8



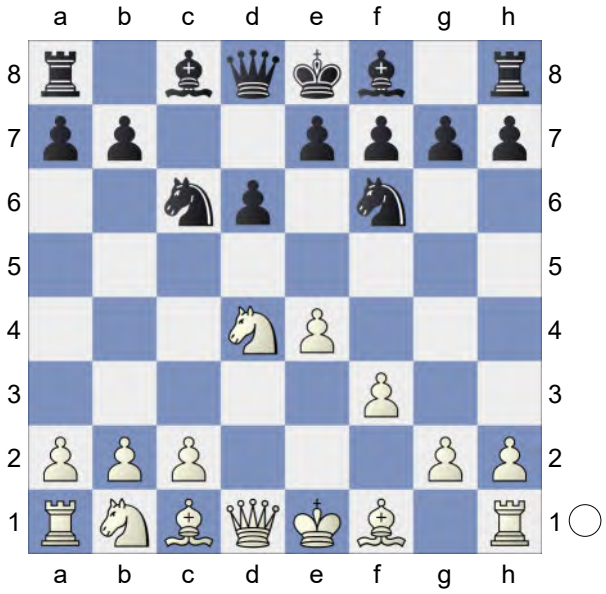
36.Nc4 N8d7 37.Kg1 Kf8 38.Kf2 Ke7 39.Ke3 Ne8 40.Bd1 Nc7



Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.13 (very precise)
½-½

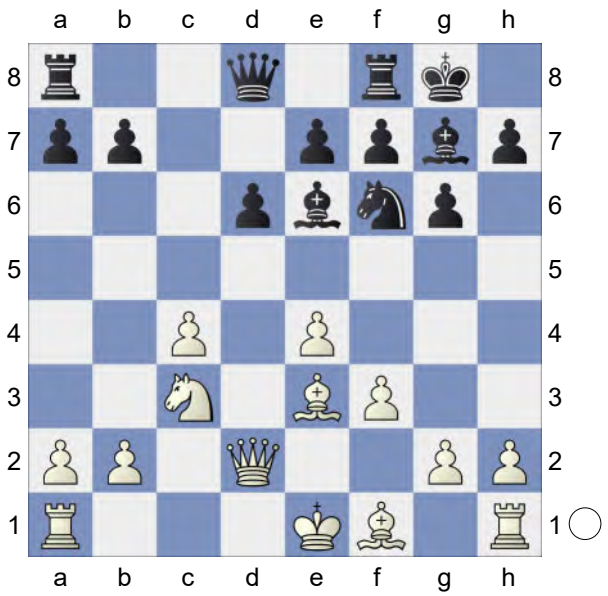
185 **B36**
□ **Amin,Bassem**
■ **Bocharov,Dmitry**
13 Abu Dhabi 2009
[Neil McDonald, MH]

B36: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind: Gurgenidze System
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



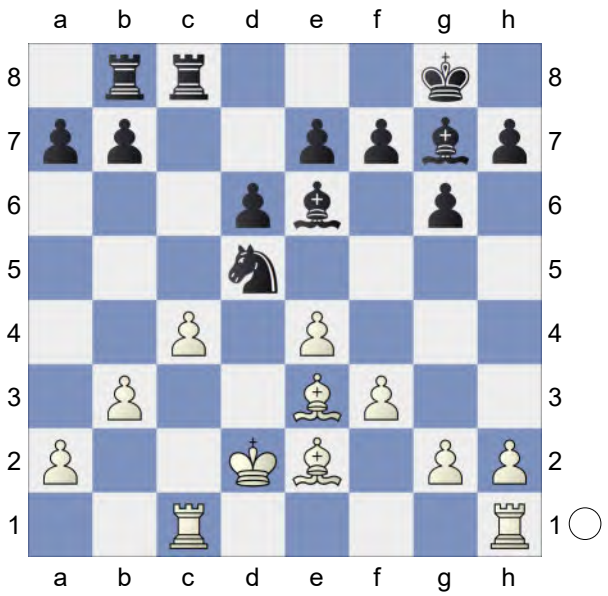
6.c4 Nxd4 Thanks to the 2...Nc6 move order Black has been able to gain space with ...d7-d5 without being obliged to play ...e7-e6. The question is whether he can profit through keeping the pawn on e7 or advancing it to e5.
7.Qxd4 g6 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.Be3 0-0 EXERCISE: Which of these options is the best idea for White: 1) Maintain the central tension with 10 Nf1.
2) Concede the centre with 10 exd5.
3) Gain space with 10 e5. **10.Qd2!** One good point of this move is discussed in the note to 12...h6 below.
10...Be6

(Diagram)

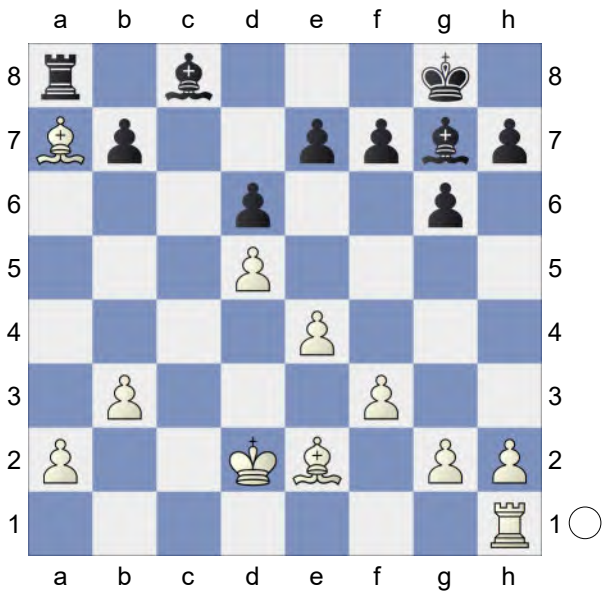


11.Rc1 Qa5 As we shall see, Bocharov is willing to concede White space with e4-e5 as he trusts he will gain counterplay along the d-file and on the queenside in general.
12.b3 Rfc8 QUESTION: What's White's best response to 12...e5, blocking the advance of White's e-pawn? **13.Be2 Rab8 14.Nd5** White threatens to trap the knight on d5 with 15 c4. **14...Qxd2+** Here we see a good point of 12...h6: it has stopped White playing 15 Bg5. **15.Kxd2** QUESTION: Why did Amin wait until this moment to play White's standard wing pawn thrust?
ANSWER: Because Black has played 14...e6, his light-squared bishop can no longer interfere with White's build-up with ...Bg4, so the h2-h4 advance is more potent.
15...Nxd5

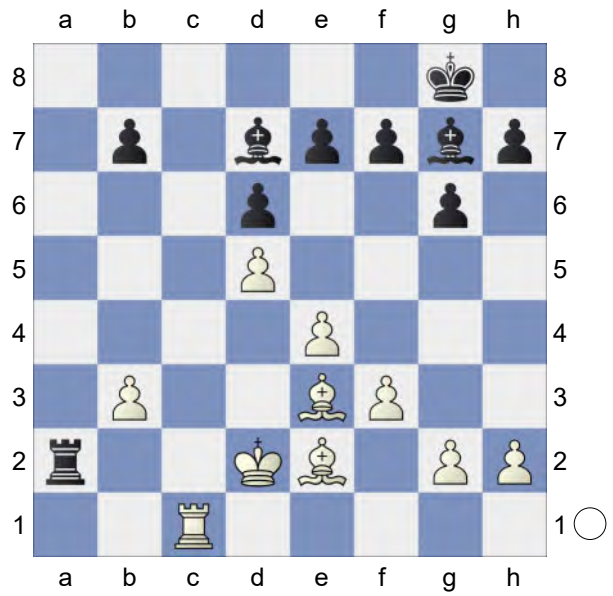
(Diagram)



Nonetheless, Black has serious-looking counterplay. White is slightly better. **16.cxd5** The knight has to return to d2 to guard the b3-square, but no matter: once the black knight have been pushed back the e4-square beckons the white horse, from which it can jump to d6 or f6.
16...Bd7 17.Bxa7 Ra8 18.Rxc8+ Bxc8



19.Rc1! aiming for a4! **19...Bd7 20.Be3** White's pawns are working hard to give him space on both wings, but the black pieces are very well organised. Prevents Bh6. Hoping for Rc7. **20...Rxa2+**



21.Kd1 And now Rc7 would win.

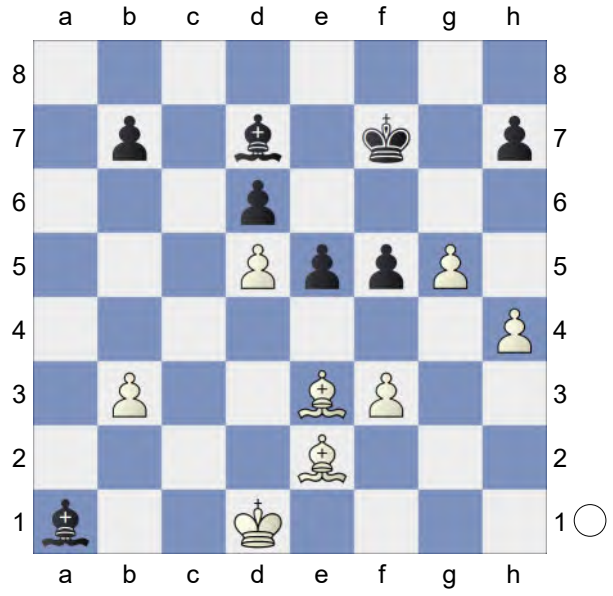
21...Ra1 22.Rxa1

[22.g4 f5 0.48/22 EXERCISE: What is the best way for White to continue his build-up?

ANSWER: *(22...Ra3=* -0.01/23 *)*

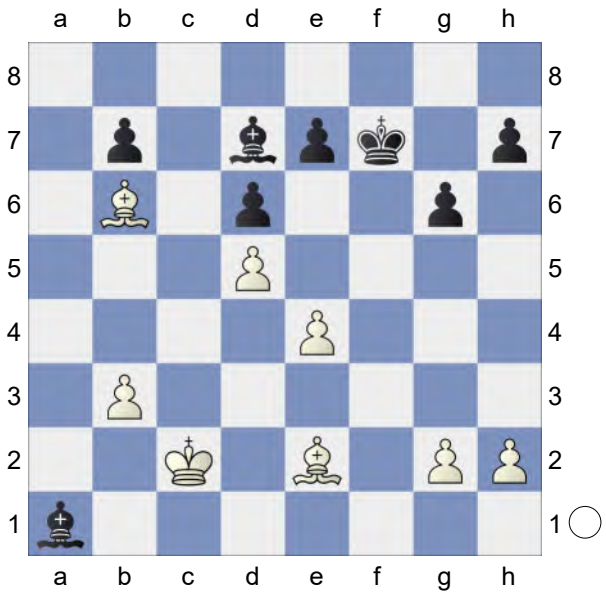
23.Rxa1!± By removing the h6-pawn White clears the way for his bishop to invade on the g5-square, after which it can combine its power with the rook to force through the passed pawn.

Bxa1 24.exf5 gxf5 25.g5 Kf7 0.82/21 *(25...Be8±* 0.37/21 *)* 26.h4± e5



27.dxe6+! Black is overwhelmed after 27...Bxe6 28.Kc2 Bd5 . or loses his queen upon 29.h5]

22...Bxa1= Endgame KBB-KBB **23.Kc2 f5 24.Bb6 fxe4 25.fxe4 Kf7?**



Black's dynamism begins to fade after the exchange. White is left with the two bishops and the chance to create a passed pawn on the c-file. **26.Kd3 Be5 27.g3 Kf6 28.Ke3 h5** 0.37/19

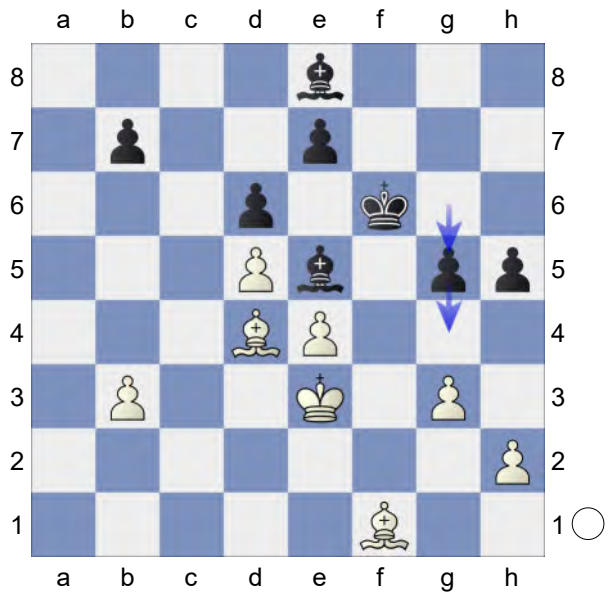
[28...h6= 0.04/21]

29.Bd4 0.01/25

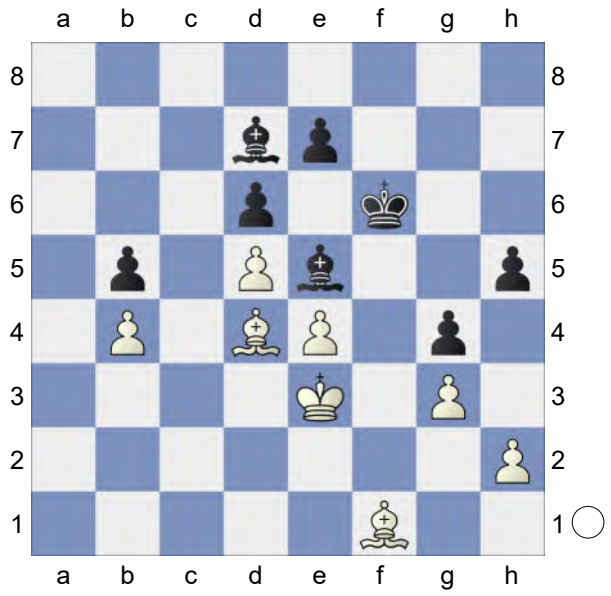
[29.Kd2± 0.37/19 should be considered.]

29...Be8 The position is equal. **30.Bf1** Not only attacking the black knight, but also intending 31 Qb7 to clear the way for the passed pawn. **30...g5**

(Diagram)



31.Bh3! A queen sacrifice is required to break the blockade. **31...g4 32.Bf1 Bd7 33.b4 b5**



Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless) . Loss on time!?

1-0

186 **B55**

□ **Prins,Lodewijk**

■ **Rossolimo,Nicolas**

Hoogovens Beverwijk 10 (2) 1948

[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

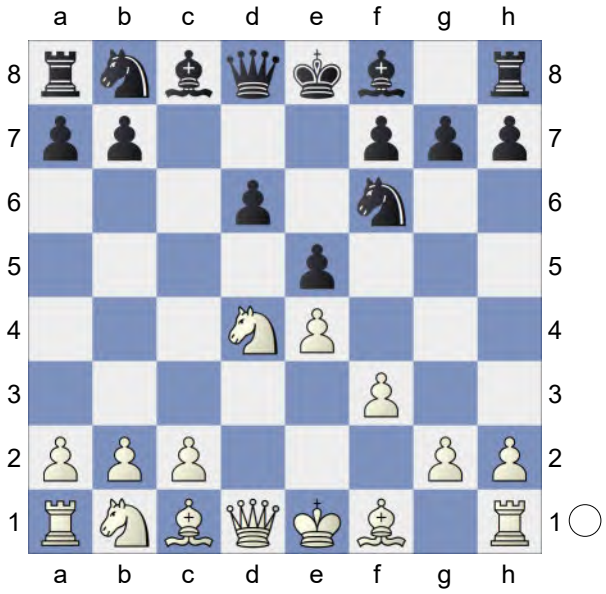
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

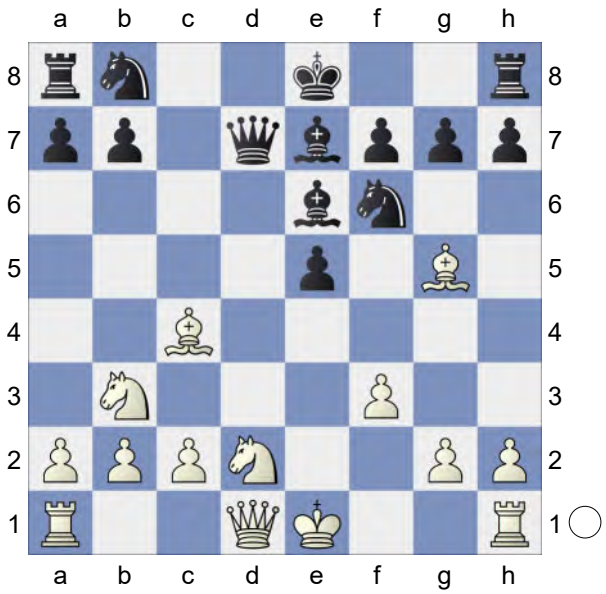
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060

[Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.exd5 Qxd5 9.N1d2 Be7 10.Bc4 Qd7



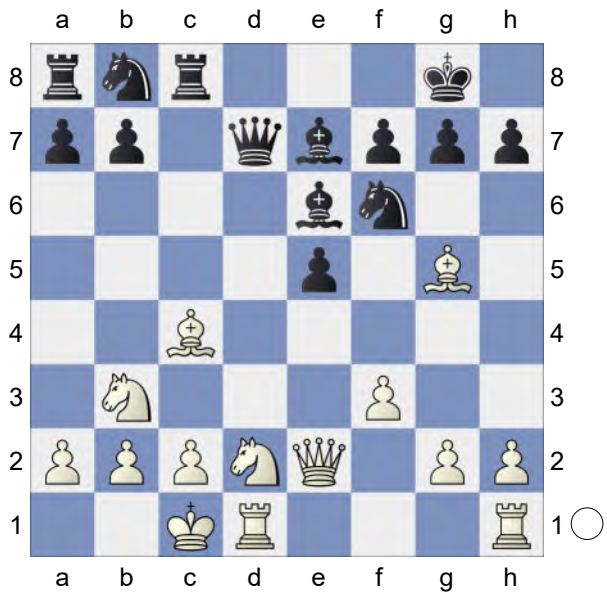
11.Qe2 The position is equal. **11...0-0 12.0-0-0**

[12.Qxe5 Bxc4 13.Nxc4 Nc6∓]

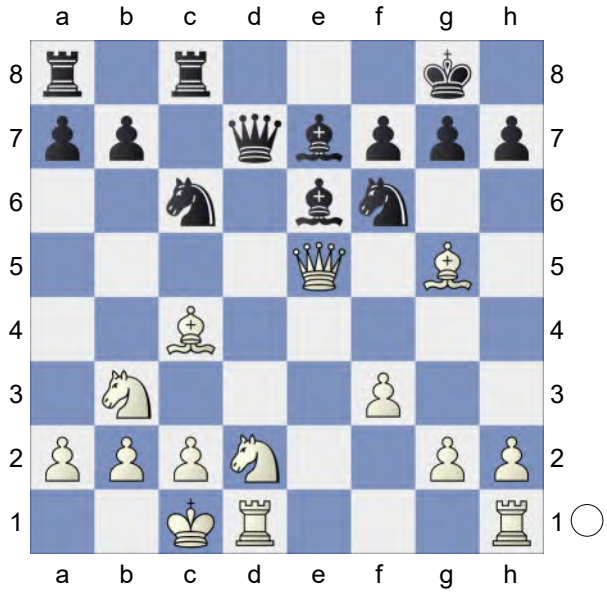
12...Rc8 0.79/19

[12...Nc6± 0.34/20 was preferrable.]

(Diagram)

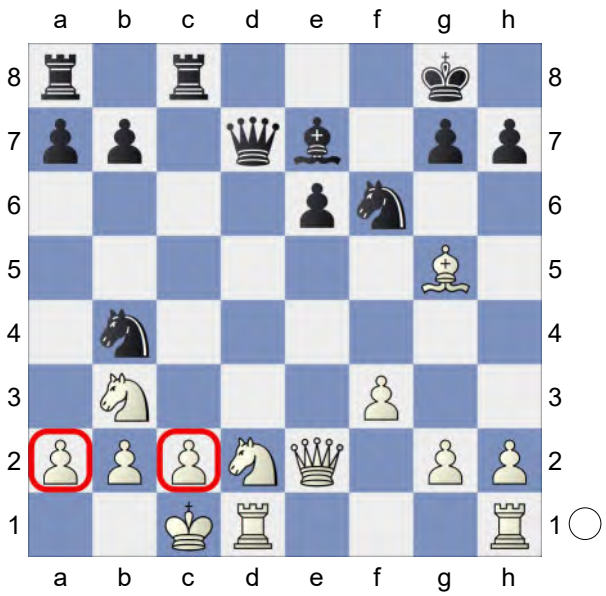


13.Qxe5!± Nc6



14.Bxe6! fxe6 15.Qe2 &Bianco is more active. **15...Nb4**

(Diagram)



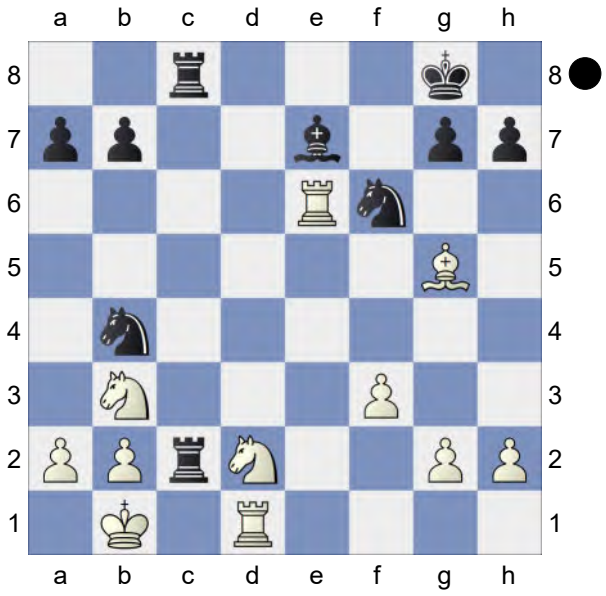
16.Kb1! Rxc2 17.Rhe1 -0.01/23

[Better is 17.a3± 1.40/23 Qd5 18.Rhe1! *(18.axb4 Qxb3 19.Nxb3 Rxe2∓)* 18...Qxg5 19.Qxe6+ Kh8 20.Qxe7]

17...Rac8=

[17...Qa4 18.a3 Nfd5 19.Qxe6+ *(19.axb4 Nc3+ 20.Kxc2 Nxe2=)* 19...Kh8 20.Rc1! *(20.Bxe7 Nc3+ 21.bxc3 Qxa3)* 20...Bxg5 21.axb4 Rxc1+ 22.Rxc1±]

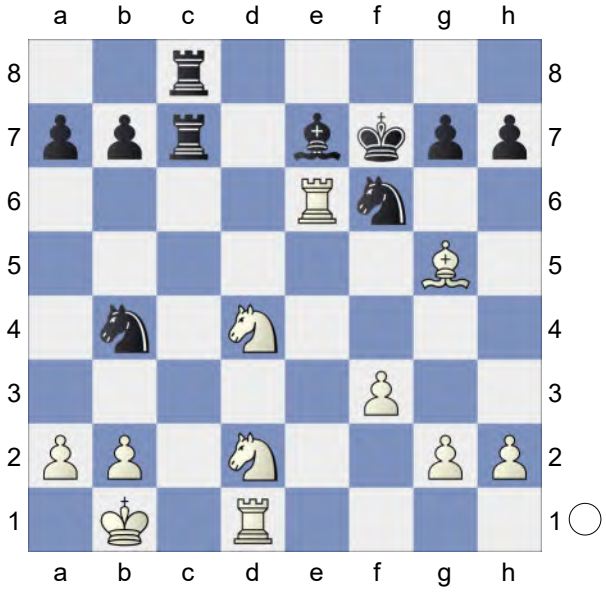
18.Qxe6+ Qxe6 19.Rxe6



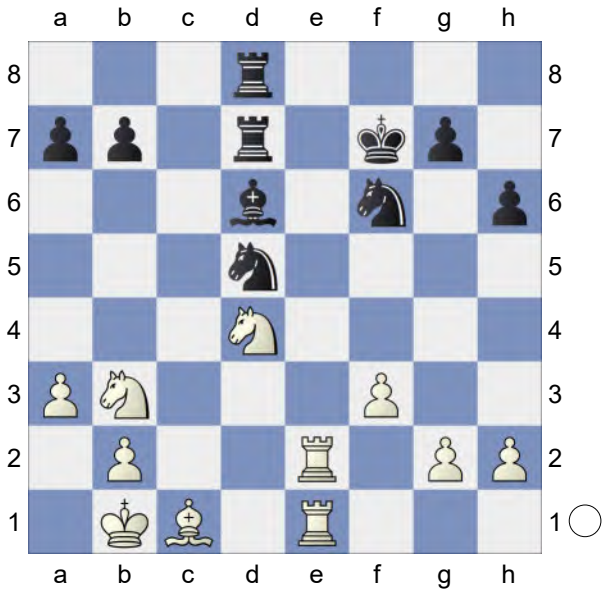
Kf7 1.04/21

[19...Nfd5!∓ -0.39/23 keeps the upper hand. 20.Nd4 *(20.Bxe7* is a self mate. *Rxb2+ 21.Kxb2 Rc2+ 22.Ka1 Rxa2+ 23.Kb1 Nc3+ 24.Kc1 Nd3#)* 20...Bxg5 21.Nxc2 Rxc2]

20.Nd4± R2c7



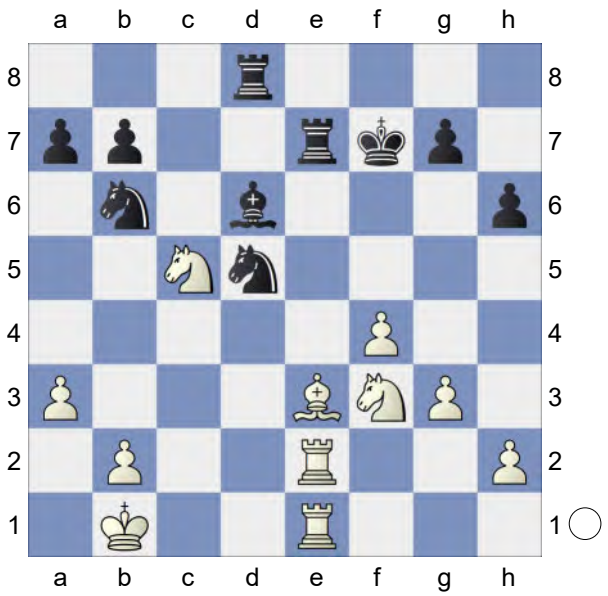
21.N2b3 Rd7 22.Re2 h6 23.Bc1 Rcd8 24.a3 Nbd5 25.Rde1 Bd6



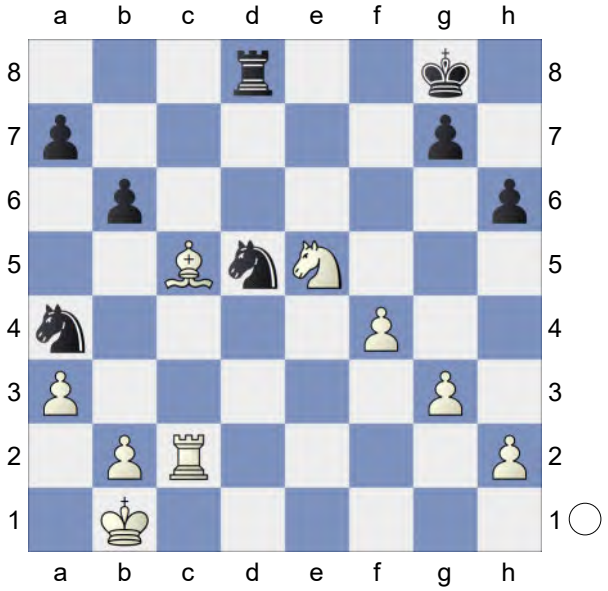
26.g3 Nb6 27.f4 Nfd5 28.Nf3 Nc7 1.71/20

[28...Kg8± 1.25/16 29.Nbd4 Re7 30.Rxe7 Bxe7]

29.Be3+- Ncd5 30.Nc5 Re7

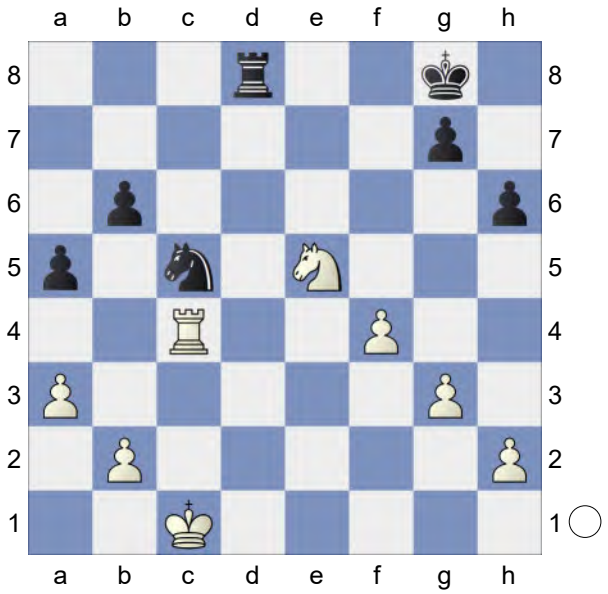


31.Bd4 Rxe2 32.Rxe2 Bxc5 33.Ne5+ Kg8 34.Bxc5 Na4 35.Rc2 b6 2.26/22
[35...Nxc5± 1.21/20 was called for. 36.Rxc5 Kf8]

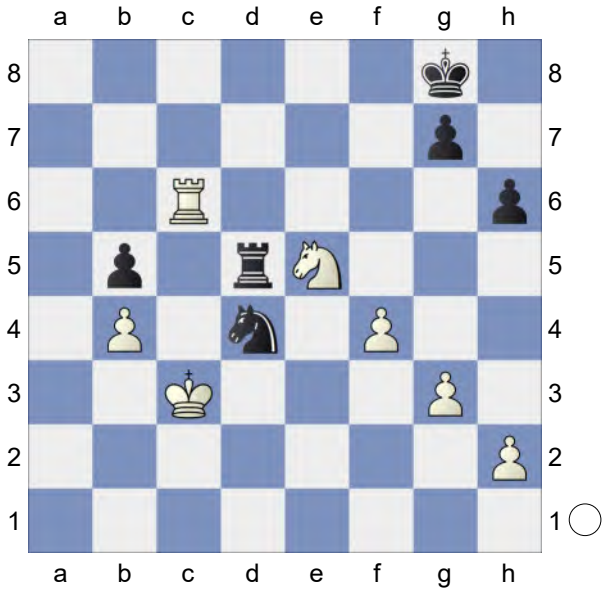


36.Bf2 Nf6 37.Kc1 Prevents Rd1+.
37...Ne4 38.Be3 a5 2.72/24
[38...Nac5± 1.45/23 39.Bxc5 Nxc5]
39.Rc4 Nec5 4.34/23
[39...Nac5 2.89/25 keeps fighting. 40.b4 axb4]
40.Bxc5? 1.67/23
[40.Kc2 4.34/23]

40...Nxc5

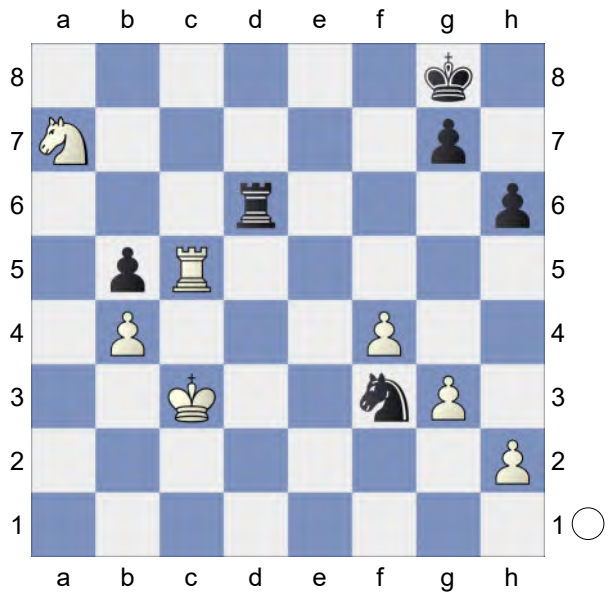


E n d g a m e K R N - K R N **41.Kc2** Inhibits Nb3. **41...Rd5** 2.69/23
[⌓41...Kh7 1.72/23 42.Kc3 Rd1]
42.b4 Ne6 43.Kc3 Against Nd4
43...axb4+ 44.axb4 Black must now prevent Rc6.
[Don't take 44.Kxb4?! b5+-]
44...b5 45.Rc6 Nd4

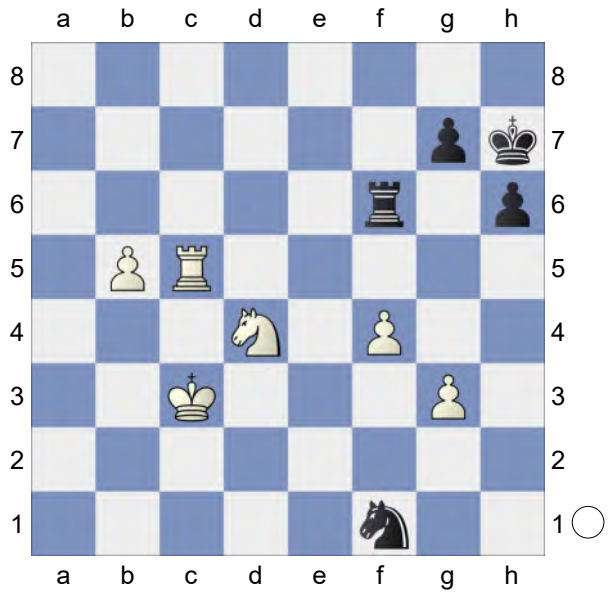


46.Rc5 Rd8 47.Nc6 Ne2+ 48.Kc2 Rd6 49.Na7 Nd4+ 50.Kc3 Nf3

(Diagram)

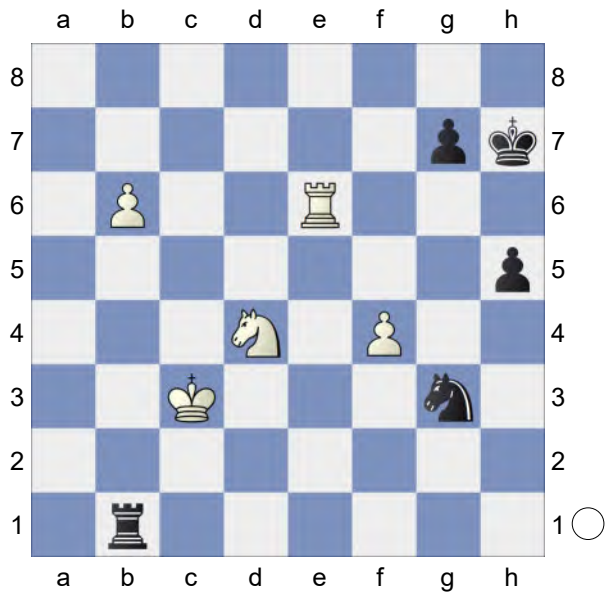


51.Nxb5 Rg6 52.Nd4 Nxh2 53.Nf5 Strongly threatening Ne7+. **53...Kh7 54.b5 Rf6 55.Nd4 Nf1**

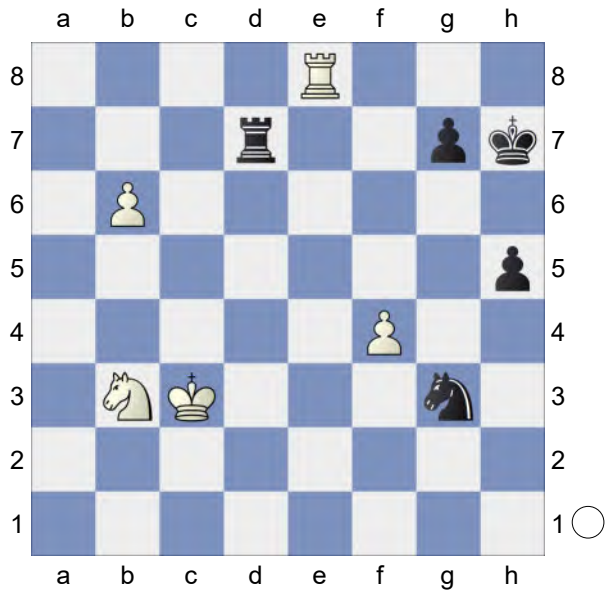


56.Ne2 Rd6 57.Rc6 Rd1 58.Re6 Rb1 59.b6 h5 60.Nd4 aiming for Nb3. **60...Nxg3**

(Diagram)

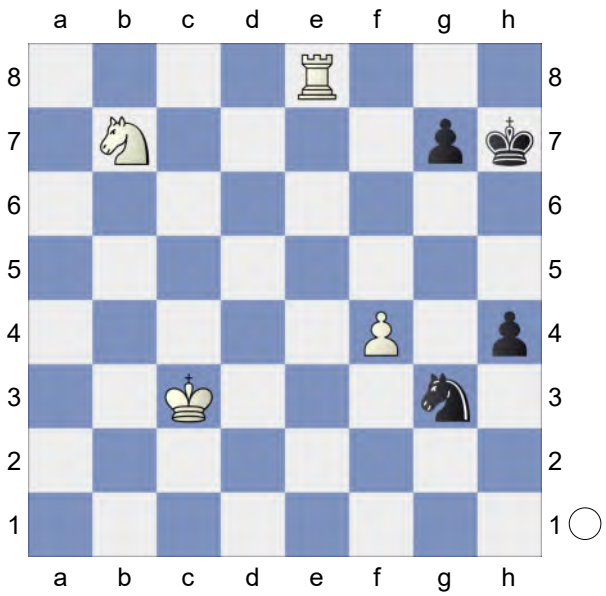


61.Nb3 b7 is the strong threat. **61...Rd1 62.Re8** Threatens to win with b7. **62...Rd7**

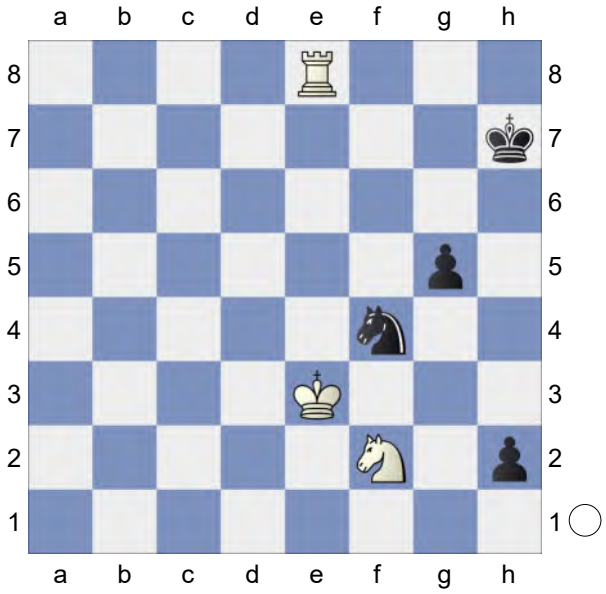


63.Nc5! Inhibits Rb7.
[Not 63.Na5 h4+-]
63...Rf7 64.b7 Rxb7 65.Nxb7 h4

(Diagram)

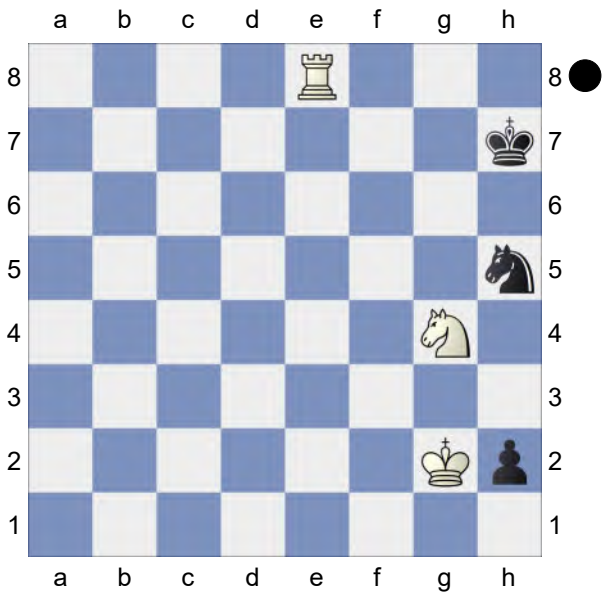


66.Nd6 h3 67.Ne4 Ne2+ 68.Kd2 h2 69.Nf2 Nxf4 70.Ke3 g5



71.Kf3 Nh5 72.Kg2 g4 73.Nxg4

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.23 (precise)
1-0

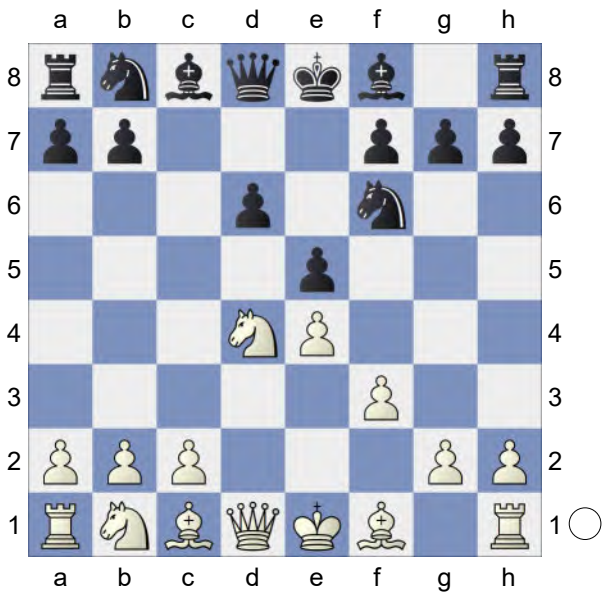
187 **B55**
□ **Naiditsch,Arkadij**
■ **Petrosian,Tigran L**
Aeroflot Open 2005
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Ne2 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3
A) 8...Qc7 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 0-0 12.Rfc1 Nbd7 13.a4 Rac8 *(13...Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 27.Nxd6 Red8 28.Ncb5* Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304

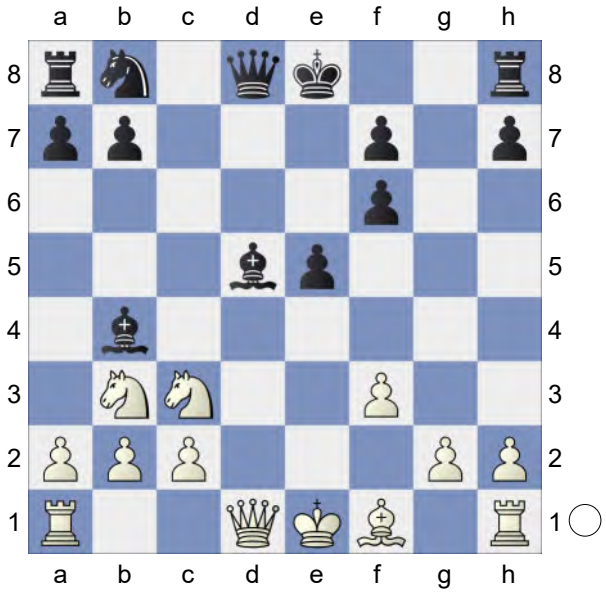
1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39)) 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.b4 d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Qf2 6.♗e3 e5 7.d5_54471-Reinsdorf,C Neum 2012 CR97-54 [Tartakower,S/Primel,D/Ullrich,B] 1-0;

B) 8...0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 12.Rfd1 *(12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13. ♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3_22709 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson] *)* 12...Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 *(16...Bc7 17.Nde2 Kh8 18.Bd4 Bc6 19.Be3 Ne5 20.b3 h6 21.Nd4 Bb7 22.Be2 Ng6 23.Qg1 Rfe8 24.Nc2 d5 25.exd5 exd5 26.Bxb6 Bf4 27.Rb1 Nh5 28.Bf1 Re5 29.Ne2 Rxe2 30.Bxe2 Qe5 31.Bd3* Chapter-Games Game 7 (40)*)* 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

(Diagram)

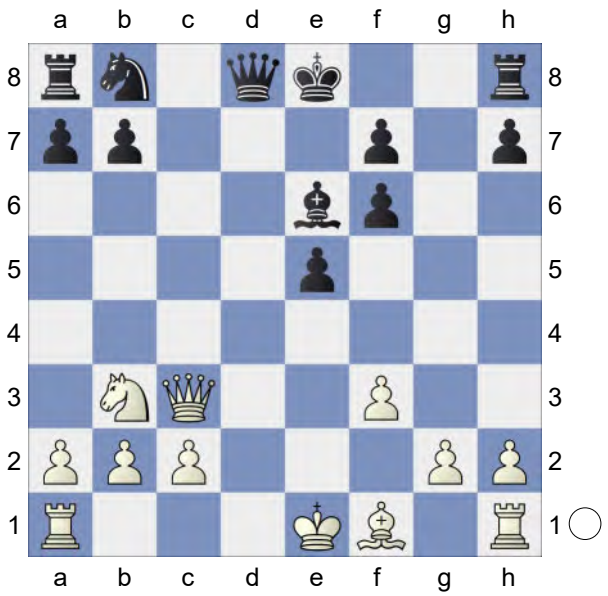


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Bxd5 10.Nc3 Bb4

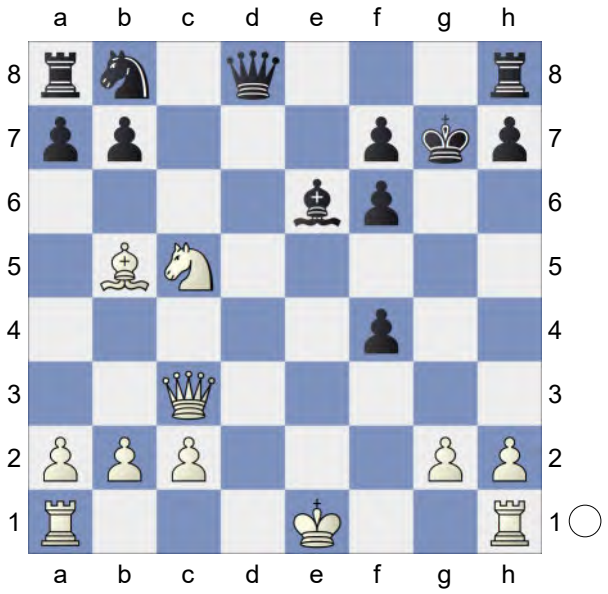


11.Qd3 Black must now prevent 0-0-0.
[11.Qd2 with more complications. Be6 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8 13.0-0-0+]
11...Bxc3+ 12.Qxc3 Be6 1.14/19
[⌓12...Bxb3 0.80/18 13.Bb5+ *(13.Qxb3 Qb6±; 13.axb3 Nc6±)* 13...Kf8 14.axb3 Kg7]

(Diagram)

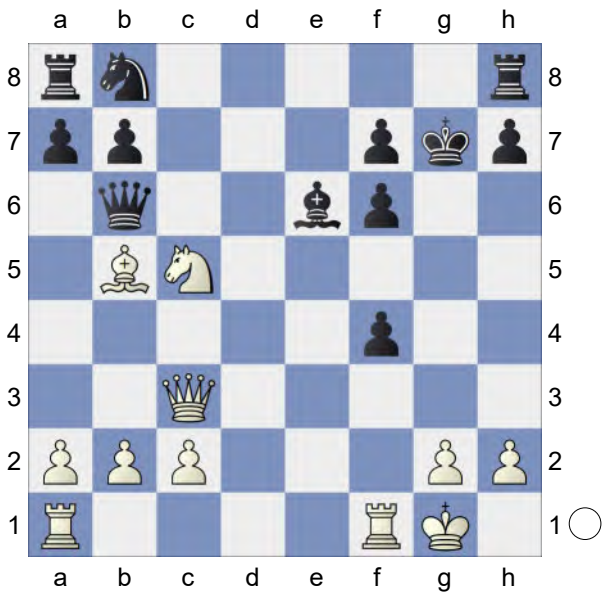


13.Bb5+!± Kf8 14.Nc5 Kg7 1.49/21
[⌓14...Bf5 1.06/20]
15.f4 &Bianco is more active.
[Avoid the trap 15.Nxb7? Qb6 16.Nc5 Qxb5-+]
15...exf4

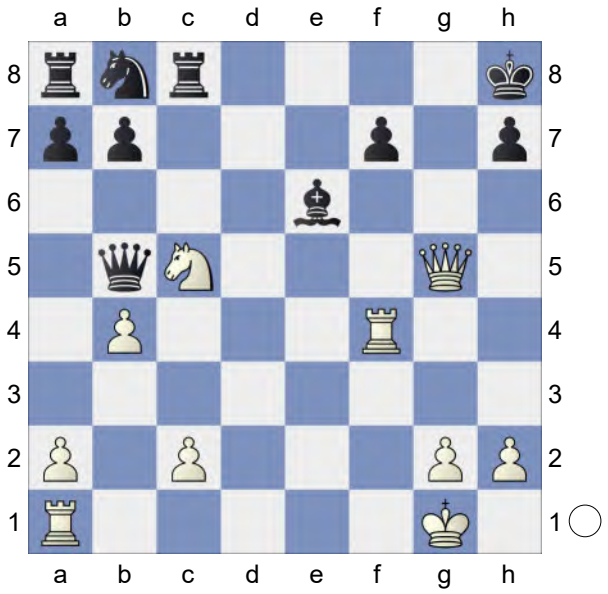


16.0-0 Qb6? 4.68/22
[16...a6± 1.26/19]

(Diagram)



17.Rxf4!+- Rc8 18.b4 Kg8 4.99/23
[18...Nd7 3.17/21 is a better defense.]
19.Qxf6 Threatens to win with Qg5+.
19...Qxb5 5.65/24
[⌓19...Qd8 3.80/22 20.Qc3 Qb6]
20.Qg5+ Kh8



21.Nxe6 2.72/24
[⌓21.Rd1 5.48/24 White wants to mate with Rd8+. Qe8 22.Nxe6 Qxe6 23.Rg4 Qxg4 24.Qxg4]
21...Qxg5 22.Nxg5 Nc6 23.Rxf7 Re8 4.97/20

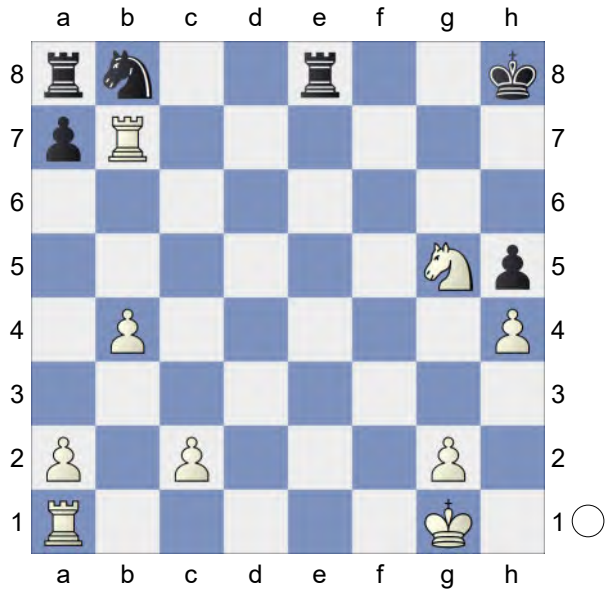
[23...Nxb4 3.43/21 keeps fighting. 24.Rxb7 Nxc2]

24.Rxb7 White is clearly winning.

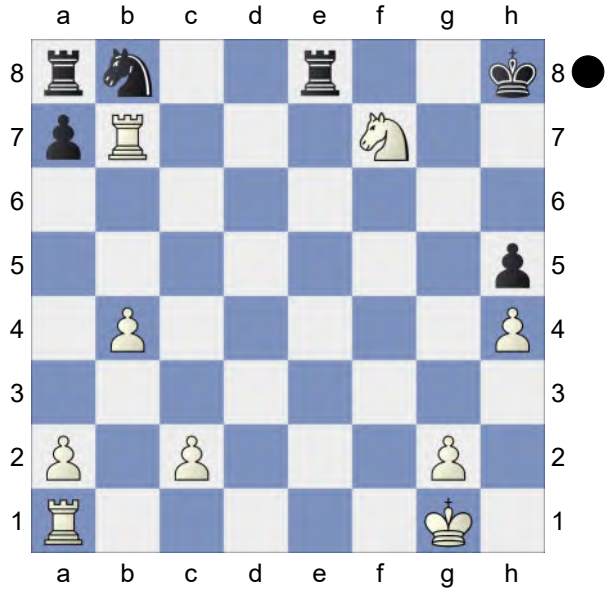
[But not 24.Rxh7+ Kg8 25.Rxb7 Rab8+-]

24...h5 25.h4 Nb8 10.56/25

[⌓25...Ne5 4.71/20 26.Rh7+ Kg8 27.Rxh5 Re7]



26.Nf7+



Black got outplayed after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.56/ Black=0.88

1-0

188 **B54**

□ **Kokarev,Dmitry**

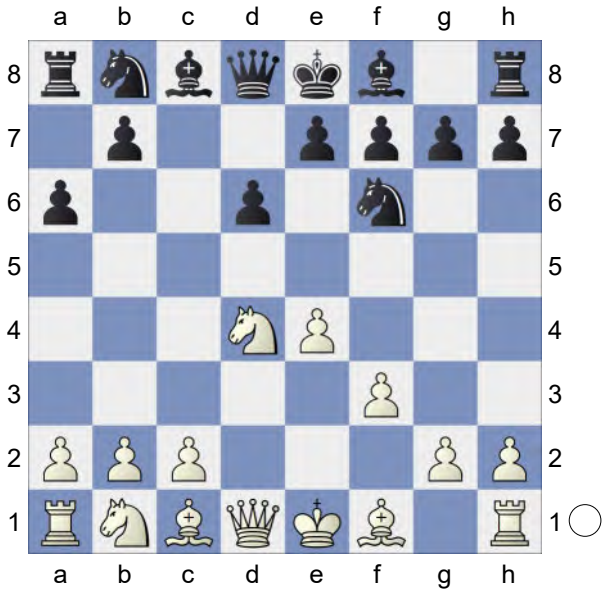
■ **Pridorozhni,A**

30. Russian Rapid Ch 2018

[Jonas Hacker]

B54: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4, Unusual Lines

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 a6



6.c4 Nc6N This move should always be considered, but when aiming for a Hedgehog set-up it is not ideal for a couple of reasons. Firstly, it makes it difficult for Black to bring fianchetto the c8-bishop because ...b7-b6 would leave the knight en prise. Secondly, an exchange of knights is more likely, which rather helps White, whose pieces are then aiming directly against the weaknesses at d6 and b6.

[6...e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7

A) 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 *(14...Nfd7 15.b3 Nxb6 16.Rfc1 Re8 17.Nc2 Ned7 18.Bf1 Bf6 19.Bd4 Bg5 20.Be3 Bf6 21.Bd4 Bg5 22.Be3 Be7 23.Bd4 h5 24.Qf2 Bh4 25.g3 Bf6 26.Rd1 d5 27.exd5 exd5 28.Nxd5 Nxd5 29.cxd5* Flores Quillas,D (2200)-Lu, M (2442) Pereira 2022 1-0 (67)*)* 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13. ♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson];

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 *(16...Bc7 17.Nde2 Kh8 18.Bd4 Bc6 19.Be3 Ne5 20.b3 h6 21.Nd4 Bb7 22.Be2 Ng6 23.Qg1 Rfe8 24.Nc2 d5 25.exd5 exd5 26.Bxb6 Bf4 27.Rb1 Nh5 28.Bf1 Re5 29.Ne2 Rxe2 30.Bxe2 Qe5 31.Bd3* Bezgodov,A (2546)-Alavkin,A (2471) Saint Petersburg 92/278 2004 CI1-130 [Bezgodov, Alexei] ½-½ (40) *)* 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Ba8 21.Rb1 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein, Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

7.Be3 e6 8.Nc3 Be7 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 Nxd4

[Instead:

a) 10...d5!? is an independent try to justify the placement of the c6-knight, but after 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.e5 Nd7 14.f4! White is slightly better with chances for a kingside attack. The game B.Firat-M.Sokac, Zadar 2014, continued Bc5 15.Bxc5 Nxc5 16.Rc1 Rb8 Strongly threatening ...d4. 17.b3 Rb4 1.43/20 *(17...d4=* 0.01/18 keeps the balance. *18.Na4 Nxa4 19.bxa4 Bf5)*

A) White should play 18.Nxd5! 1.43/20 cxd5 *(18...Qxd5 19.Qxd5)* 19.Rxc5;

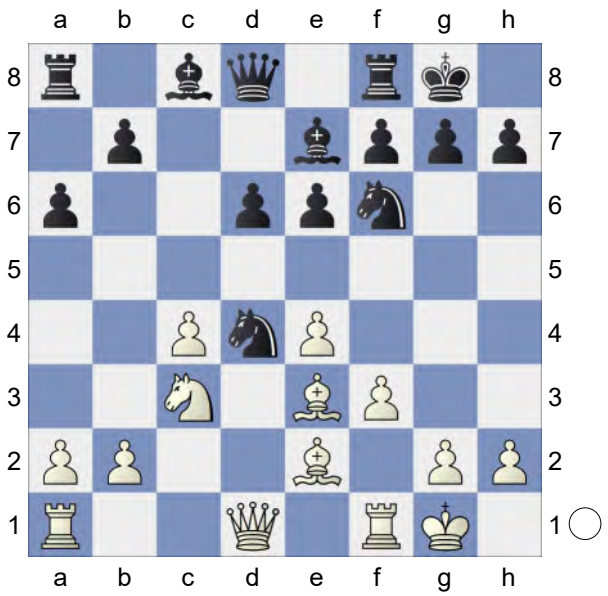
B) 18.a3 0.85/20 18...Rb8± 19.b4! Ne6 20.f5 and White indeed had a nice attack.]

[b) 10...Qc7 is another idea, trying to make 11...b6 work. However, White has a strong solution to cross Black's plans, beginning with 11.Rc1! , when b6? 2.19/18 is exactly what White wants to see; *(11...Nxd4* is the lesser evil but the position remains better for White for the same reason as in the main game*; 11...Bd7*± 0.37/17 *)*.

QUESTION: Probably Black did not even consider White's next move. Can you find the idea?

ANSWER: 12.Nd5!+- is very effective. A capture on d5 will open the c-file, when White wins the piece back with interest; i.e. exd5 *(12...Qb7* does not help since *13.Nxc6!* is untouchable and *exd5 14.cxd5* again leaves White with a huge plus*)* 13.cxd5 and White has won an important pawn while maintaining the positional pluses. Objectively Black is lost after just 13 moves. In another of the Russian grandmaster's games, White went on to win convincingly: b5 14.Nxc6 Bb7 15.Qd4! Bxc6 16.Rxc6 Qa5 17.a3 Nd7 18.b4 Qd8 19.f4 Bf6 20.Qd3 Nb8 21.Bb6 Qe7 22.Rc7 Nd7 23.Bg4 Nxb6 24.Rxe7 Bxe7 25.e5 1-0 D.Kokarev-O.Kozlitin, Russian Cup, Samara 2002.]

(Diagram)



11.Qxd4 Stronger than taking with the bishop. Now Black cannot play ...b7-b6 without further preparation, while White has an easy game since the d4-knight is no longer in the way.

11...Bd7 12.Rfd1 Qa5 White is slightly better.

[After 12...Bc6 13.b4! White has no problems expanding on the queenside.]

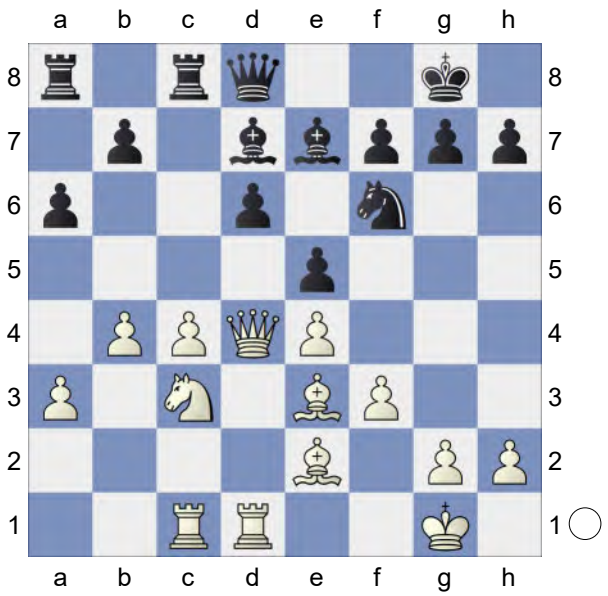
13.a3 Rfc8 14.b4 Qd8 15.Rac1 0.38/19

[15.f4± 0.81/18]

15...e5

[Here 15...b5 0.85/18 15...Be8 0.40 seems worth a try because the a3-pawn becomes vulnerable as well. For example, 16.cxb5 axb5 17.Nxb5 Bxb5 18.Bxb5 Rxa3 reduces the material on the queenside; but White keeps a slight advantage after 19.Rxc8 Qxc8 20.Rc1! Qd8 21.Bf1 , due to his now passed b-pawn.]

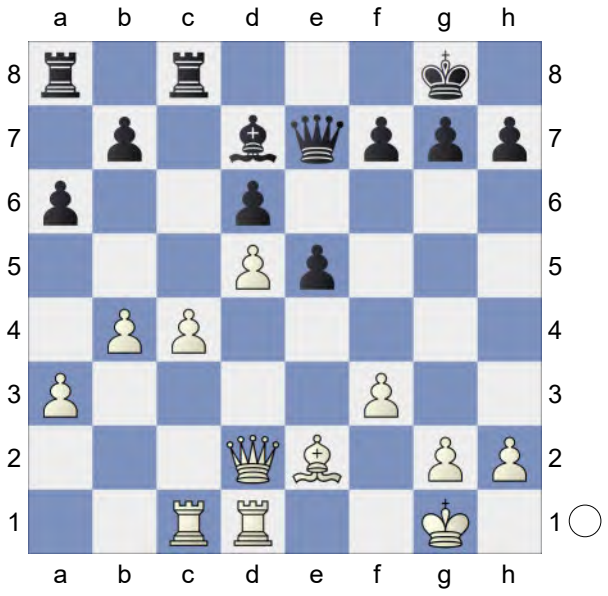
(Diagram)



16.Qd2 Qe8 17.Bg5 Be6

[Black might try 17...h6 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Qxd6 Bg5 , but the dark-square control should not be enough for the missing pawn.]

18.Nd5 Nxd5 19.exd5 Bd7 20.Bxe7 Qxe7



21.c5! a5

[21...dxc5 1.51/20 21...Ba4 0.73 22.bxc5! gives White dangerous connected pawns, since Rxc5? 7.05/20 is impossible due to *(⌓22...Re8 1.69/17 23.d6 Qf6)*

23.d6 and White wins material.]

22.c6 bxc6 23.dxc6 Bxc6 1.50/23

[⌓23...Rxc6 1.09/24 24.Rxc6 *(24.bxa5 Rxc1 25.Rxc1 Be6±)* 24...Bxc6]

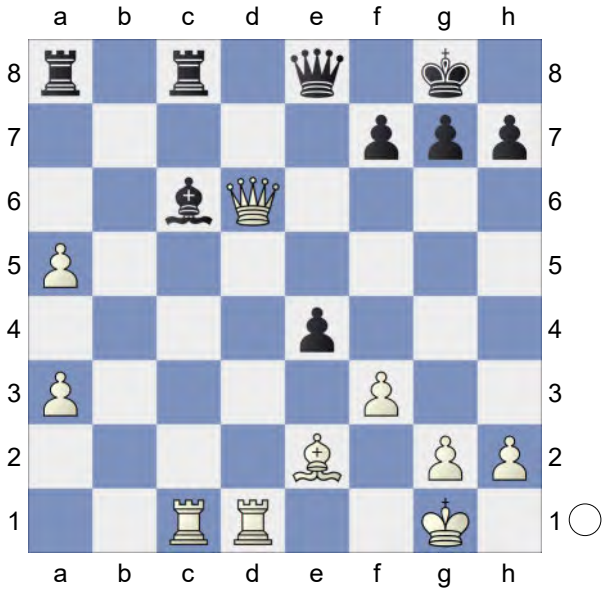
24.Qxd6± Qe8

[After 24...Qxd6 1.72/19 24...Qe8 1.29 25.Rxd6 Bb7 2.60/22 *(*while the tactical solution *25...axb4!? 26.Rdxc6 Rxc6 27.Rxc6 bxa3* fails to. ...a2 is the strong threat. *28.Bc4! g6 29.Ba2* and White is in control of everything*; 25...axb4* 1.70/25 is a better defense. *26.Rdxc6 Rxc6 27.Rxc6 bxa3)* 26.Rxc8++- Rxc8 27.bxa5 the white a-pawns are too strong.]

25.bxa5 &Bianco is much more active.

25...e4

[There was no time for 25...Rxa5? 5.31/20 25...g6 1.67 because of 26.Rxc6! Rxc6 27.Qxc6 and White wins.]



26.fxe4 g6 2.71/21

[And here 26...Qxe4 fails to 27.Rxc6 Rxc6? 3.68/24 *(*or *27...Qxc6 28.Qxc6 Rxc6 29.Bf3; 27...Qxc6* 1.64/28 *28.Qxc6 Rxc6)* 28.Qd8+!+- Qe8 29.Qxe8+ Rxe8 30.Bb5 , picking up one of the rooks.

Black's back rank has been too weak in all these tactics; unfortunately, fixing the problem gives White time to consolidate.]

[Weaker is 26...Qxe4 27.Rxc6 Qxc6 28.Qxc6 Rxc6 29.Bf3±]

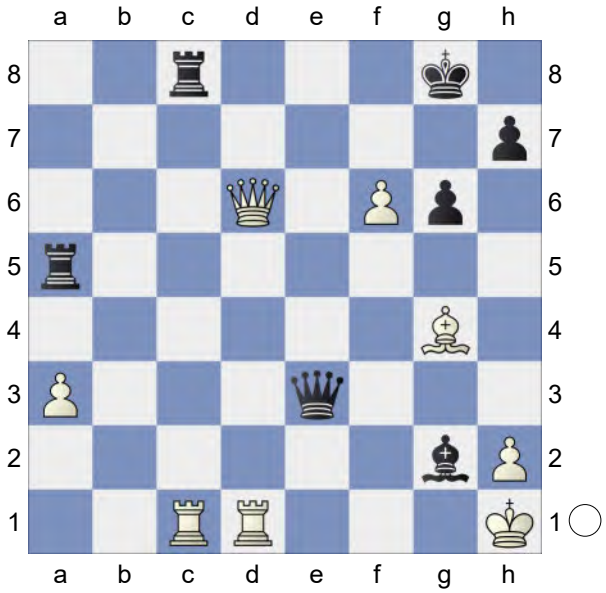
[⌓26...h5 1.85/23 27.Bxh5 Qxe4]

27.e5+- aiming for Bg4. **27...Rxa5?** 6.58/23

[27...Ba4 2.40/20]

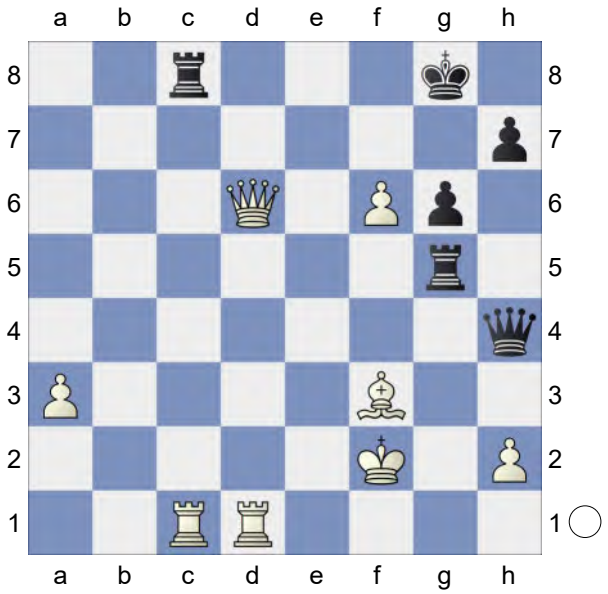
28.Bg4 Now it's all over. The rest is just a desperate try by Black.

28...f5 29.exf6! Qe3+ 30.Kh1 Bxg2+



31.Kxg2 Qe4+ 32.Bf3 Rg5+ 33.Kf2 Qh4+

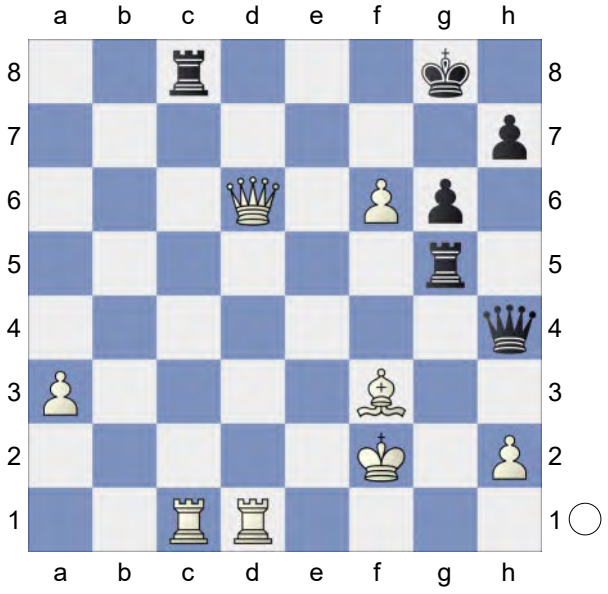
(Diagram)



34.Kf1? -0.01/17

[White must play 34.Qg3!!+- 9.86/24 Qxg3+ 35.hxg3 Rxc1 36.Rxc1]

34...Qh3+= 35.Kf2 Threatening mate with Rc7. **35...Qh4+**



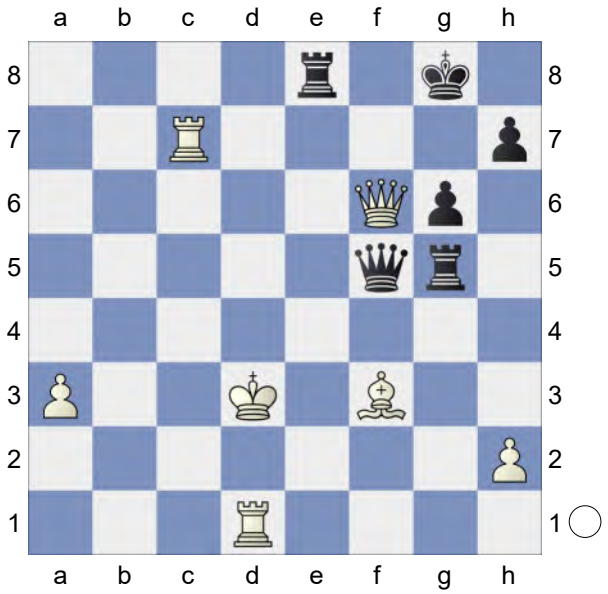
This move loses the game for Black.

36.Ke2 4.65/21

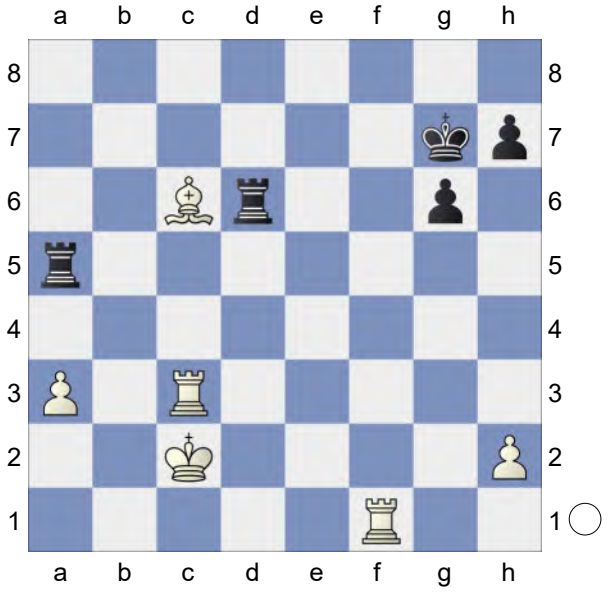
[36.Qg3! would have won nicely and instantly.]

[⌓36.Qg3!! 9.78/26 Qxg3+ 37.hxg3 Rxc1 38.Rxc1]

36...Re8++- 37.Kd3 Intending f7+! and mate. **37...Qh3 38.f7+ Kxf7 39.Rc7+ Kg8 40.Qf6 Qf5+**

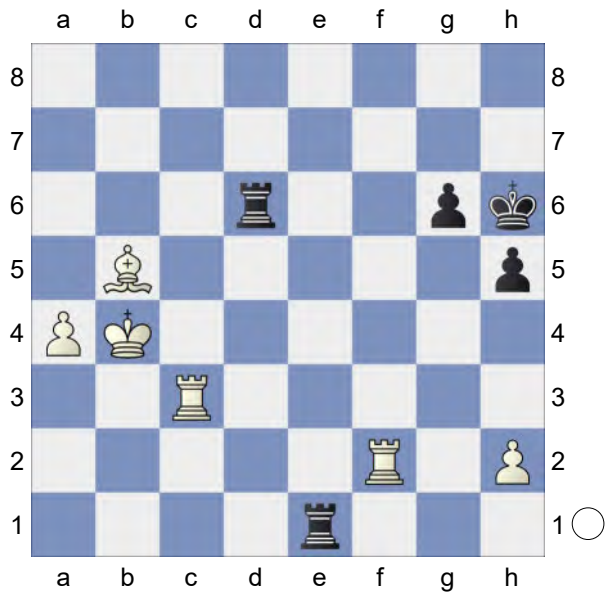


41.Qxf5 Rxf5 42.Rf1 Ra5 43.Rc3 Kg7 44.Bc6 Rd8+ White is clearly winning. **45.Kc2 Rd6**

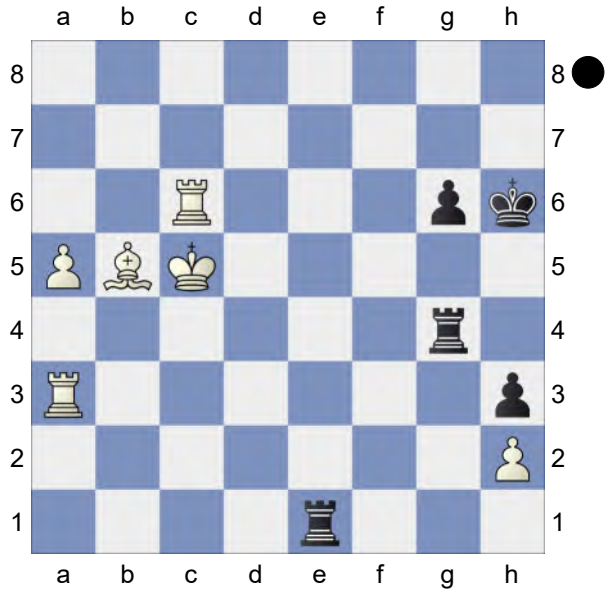


46.a4 Rh5 47.Rf2 Re5 48.Bb5 h5 49.Kb3 Kh6 50.Kb4 Re1

(Diagram)



51.Rc6 Rd4+ 52.Kc5 Rg4 53.Ra2 h4 54.a5 h3 55.Ra3



Weighted Error Value: White=0.57/ Black=0.36

1-0

189 **B55**

□ **Danin,Alexandre**

■ **Volokitin,Andrei**

17. Austrian League 2017

[Jonas Hacker]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

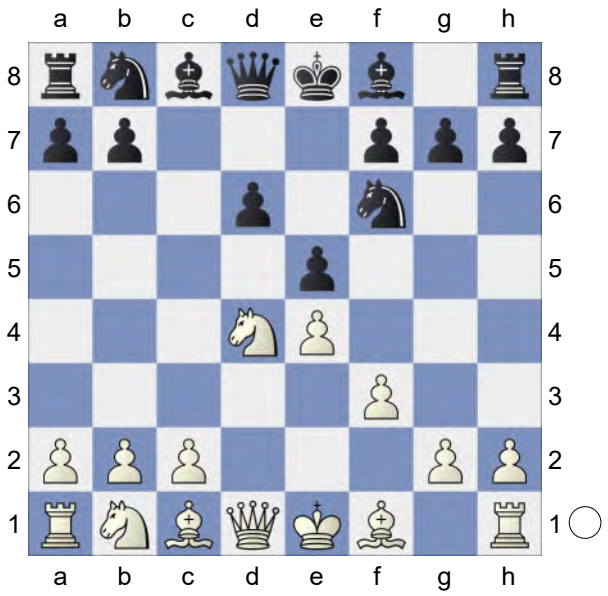
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060

[Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

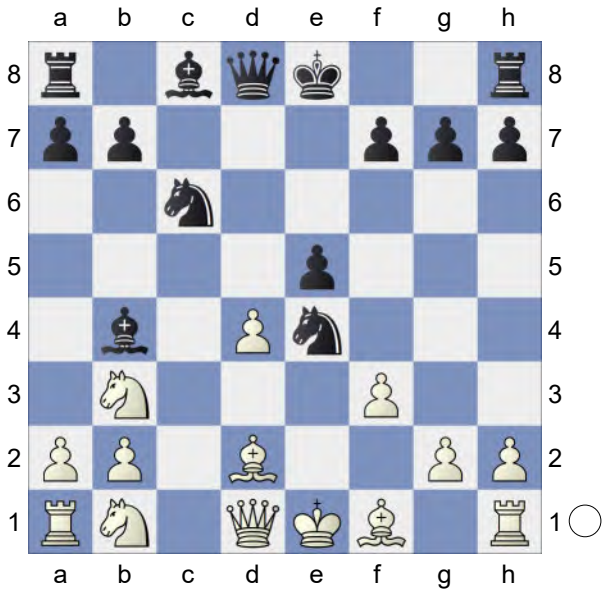


6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4 8.c3! Nc6 9.cxd4 With the idea d5. **9...Bb4+**

[9...exd4 10.Bb5±]

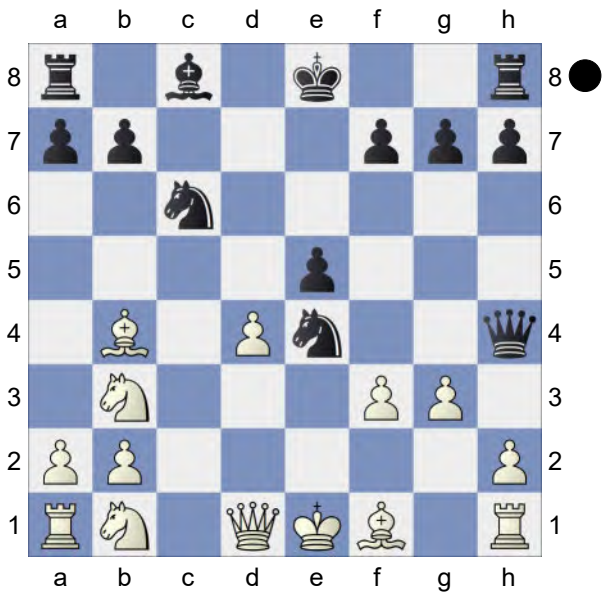
[9...Nxd4 10.Nc3±]

10.Bd2 Nxe4



11.Bxb4 Qh4+ 12.g3

(Diagram)



Nxg3 13.hxg3 Qxh1 The strongest move.

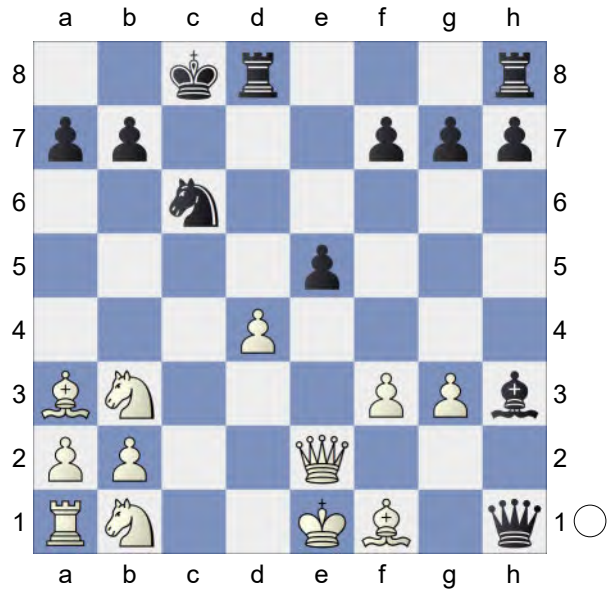
[White gets the advantage after 13...Qxg3+ , as we saw in the previous game.]

14.Ba3 Bh3! 15.Qe2 Now White starts getting in trouble.

[He should aim for a set-up with his queen on c2, where it is aiming at the f7- and h7-pawns; i.e. via a possible Qf5+ after Black castles long. Therefore we should start with 15.N1d2! And now Qc2 would win. 0-0-0! *(15...Bxf1!? 16.Nxf1 0-0-0!* also leads to interesting and complex play; e.g. *17.d5!* Hoping for Qd3. *e4!* Against Qd3 *18.f4!* Qg4+ is the strong threat. *h5!* and it is very tricky to evaluate who has the easier task. Prevents Qg4+.*)* 16.Qc2! . This is the main difference from the game continuation. On c2 the queen has more prospects and it is not exposed to ideas like ...Rhe8 or similar. The position may be equal but my personal tendency would be to prefer the two pieces. For example,. Strongly threatening 0-0-0. Bxf1

(after *16...exd4* 0.48/20 16...Bxf1 0.01 *17.0-0-0 Bxf1! 18.Qf5+! Kb8 19.Rxf1* White has a slight plus) 17.0-0-0 (this is the line we saw in the introduction) Qh5! 18.Rxf1 Black must now prevent Na5. exd4 19.Kb1 Rhe8 and there is no initiative for Black.]

15...0-0-0



16.N1d2 Bxf1 17.Nxf1 -0.78/21

[17.Qxf1 Qxf1+ 18.Kxf1 is also possible. The position is balanced, but there is plenty of scope to outplay your opponent. I do not believe that White has problems here at any rate.]

[17.Qxf1= 0.01/22 remains equal. Qh2 18.Qf2 Qh1+ 19.Qf1 *(19.Ke2 Qh6=)* 19...Qxf1+ 20.Kxf1]

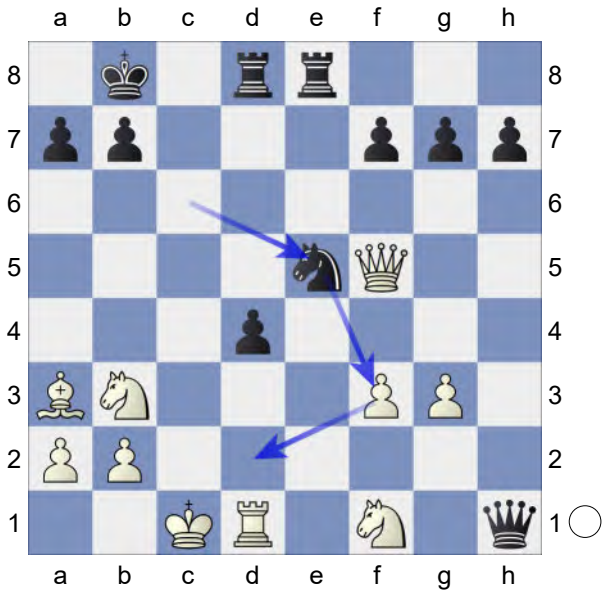
17...exd4∓ 18.0-0-0 Rhe8↑ Now Black is slightly better. Black is pushing.

19.Qd3

[19.Qf2 would be more solid.]

19...Kb8 20.Qf5 The white queen has taken three moves to reached the f5-square; via c2 it would have been one move fewer. In effect Black has been given a free move to pursue his initiative.

20...Ne5



21.Nfd2 Qg2 aiming for ...Qe2.

[Of course not 21...Rc8+ 22.Nc5 Qg2 23.Qe4=]

22.f4? -2.58/22

[22.Nc5!∓ -0.70/20]

22...Rc8+?! -0.54/24 Inserting this check just here does not help Black at all;

[whereas the immediate 22...Nf3! would have offered him excellent winning chances. For example: 23.Qd3 *(after 23.Nxf3? Qxf3* Black is winning due to the threat of ... Rc8+ *)* 23...Re3 24.Qf1 *(not 24.Qf5?* -6.69/21 24.Qf1 -2.15 *Nxd2 25.Nxd2 Qe2!* , threatening ...Rc8+ again*)* 24...Qxg3 with a huge plus for Black.]

[22...Nf3!-+ -2.58/22 23.Qd3 Re3]

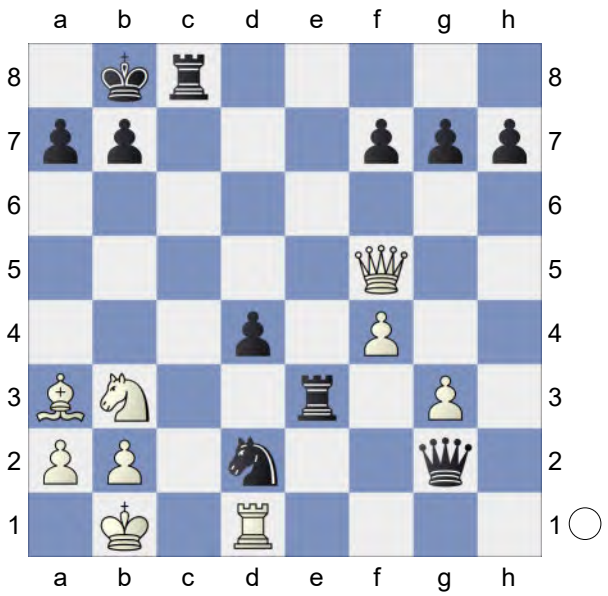
23.Kb1∓ Nf3 24.Qd3 -1.41/21

[24.Bc5!∓ -0.63/23]

24...Re3!∓ 25.Qf5 Bd6+ would kill now.

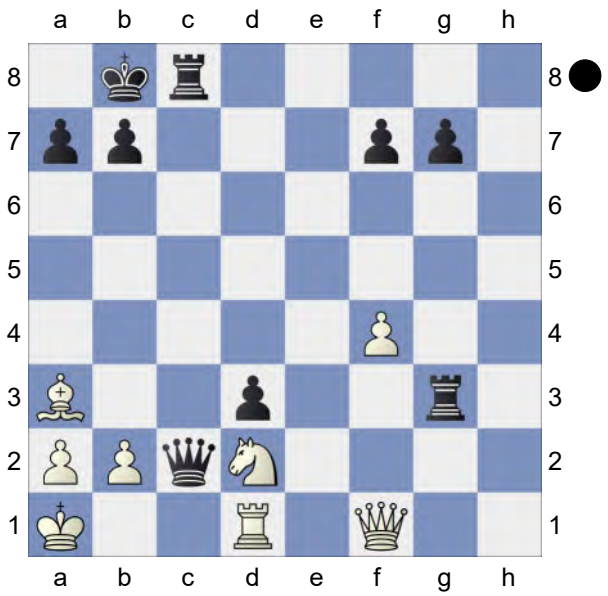
25...Nxd2+

(Diagram)

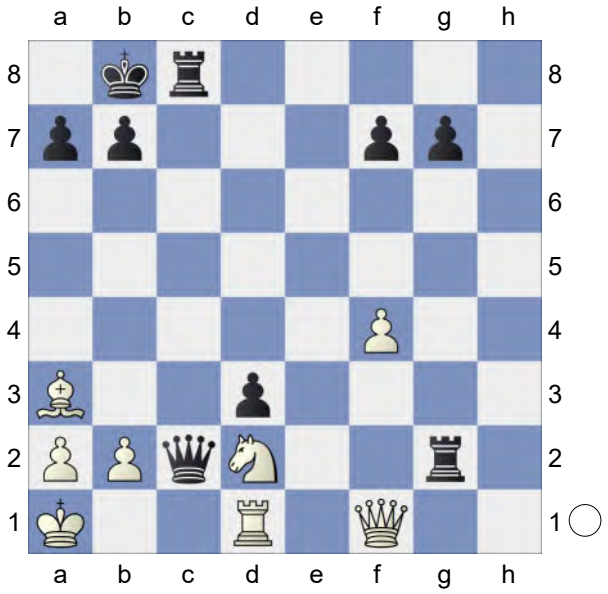


26.Nxd2 Qc6 Inhibits Bd6+.
[Both 26...Qe2?? 11.21/23 26...Qc6 -0.95]
[26...Qc6!? 27.Qxh7 d3∓]
27.Qxh7 The situation is still enormously complicated, so even in a game between two grandmasters there is lot of scope to go wrong.
27...d3 (-> ...Qc1+!)
[27...Rxg3?! 28.Qe4=]
28.Qh1
[Wrong is 28.Ka1? Qc1+!! 29.Nb1 Qxd1-+]
28...Rxg3 0.01/20
[28...Qc2+∓ -1.18/21 29.Ka1 Rxg3]
29.Qf1 -1.26/20
[29.Qxc6= 0.01/20 keeps the balance. Rxc6 30.Ne4]
29...Qc2+ 30.Ka1

(Diagram)

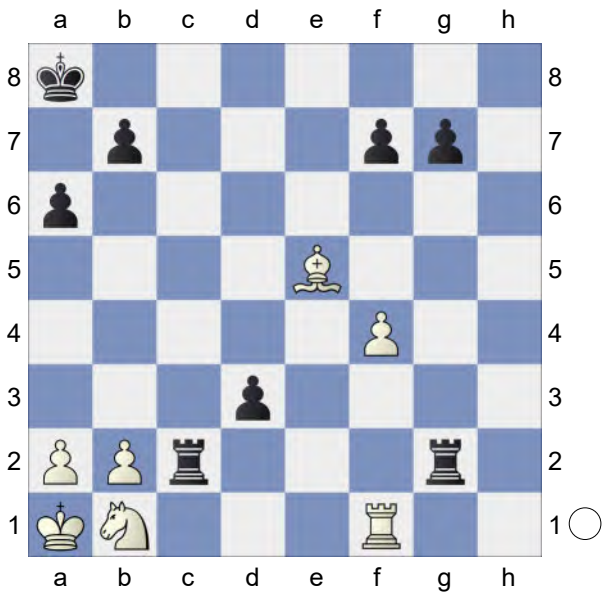


Rg2!!

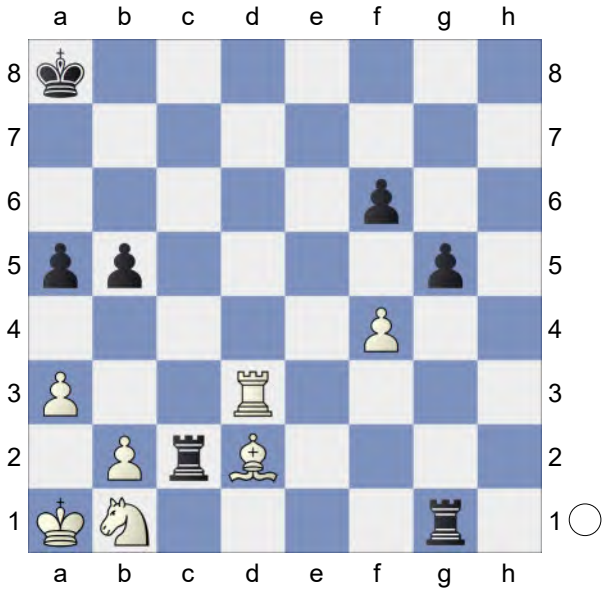


31.Nb1 Qe2 -1.08/21
[⌓31...Rd8! -1.57/20 32.Nc3 Ka8]
32.Bd6+ Ka8 33.Be5 a6 34.Re1 Qxf1 35.Rxf1 Rcc2

(Diagram)

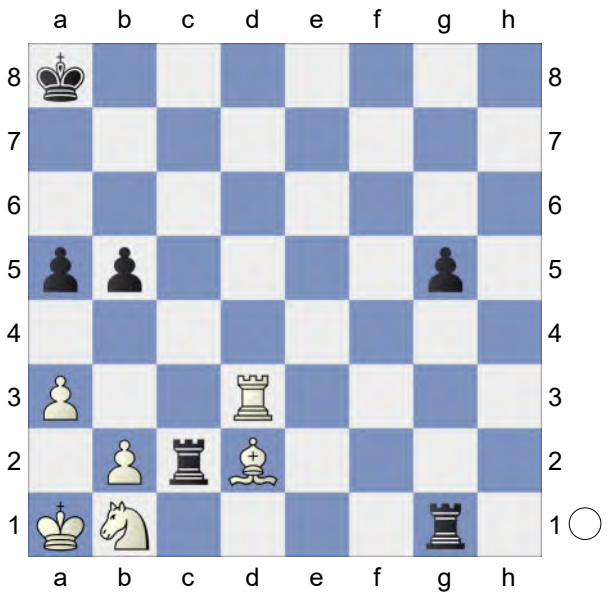


36.Rd1 f6 37.Bc3 b5 -0.01/22
[Black should try 37...b6∓ -0.59/20]
38.a3!= a5 39.Rxd3 Rg1 Threatens to win with ...Rcc1. **40.Bd2** Against Rcc1
[But not 40.Bxa5? Rcc1 41.Rd8+ Kb7 42.Rd7+ Ka6-+]
40...g5 1.05/23
[40...Rd1= -0.01/22]

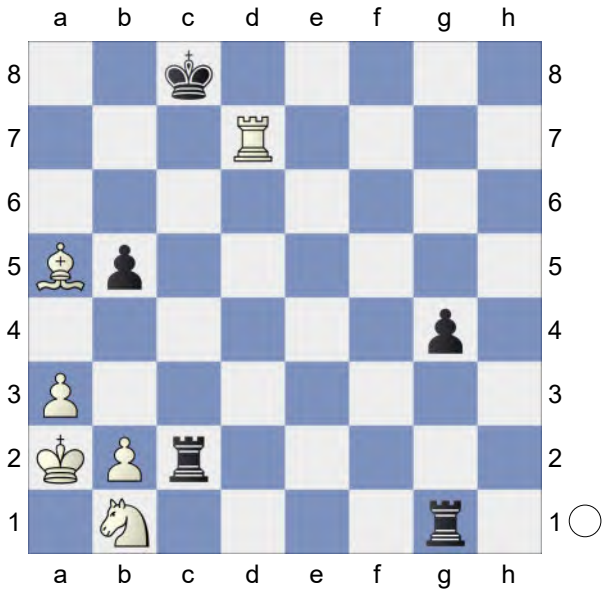


41.fxg5± fxg5

(Diagram)

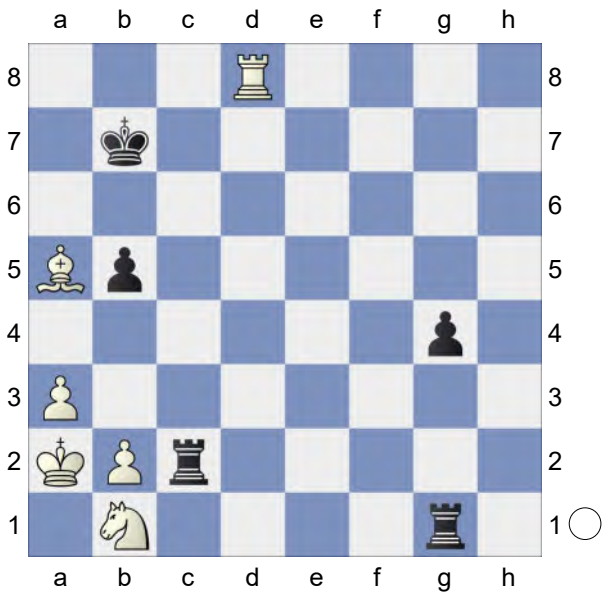


42.Ka2! Kb7 2.43/22
[42...a4± 1.07/21]
43.Bxa5+- The tables have turned again and White is now better, but after some further ups and downs the game ends in a draw.
43...g4 44.Rd7+ Kc8

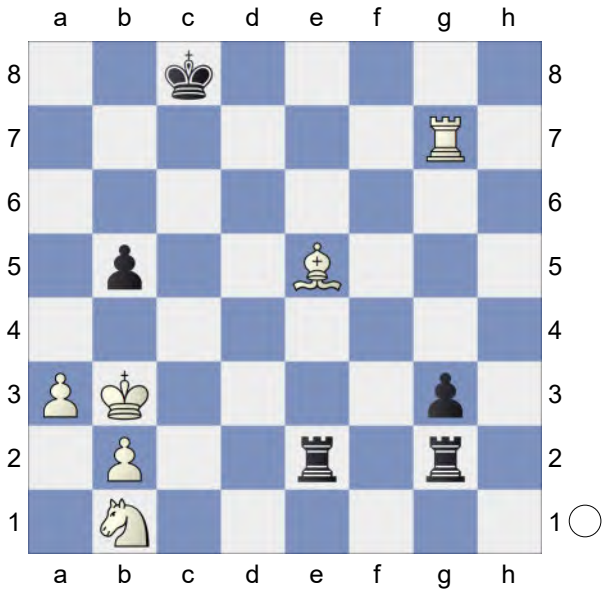


45.Rd8+ Kb7

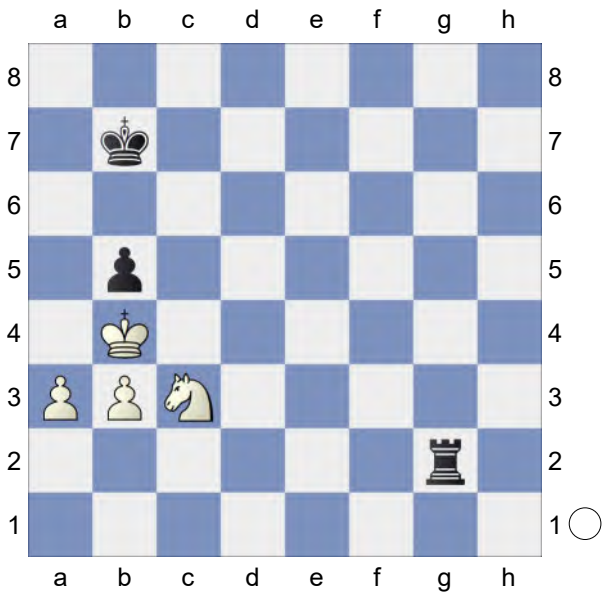
(Diagram)



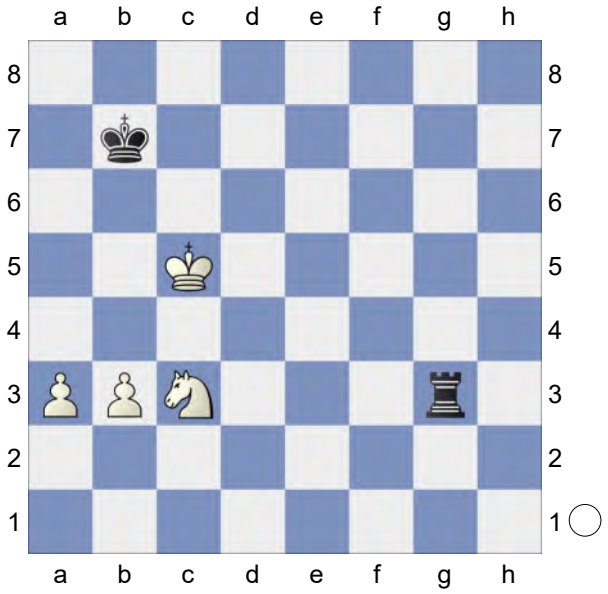
46.Rd7+? 0.01/20
[Better is 46.Nd2+- 1.88/22]
46...Kc8!= 47.Rg7 g3 1.65/23
[47...Rgg2± 1.25/24 48.Bc3 g3]
48.Kb3 1.23/23 **Rgg2± 49.Bc3 Rcf2 50.Be5 Re2**



51.Rxg3 -0.01/20 **Rxg3+**
Remove Defender. The position is equal.
52.Bxg3 Re3+ 53.Nc3 Rxg3=
Endgame KR-KN
[53...b4 is more complex. 54.Bf2 Rf3 55.Bd4 bxc3 56.Bxc3 Kb7]
54.Kb4 Rg2 55.b3 Kb7



56.Kxb5 Rg3 57.Kc4 Rg4+ 58.Kc5 Rg5+ 59.Kd4 Rg4+ 60.Kc5 Rg3



Never resign too early!
Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.21 (precise)
½-½

190 **B55**
□ **Kokarev,Dmitry**
■ **Oparin,Grigoriy**
24. Russian Championship 2016
[Jonas Hacker]

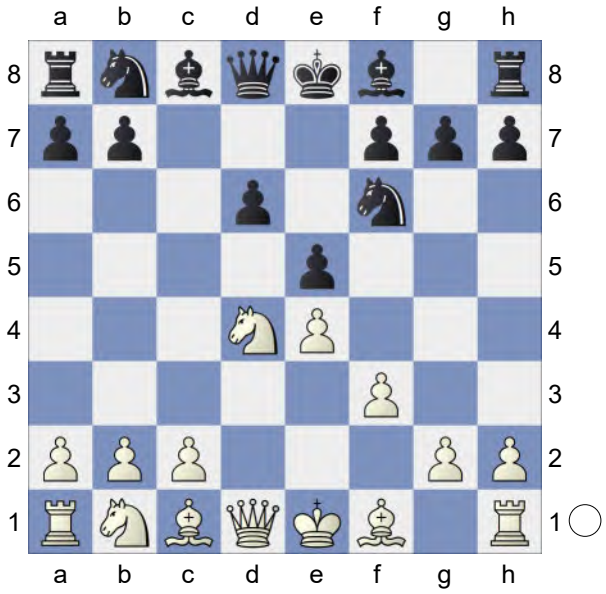
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 Be7 REMEMBER: If Black does not intend to go for the c4-pawn straight away, they tend to start with 6...Be7 rather than 6...Be6. The main reason is that the insertion of ...Be6 might bother Black in some variations, whereas ... Be7 must be played anyway in order to prepare castling.

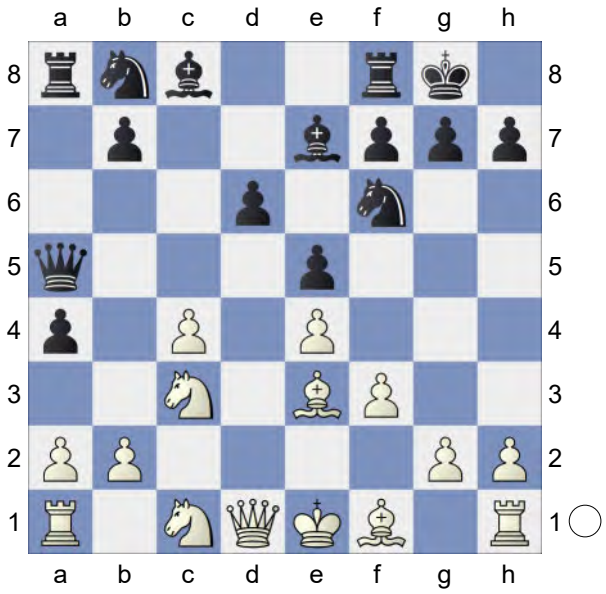
7.c4 a5 8.Be3 a4 9.Nc1 This move was considered “a very odd choice” when Ivanchuk played in it 2011, but we have seen its efficacy in the previous game. This one was actually played a month earlier.

9...Qa5+ 10.Nc3 White has an edge.

[More usually Black castles before bringing the queen out. With this move order White has the extra option of 10.Qd2 , offering the exchange of queens for a slight plus. I think the nature of this is very static, so Black will face problems with a space shortage and chronically weak pawns on d6 and a4 in the long run. For example, V.Ivanchuk-E.Sutovsky, FIDE World Cup, Khanty-Mansiysk

2011, continued Bd8 *(10...Qxd2+ 11.Kxd2 Bd8* would be much the same *)* 11.Ne2 Be6 12.Na3 Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Ba5+ 14.Nc3 Nc6 15.Nab5 Ke7 , and now 16.Kc2! , threatening simply 17 Nxa4, would have been good for White.]

10...0-0



11.Qd2 Nc6 This knight development is better than ...Na6-c5, as Karjakin played.

12.Rb1 Preparing the thematic push b2-b4.

[a) 12.b4?! immediately is not advisable with the black knight already out. After Nxb4! *(not 12...Qxb4?? 2.85/23* 12...Nxb4 -0.10 *13.Rb1 Qa5 14.Bb6!* etc *)* 13.Rb1!? Nd7 White does not have sufficient compensation.]

[b) 12.b3 cannot be recommended either because of the strong and sharp reply d5 .

A) White cannot play 13.exd5? (or 13.cxd5?) because of Bb4 14.N1e2 Nd4! 15.Rc1 *(or 15.Bxd4 exd4 16.Qxd4 axb3)* 15...axb3 16.axb3 Nxb3 and Black wins.;

B) 13.Nxd5 is the only move, but then White becomes very passive. After 13...Bb4! *(13...Bb4!? 14.Nxb4 Nxb4±)* 14.Nxb4 Nxb4 (threatening ...Nc2+) 15.Kf2 Rd8 and Black has a lot of activity for the pawn.]

[c) 12.Be2 Be6 13.0-0 is a solid alternative, but I prefer 12 Rb1, clarifying the situation on the queenside before Black gets additional options like ...Bd8-b6 or ... Nd4.]

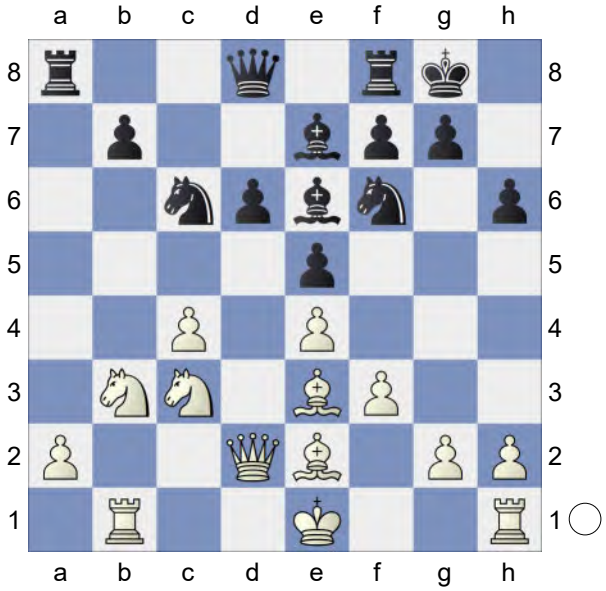
12...Be6 13.b4 axb3

[13...Nxb4 14.a3 Nc6 15.Bb6± *(15.Rxb7 Rab8∓)*]

14.Nxb3 Qd8

[Without the rook on a1, 14...Qa3 becomes more interesting as Nb5 then requires preparation.]

15.Be2 h6



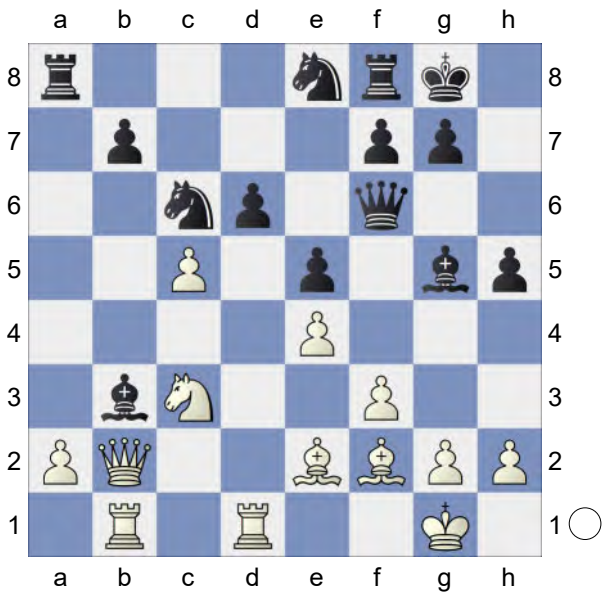
16.0-0 Ne8 17.Qb2 Bg5 18.Bf2 Preserving our good bishop.

18...h5 19.Rfd1 Qf6 0.87/19

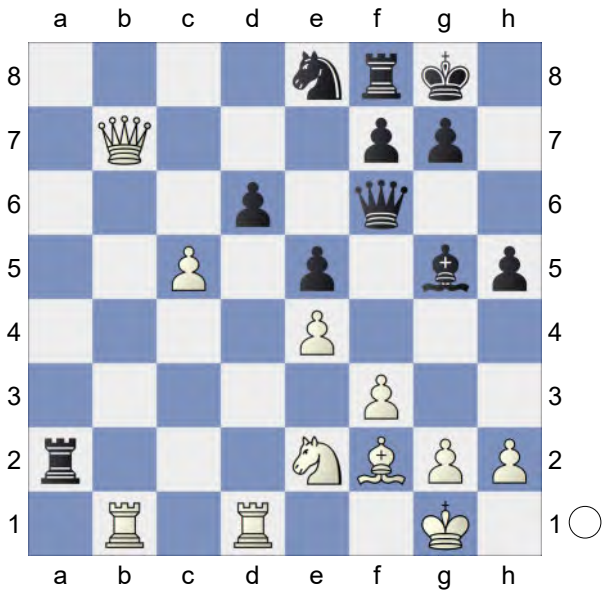
[19...h4!± 0.42/18 is more appropriate.]

20.c5± Bxb3 1.22/22

[⌓20...h4 0.85/19]

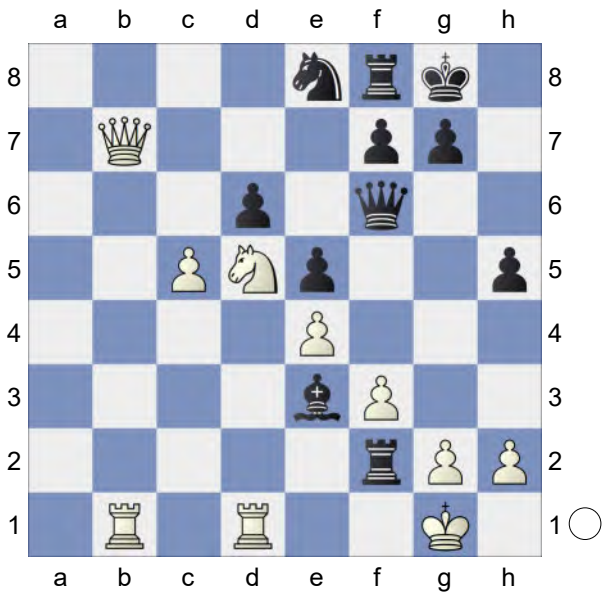


21.Qxb3 Nd4 22.Qxb7 Nxe2+ 2.24/21
[22...Qd8± 1.50/19]
23.Nxe2+- Rxa2



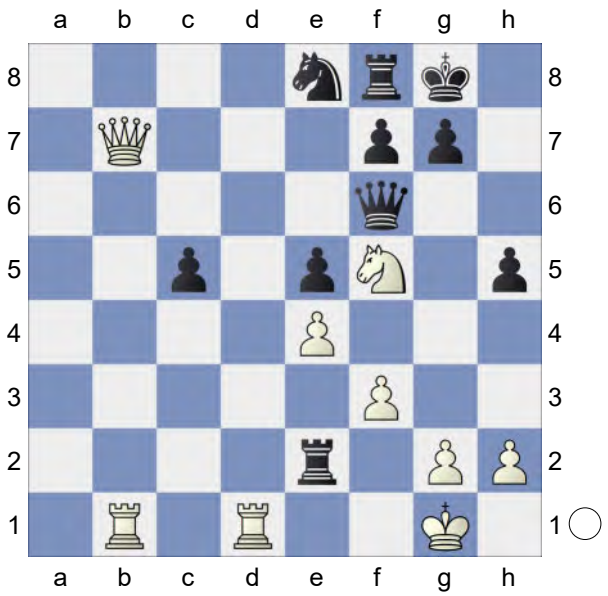
24.Nc3 Rxf2 25.Nd5 Against Be3
[After the simple 25.Kxf2?! 0.95/22 25.Nd5 2.14 Qf4 26.Kg1 Nd5 is the strong threat. Qe3+ Black can offer a lot of resistance.]
[Don't do 25.Kxf2?! Qf4]
25...Be3

(Diagram)



26.Nxe3? 0.44/22 Active counter play!
[It is hard to understand why the Russian grandmaster refrained from taking the queen. Maybe he thought that the outcome would be a fortress after 26.Nxf6+ Nxf6 27.Kh1 Bxc5 28.Rb2 Rxb2 29.Qxb2 , but with just two pieces and a pawn for the queen, this would be quite surprising.]
[Only move: 26.Nxf6++- 2.18/23 Nxf6 27.Kh1 *(27.cxd6 Rb2+ 28.Kf1 Rxb7∓)* 27...Bxc5 28.h4]
26...Re2!± **27.Nf5↑** White has some pressure. **27...dxc5?** 5.25/24
[Here 27...g6! would have equalized the game.]
[27...Qg5? 28.g3 h4 29.Qe7± *(29.cxd6 hxg3 30.hxg3 Qh5=)*]
[27...g6= 0.23/22 and Black has nothing to worry. 28.Qa6 Rc2]

(Diagram)



Perhaps both players were in time trouble, since they now swap mistakes. QUESTION: Can you spot a way for White to win?

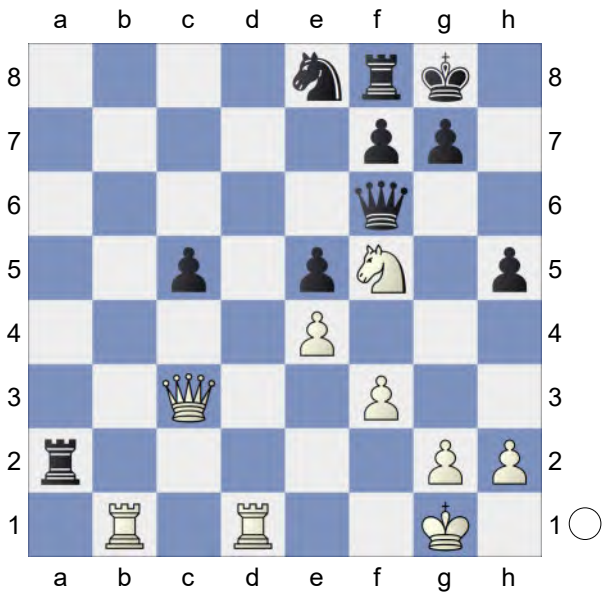
28.Qb5? 0.53/24

[ANSWER: 28.h4! and the queen will be trapped by Rb6. Or if g6 *(not 28...Qg6* 17.13/23 28...Qe6 4.97 *29.Ne7+;* and *28...Qe6 29.Rd5!* doesn't help Black at all *)* 29.Rb6 Qh8 8.29/23 then *(⌓29...Rb2* 5.19/21 *30.Ne7+ Kg7)* 30.Ne7++- Kh7 31.Nxg6 and White wins.]

[28.h4+- 5.25/24]

28...Ra2 29.Qc4 White has compensation. **29...Ra5 30.Qc3 Ra2**

(Diagram)

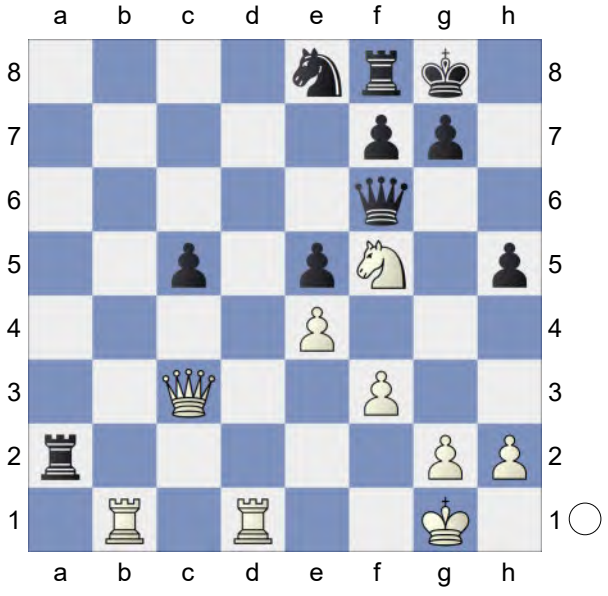


31.Qc4 -0.01/18

[31.Qxc5± 0.43/25 was preferrable. g6 32.Ne7+ Kg7 33.Nc6]

31...Ra5!= 32.Qc3 Ra2

[Since 32...Ra2 33.Qc4 repeats the position for the third time.]

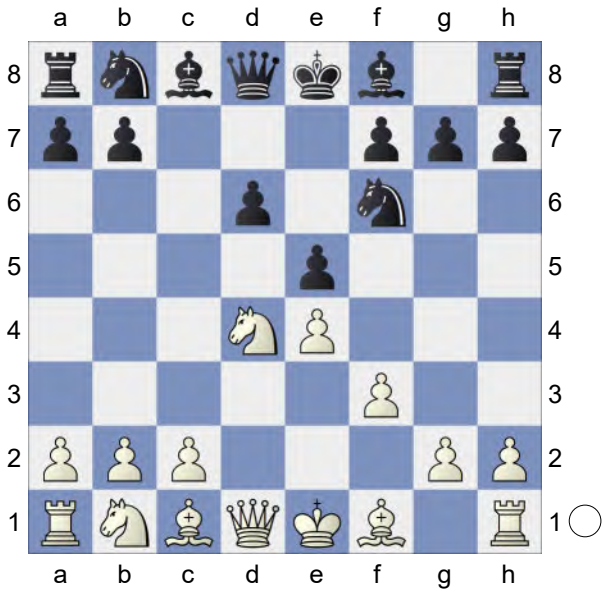


Weighted Error Value: White=0.43/ Black=0.33

½-½

191 **B55**
□ **Hacker,J**
■ **Laustsen,Lars**
22 Ballerup 2019
[Jonas Hacker]

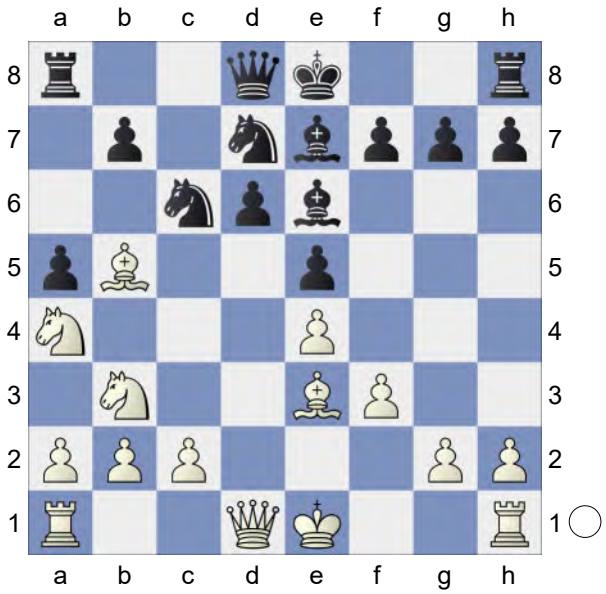
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5



6.Nb3 a5!? 7.Bb5+ Nc6 8.Nc3 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.Na4 This is similar to our preparation in the introduction, and I was happy to apply the variation myself. Black must decide whether or not he wants to allow the white knight to enter the b6-square.

10...Nd7

[We should also check other moves:
a) 10...0-0 transposes to the previous game.]
[b) 10...d5 11.Nb6 a4!? *(11...d4?* fails to *12.Nxa8 dxe3 13.Qxd8+!* again, when Black will not be able to pick up the knight, so White is winning; e.g. *Bxd8 14.Bxc6+ bxc6 15.Nc5 Bc8 16.Rd1)* 12.Nxa8 Qxa8 13.Nd2 and Black has some play but White must be better.]



11.0-0

[The computer wants to castle queenside with 11.Qe2 0-0 12.0-0-0 f5 13.exf5 Bxf5 14.a3 . Black can hardly move here, while White can put more pressure on the d-file. Although long castling is quite rare in this line, it fits in perfectly, and from a human perspective too. White has excellent outposts on a4 and b5, so Black will never be able to launch an attack on this wing.]

11...0-0 12.Qd2

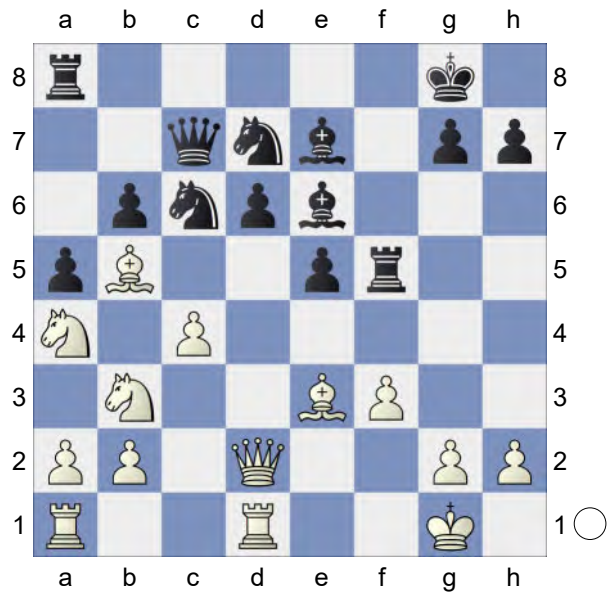
[I consider 12.c4 to be premature as the bishop on b5 might get stuck. My plan in the game was to await ...f7-f5 and only then fix the pawns in the centre with c2-c4.]

12...Qc7 13.Rfd1 f5

[If Black commits to nothing, playing 13...Rfd8 say, White can try to penetrate with 14.Qf2 b6 15.Nc3 and obtains a big positional plus; Nd5 is coming soon.]

14.exf5 Rxf5 15.c4 b6

(Diagram)



16.Nc3 Exploiting the weak central squares. **16...Rc8 17.Ne4**

[The computer's top choice is 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.cxd5 , but I see no reason why White should give up the possibility to attack the d6-pawn.]

17...Nd4?

[Here 17...Rd8 18.Nxd6 Rff8 *(if 18...Nf6?! then 19.Nxf5!* is an easy tactical justification; i.e. *Rxd2 20.Nxe7+ Qxe7 21.Rxd2* and White is winning*)* 19.Ne4 Nc5 is a tougher defence, but White remains with an extra pawn.]

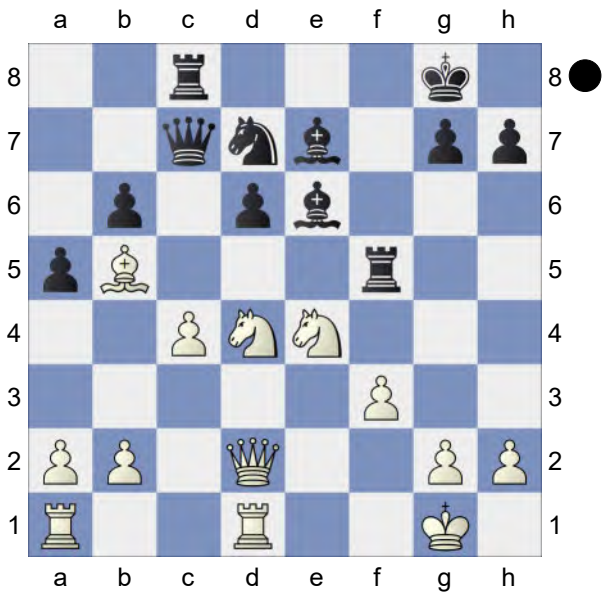
QUESTION: How to finish the game in the most convincing way?

ANSWER: **18.Bxd4!**

[18.Nxd4 wins as well, but after exd4 19.Bxd4 Bxc4 20.Bxc4+ Qxc4 21.Rac1 Qa6 , there would still be work to do.]

18...exd4 19.Nxd4

(Diagram)



. Black loses at least an exchange, so he resigned.

1-0

192 **B55**

□ **Hacker,J**

■ **Ulusoy,Tolga**

7 Nuremberg 2019

[Jonas Hacker]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

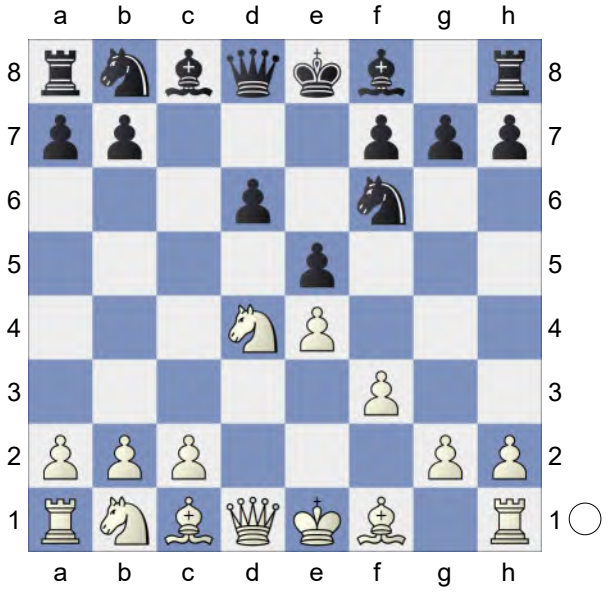
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3!? e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4*

16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 d5 This is a common choice for Black and for good reasons. White has wasted time playing 5 f3, instead of developing naturally and controlling the centre with 5 Nc3. There is no more straightforward approach than trying to punish White's opening play by breaking through in the centre. This may not sound very convincing to anyone who wants to play this position from the White side, but we will soon see that, despite achieving the thematic freeing move early on, Black is still facing problems.

7.Bg5 Be6 QUESTION: Black has just defended his d5-pawn, but his last move also has a slight disadvantage. Do you remember how White should continue here?

ANSWER: **8.Bxf6!** After we take on f6, Black cannot recapture by queen because the d5-pawn would drop and White would have a very solid extra pawn, while taking with the g-pawn weakens Black's pawn structure.

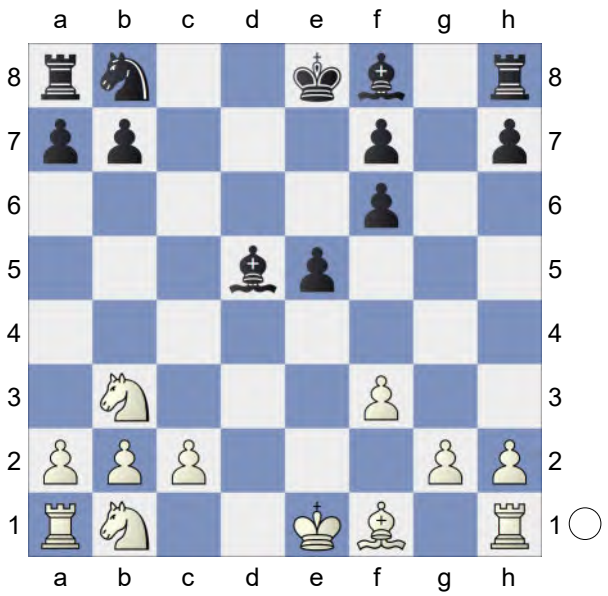
[Playing 8.exd5? first might look similar, but this allows Qxd5! *(*rather than *8...Bxd5 9.Bxf6 gxf6*, when Black has been move ordered into the 9...Bxd5 variation*)* 9.Bxf6 *(*after *9.Qxd5 Nxd5* Black managed to keep a compact pawn formation and can be very happy*)* 9...Qxd1+ 10.Kxd1 gxf6 and we have had to move our king, which is a clear disadvantage compared to the main line.]

8...gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5

[The alternative 9...Bxd5 is covered in Game 12.]

10.Qxd5 Bxd5

(Diagram)



11.Nc3 Bc6 0.84/22

[11...Be6 is the most natural retreat and the best move available for Black. Here the bishop cannot easily be attacked by a white knight, whereas 11...Bc6 gives White immediate ideas of Na5. Another drawback is that the bishop takes the ideal c6-square away from the b8-knight.]

[11...Be6!± 0.31/22]

12.0-0-0

[Not yet 12.Na5? 0.07/20 12.0-0-0 0.82 due to Bb4 13.Nxc6 Bxc3+ and Black already has the better position.]

12...Be7

[12...Bb4 looks like a logical move as it prevents Na5, but White can play 13.Nd5 instead, and Black must give up his light-squared bishop.]

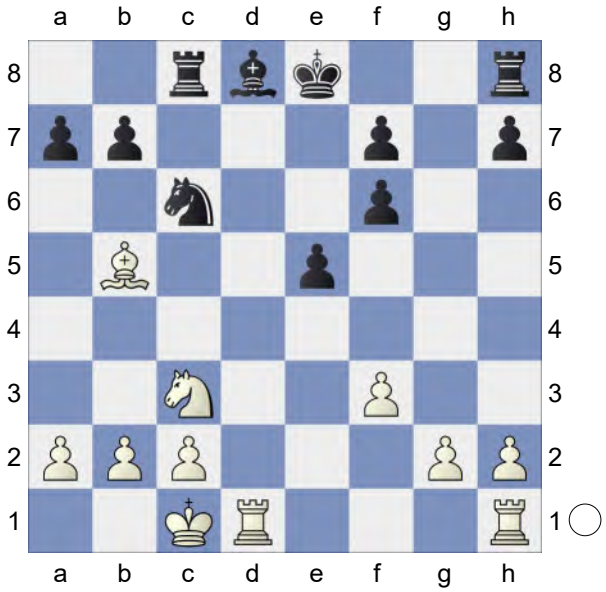
13.Na5! Bd8 White is better. **14.Nxc6 Nxc6 15.Bb5**

[White has a couple of alternatives here: 15.Nd5 , with the idea of pinning Black's bishop to the passive d8-square;]

[or 15.Bd3 , with a lot of control over the weakened light squares.

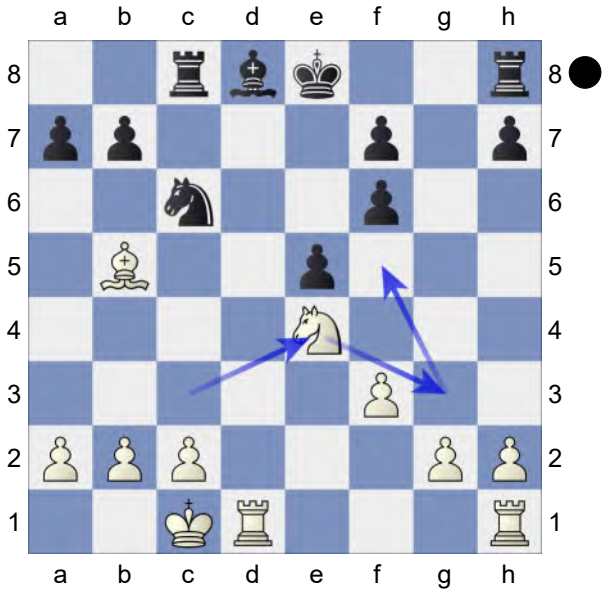
However, the game continuation secures a long-lasting advantage for White, who reaches a very favourable position, having a strong knight versus a bad bishop. If you do not play 15 Bb5 right now, Black would have the chance to keep his second minor piece and thus more possibilities of getting counterplay.]

15...Rc8



Practically forced, in order not to weaken the pawn structure further.

16.Ne4



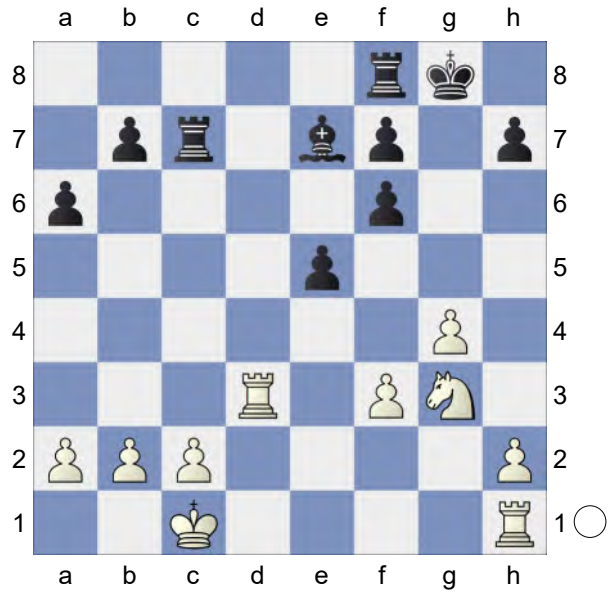
Hoping for Nd6+. **16...Be7 17.g4!** This sets up a blockade of Black's weak kingside pawns and prevents any active plans. White has huge advantage here and may already have a technically winning position with the dominating knight versus the poor bishop on e7. 0x0.0025d93fa487dp-1022s more active pieces. The black rooks are badly placed.

[Whereas 17.Ng3 , with the same plan, would allow Black to create some pressure on the g-file with Rg8 . White is still better, but Black is starting to get tactical possibilities; for example, after 18.Rd2 f5!? and the dark-squared bishop will come to g5.]

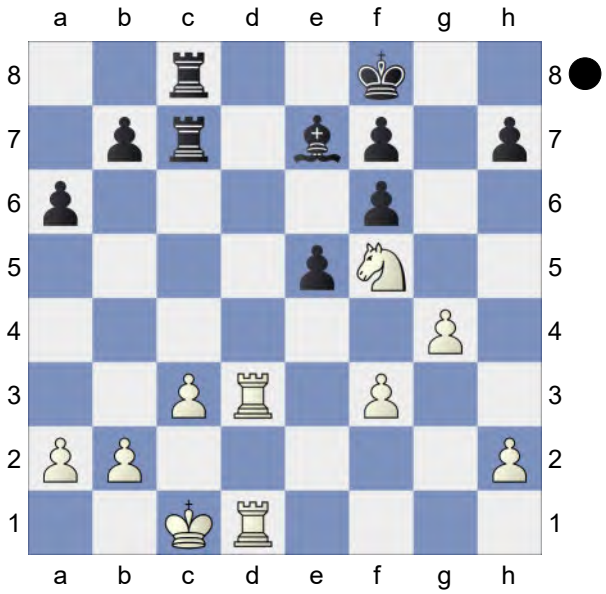
17...a6 18.Bxc6+ Rxc6 19.Ng3

[I think this move is more accurate than the sensible-looking alternative 19.Rd3 0.54/18 19.Ng3 1.06 , because Black is prevented from playing ...h7-h5, getting rid of one of his isolated pawns.]

19...Rc7 20.Rd3 0-0



21.Rhd1 Rfc8 22.c3 Kf8 23.Nf5
(Diagram)



Strongly threatening Rd7. **23...Ke8** This is necessary, otherwise 24 Rd7 would follow with devastating effect. Inhibits Rd7.

[We can see this in the following variation, if Black had started his counterplay with 23...b5? 2.01/22 23...Ke8 1.50 straight away.

QUESTION: Can you spot how to finish the game after 24.Rd7 Ke8? 5.26/23 - ?

ANSWER: White wins a piece with *(24...Rxd7 2.13/23 25.Rxd7 Bc5)* 25.Nxe7!+- Rxd7 26.Nxc8 .]

Returning to the game: White has placed all his pieces on ideal squares, but Black has also protected all the important squares and prevented invasion. White must find a plan to improve his position while simultaneously restricting Black's counterplay.

24.a3 Prophylaxis! Black's only active chance is creating kind of a minority attack with ...b7-b5, ...a6-a5 and ...b5-b4, so White takes some precautions to prevent this.

24...Bf8

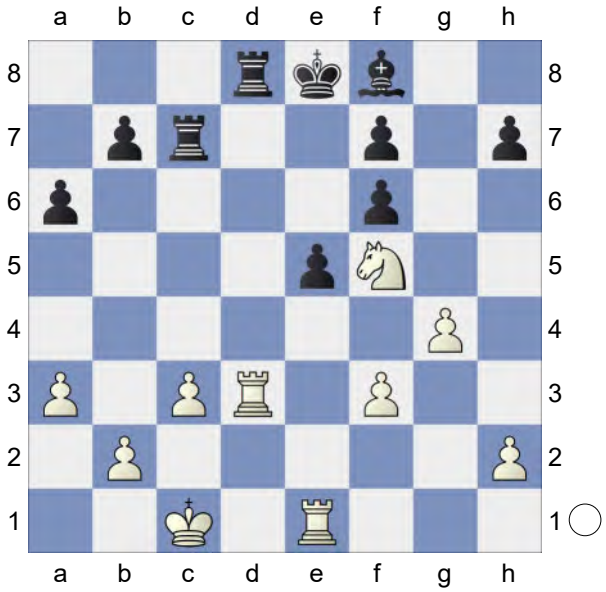
[If Black now follows up with 24...b5 anyway, White can play 25.Rd5, preventing further expansion with 25...a5, when Black is almost running out of moves.]

25.Re1 0.78/21

[White should try 25.h4 1.45/20]

25...Rd8 1.20/22

[⌓25...Rd7 0.78/21 26.Rde3 Bc5]



26.Rxd8+± Kxd8 Endgame KRB-KRN

27.Rd1+ Ke8 28.Kd2 0.97/22

[White should play 28.Kc2 1.43/23]

28...Rc4 29.Ke2 Rc6 1.60/23 Prevents Rd6.

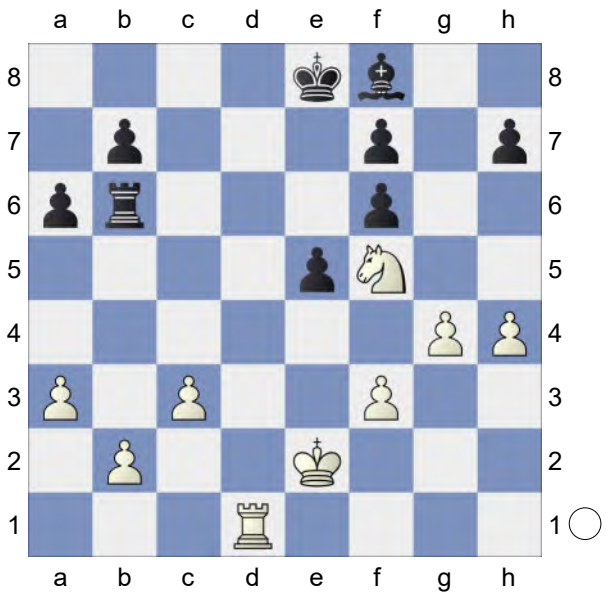
[⌓29...Rc5 0.83/20]

30.h4 1.24/21

[Better is 30.Rd5 1.60/23]

30...Rb6

(Diagram)



31.Rd2 Rc6 32.h5 b5 1.80/25

[32...Rc5± 1.40/20 33.a4 Rc6]

33.Rd5+- Bc5 2.00/25

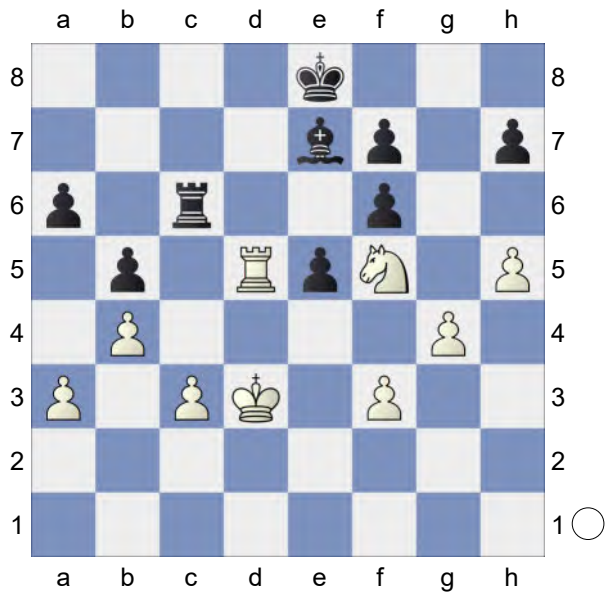
[33...Rc7± 1.47/23 34.Kd3 Rd7 35.Rxd7 Kxd7]

34.Kd3 Bf8 35.b4 Be7 2.85/24

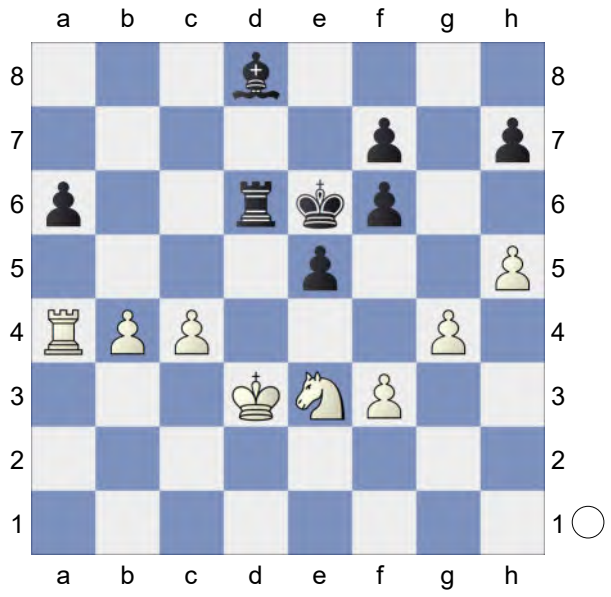
[If Black tries to get active counterplay with 35...Rc4? 5.46/26 35...Rc7 1.31 (intending ...Rf4 and ...e5-e4 to undermine the white pawns), White always has 36.Rd6! , when the rook finally enters the position. Black cannot capture because the pawn ending after Bxd6 37.Nxd6+ Kd7 38.Nxc4 bxc4+ 39.Kxc4 is winning for White.]

[35...Rc7± 1.54/24 36.a4 Rd7 37.Rxd7 Kxd7]

(Diagram)

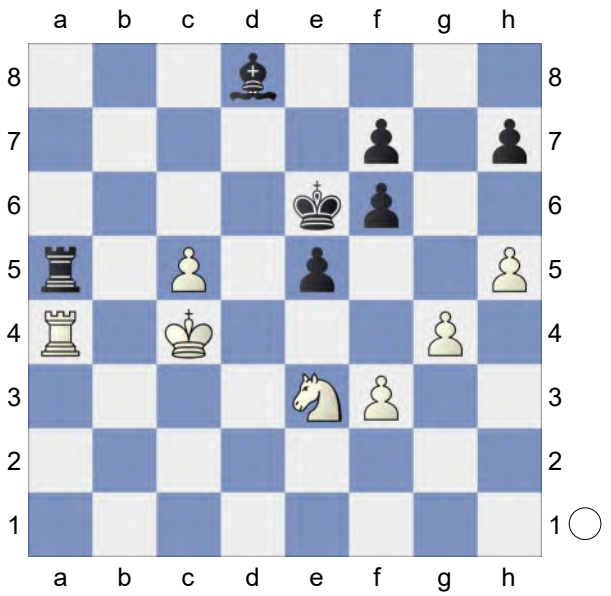


36.a4 bxa4 37.Ra5 Bd8? 3.90/29
[37...Kd7 2.37/23 was necessary. 38.Rxa4 Bd8]
38.Rxa4 Kd7 39.c4 Ke6 40.Ne3 Rd6+

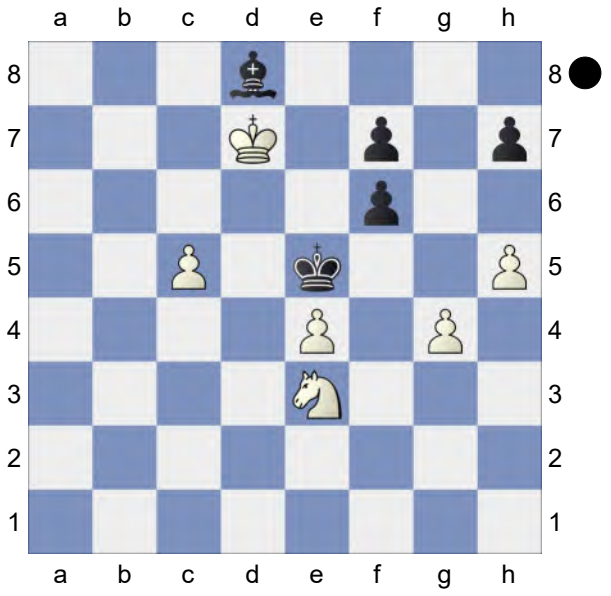


41.Ke2 Rb6 42.c5 Rc6 43.Kd3 a5 44.bxa5 White is clearly winning.
44...Ra6 45.Kc4 Rxa5

(Diagram)



46.Rxa5 Bxa5 47.Kb5 Bd8 48.Kc6 Black must now prevent Kb7. **48...e4** 10.12/25
[⌓48...Be7 4.68/25 49.Kb6 Bd8+ 50.Kb7 e4 51.fxe4 Kd7 52.c6+ Kd6 53.Nc4+ Kc5]
49.fxe4 Ke5 50.Kd7



Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.34
1-0

193 **B55**
□ **Hacker,J**
■ **Dobrikov,Marco**
28 Neustadt 2019
[Jonas Hacker]

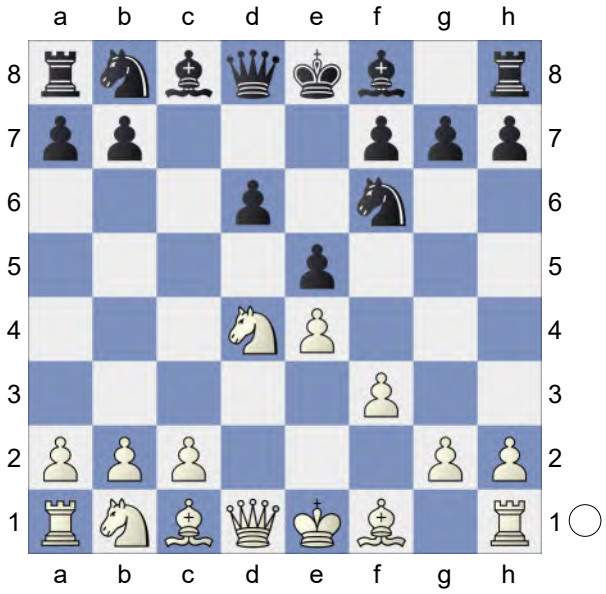
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



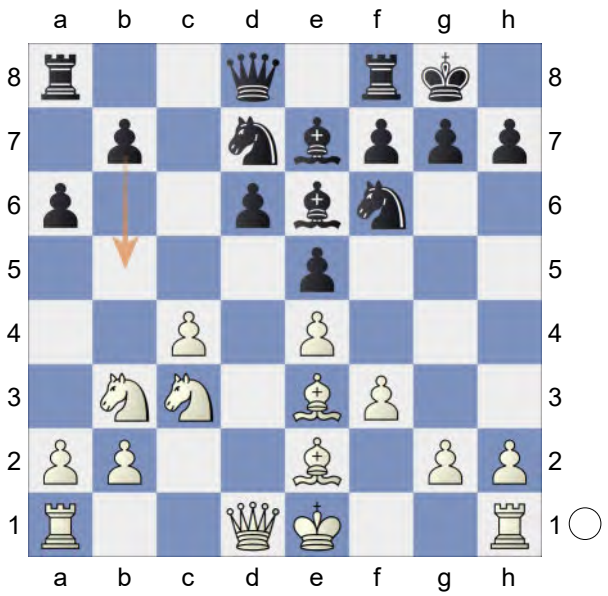
6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 Be7

[During the game I was thinking about 7...Nxe4? 0.63/20 7...Be7 0.09 which works in some other scenarios but not here. After 8.fxe4! Qh4+ 9.Kd2 Qxe4 10.Nc3 White will soon consolidate, since the king is in no real danger. Overall it is the material advantage which counts.]

[Don't play 7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]

8.Nc3 0-0 9.Be3 a6 10.Be2 White is slightly better. **10...Nbd7**

(Diagram)



11.0-0 The current position is very typical for our variation. White has a typical space advantage, which means a very solid and long-term advantage. Nevertheless, this position is encountered quite frequently, and it is not so surprising because Black simply developed all pieces in a Najdorf-style. Let's quickly discuss a few plans for both sides:

Black usually aims for the ...f7-f5 break after ...Nh5, ...g7-g6, trying to create some counterplay on the kingside. Another possibility is ...Nh5 and ...Nf4, often connected with a pawn sacrifice to obtain dark-squared compensation. A very strong antidote to this plan is g2-g3, despite it appearing to weaken White's king position. We will see this in the main line below.

The plan of pressuring c4 with ...Rc8 is often seen in practice. White will be obliged to play Nd5 at some point, and Black then exchanges on d5 in most cases. But in my opinion, after c4xd5, White's space advantage confers a zero-risk long-term advantage with the closed structure in the centre.

11...Rc8 **12.Nd5** Prevents Nb6.

12...Bxd5 **13.cxd5**

[Not 13.exd5? 0.25/16 13.cxd5 0.79 as Black gets counterplay with his kingside majority after Nh5 , followed by ...g7-g6 and ...f7-f5.]

13...Nh5 **14.g3** Now 14...Nf4 is no longer possible. **14...g6** Preparing ...f7-f5 again, but White has no worries about this and just goes on slowly improving his position.

[Note that Black cannot play 14...f5 , because after 15.exf5 Rxf5 1.14/20 *(15...Bg5± 0.63/19 16.f4 exf4)* 16.g4 White would win material.]

15.Qd2

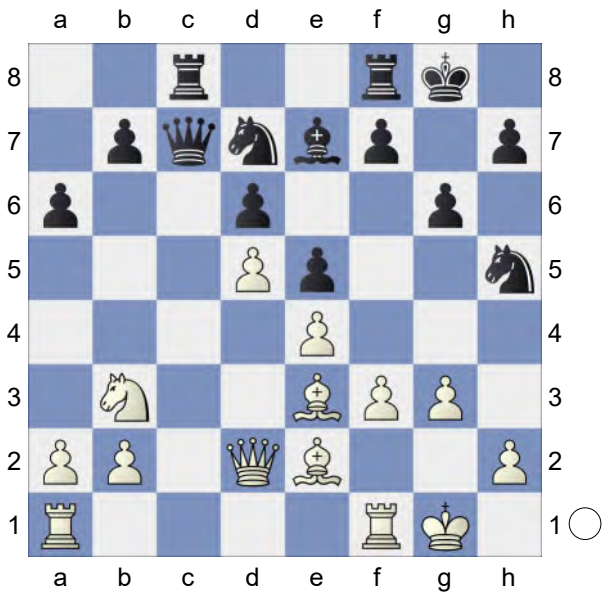
[15.Bh6 seems wilder. Ng7 16.Qd2 f5 17.Rac1]

15...Qc7? 1.31/19

[Having spent several move preparing it, Black probably ought to have tried 15...f5 16.exf5 gxf5 , though after 17.f4! (another benefit of g2-g3) White keeps an edge. For example, Nhf6 18.Rae1 and Black will be under pressure for a long time. He can play neither ...e5-e4 nor ...e5xf4 due to Nd4-e6, plus the f5-pawn is becoming a target. *(18.Rad1!?)*]

[15...f5!± 0.62/21]

(Diagram)



16.Rac1 Qb8 17.Na5 &Bianco is more active.

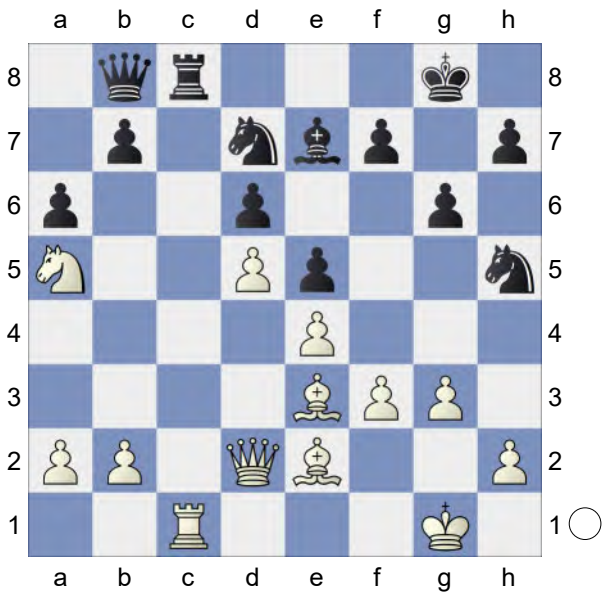
[Another option was 17.Qb4 Rxc1 18.Rxc1 Rc8 19.Rxc8+ Qxc8 and then 20.Na5 1.13/22 , since *(⌓20.Bf1* 1.45/22) 20...Qc2± 21.Qd2 Qb1+ 22.Kg2 Qxa2 23.Nxb7 is very good for White.]

17...Rxc1 18.Rxc1 Rc8? 2.70/22

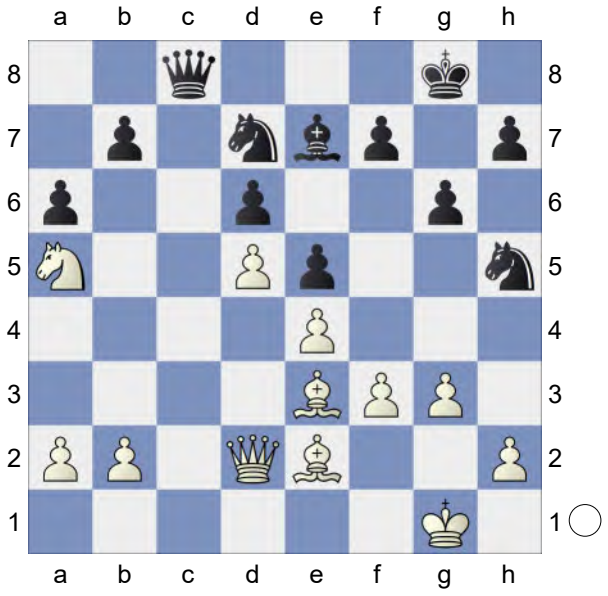
[If 18...Bd8 19.Qb4 Bxa5 20.Qxa5 , White can be very happy to play with the two bishops.]

[18...Bd8± 1.07/21]

(Diagram)



19.Rxc8+!+- Qxc8

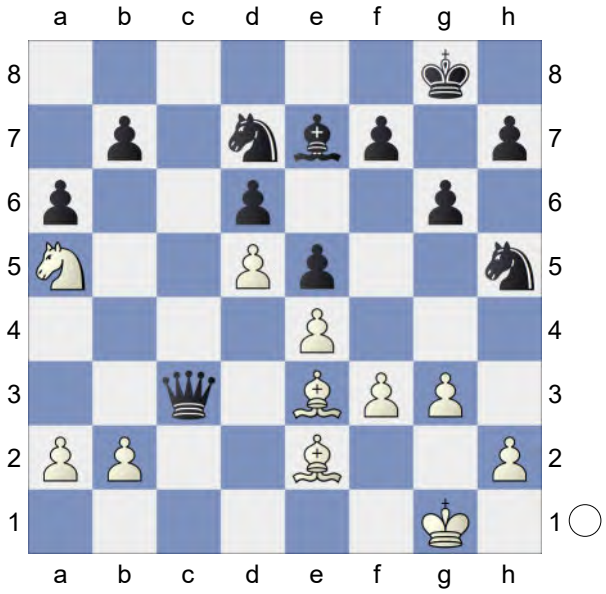


20.Qc3! After this, Black loses a pawn by force and has no chances of survival in the endgame.

20...Qxc3

[Moving the queen was no better: 20...Qb8 21.Qb4 b5? 4.28/22 *(or 21...Nc5?* 4.60/22 21...Qc7 2.11 *22.Bxc5 dxc5 23.Qxb7;* while if *21...Bd8 22.Nxb7* , Black has no activity and so cannot exploit the pin*; 21...Qc7* 1.84/24 keeps fighting. *22.Nxb7 f5)* 22.Nc6+- Qe8 23.Qa5

and White wins.]



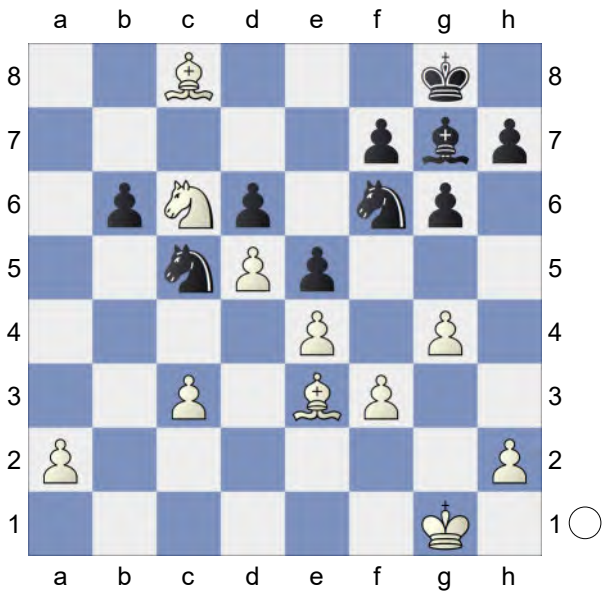
21.bxc3 b6 22.Nc6 Bf8 23.Bxa6 Nhf6 4.49/22

[⌓23...f5 2.97/23 24.exf5 gxf5]

24.Bc8 A strong pair of Bishops.

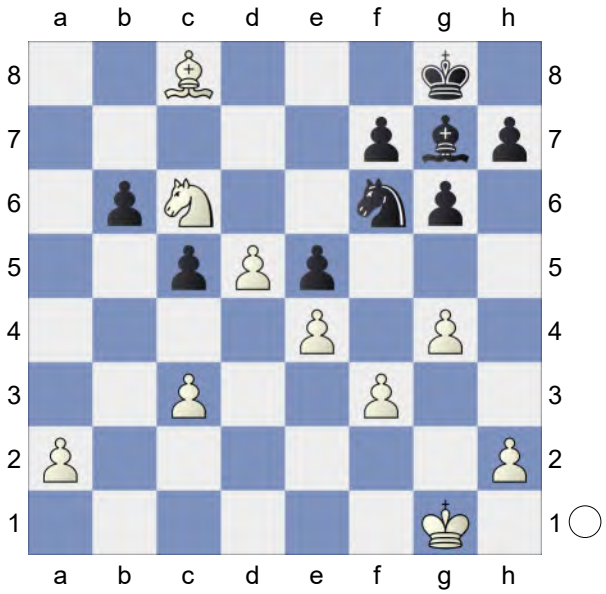
24...Bg7 25.g4 g5 is the strong threat.

25...Nc5



26.Bxc5 dxc5

(Diagram)



White took control after the opening.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.35

1-0

194 **B55**

□ **Hacker,J**

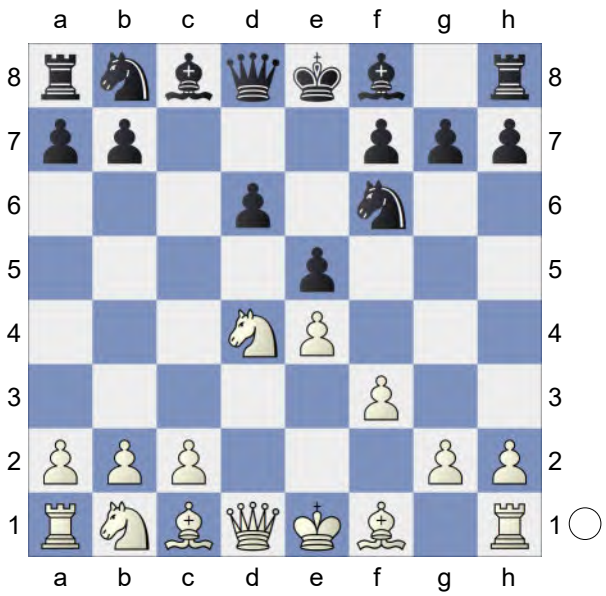
■ **Lutz,Klaus Juergen**

8. German League 2019

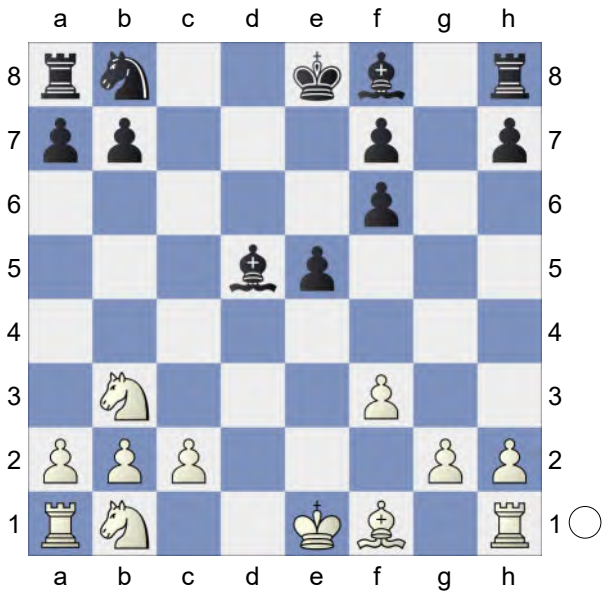
[Jonas Hacker]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5

(Diagram)



6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Bxd5



11.Nc3 Bb4? This looks appealing at first sight, since Black is threatening 12... Bxc3 13 bxc3 which would leave White's structure in horrible shape. But when you look deeper you will realize that 11... Bb4? is a quite a bad move and White gets a huge advantage.

QUESTION: Do you remember how White should proceed?

ANSWER: **12.0-0-0!** Counterattacking the bishop on d5 and simultaneously unpinning the c3-knight.

[Trying to secure the structure with 12.Kd2? Ke7 13.a3 Bxc3+ 14.Kxc3 just wastes a lot of time, and Nc6 followed by ...Rac8 gives Black a strong initiative against the exposed white king.]

12...Bxb3

[Instead:

a) 12...Bxc3? is even worse: 13.Rxd5 Bb4 14.Rb5 and Black is lost.]

[b) 12...Be6 also gives White a huge plus after 13.Nd5 , attacking the b4-bishop and f6-pawn as well as threatening a fork on c7. So Bxd5 14.Rxd5 is forced, when the bishop on b4 is just exposed and will cost Black another move. Moreover White has exchanged Black's light-squared bishop for a knight, which is always a big achievement for us in this variation!

REMEMBER: Exchanging one of our knights for one of Black's bishops is always a strategic goal for us - especially the light-squared bishop, as then Black will not be able to cover the holes on d5 and f5 sufficiently anymore.]

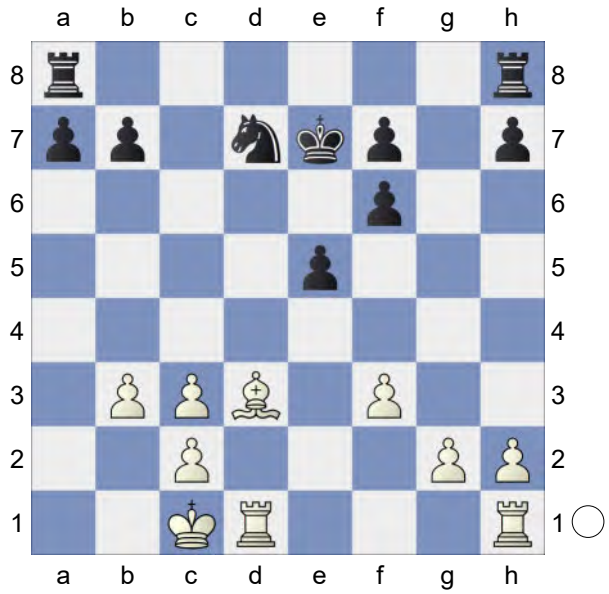
13.axb3

[Another option is 13.Bb5+ Nc6 14.axb3 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Ke7 16.Rhe1 Rad8 17.Bxc6 bxc6 18.Re4 with a very nice rook endgame for White.]

13...Bxc3 14.bxc3 Ke7 15.Bd3! White is already much better. The bishop will dominate the knight who struggles to find a safe outpost; note that it can go neither to d4 nor to b4.

15...Nd7

[After 15...Nc6 16.Be4 the knight has no future.]



16.Bf5 Rad8 17.Rd5 h6

[If 17...Nb6 then 18.Rc5 Kd6 19.b4 gives White a great initiative with 20 Rd1+.]

18.Rhd1

[Here 18.Ra5! was stronger, as after a6 19.c4 Nb8 20.Be4 b6 21.Ra1 the knight will be stuck on b8. White can slowly improve and try to win a pawn on the queenside.]

18...Nb8

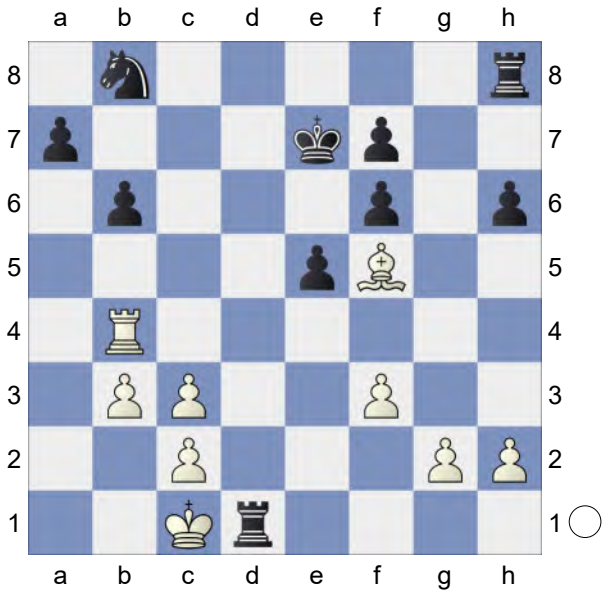
[18...Nb6 leads to a forced sequence: 19.Rxd8 Rxd8 20.Rxd8 Kxd8 21.Be4! Kc7 22.c4 Nc8 23.Bd5 Nd6 24.c5 Nf5 25.g4 Nh4 26.Kd2 and White will soon win the f7-pawn.]

19.Rb5

[After 19.c4 Rxd5 20.cxd5 Rd8 White has a passed pawn, but Black has good chances to install a blockade on the dark squares.]

19...b6 20.Rb4 Rxd1+

(Diagram)

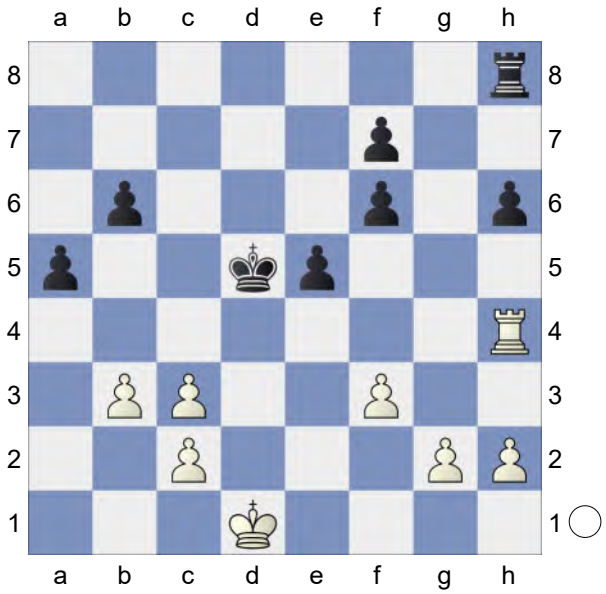


21.Kxd1 Nc6 22.Ra4 a5 23.Be4 Kd6 24.Bxc6

[Here 24.b4 was another try for an edge. I was afraid of b5 , but White has 25.Ra1! and is much better because axb4? just loses to 26.Ra6 Rc8 27.cxb4 .]

24...Kxc6 25.Rh4 The advantage has vanished for now, though White later gets a second chance.

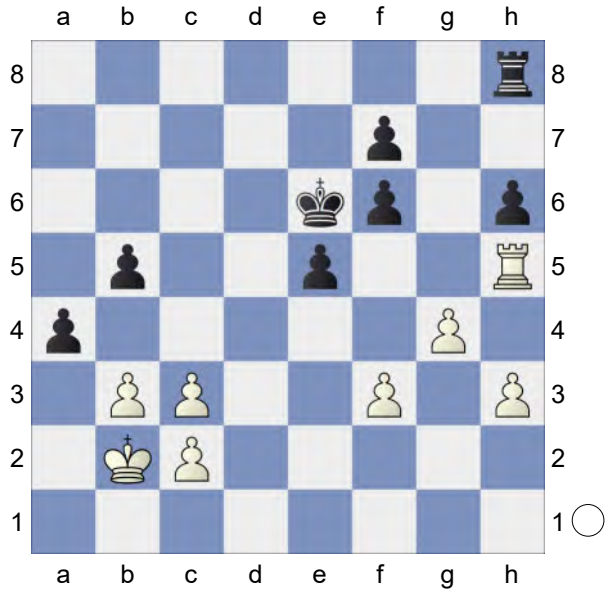
25...Kd5



26.Rh5 b5 27.Kc1 a4 28.Kb2 Ke6 29.g4 Rg8 30.h3

[30.Rxh6 is no good because after e4 31.fxe4 Rxg4 White cannot win due to the exchange of too many pawns.]

30...Rh8

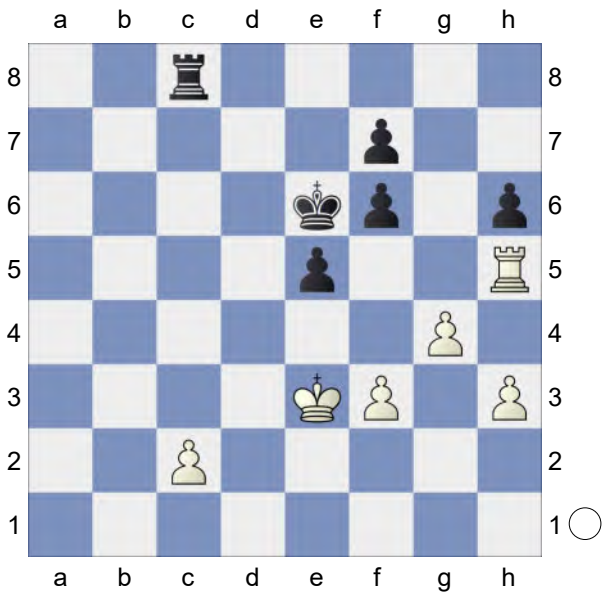


31.c4

[If 31.h4 immediately, Black gets counterplay with Rg8 32.Rxh6 e4! 33.fxe4 *(not 33.g5? e3 34.Rxf6+ Ke7 35.Rf4 Re8* , which would change the evaluation drastically*)* 33...Rxg4 , although 34.c4 axb3 35.cxb5 bxc2 36.Kxc2 Rxe4 37.Kc3 keeps some chances alive.]

31...axb3 32.Kxb3 bxc4+ 33.Kxc4 Rc8+ 34.Kd3 Rd8+ 35.Ke3 Rc8

(Diagram)



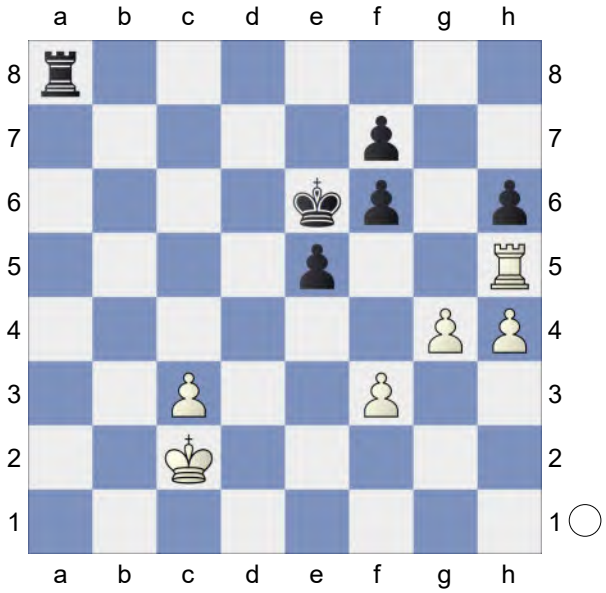
36.Kd2 Rd8+ 37.Kc1 Rh8?

[Better was 37...Rd4! 38.Rxh6 *(38.Rf5 Rd8* leads to nothing either*)* 38...Rf4 and the position is completely equal.]

38.c3 Rc8 39.Kc2 Rh8 QUESTION: White still enjoys the better position but it is not so easy to get anything significant out of it. Can you find a way to make progress?

ANSWER: **40.h4!** Preparing g4-g5, since Black's h-pawn is pinned.

40...Ra8

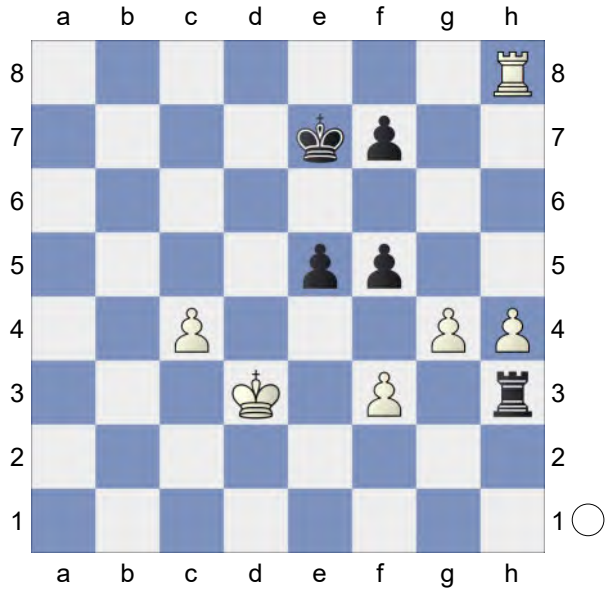


41.Rxh6 Ke7 42.Rh5 Ra2+ 43.Kd3 Rh2 44.Rh8?

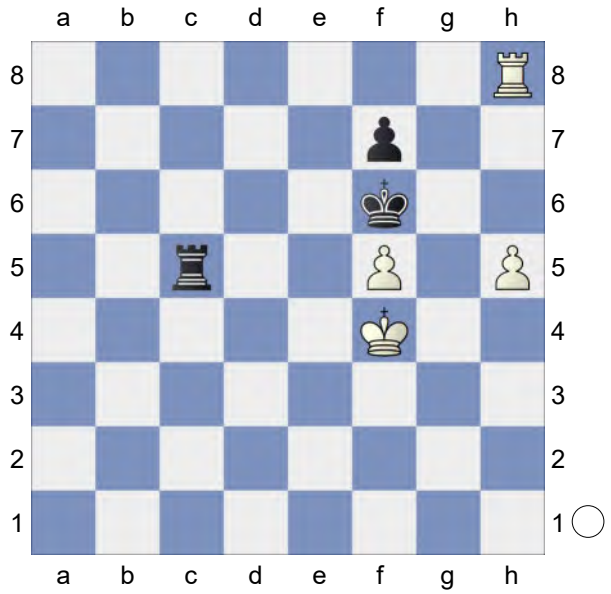
[Instead, 44.Rf5! intending h4-h5 would be White's dream. And it indeed worked because Rxh4 runs into 45.Rh5! , forcing a won pawn endgame for White.]

44...f5 After a few more inaccuracies the game ended in a draw.

45.c4 Rh3

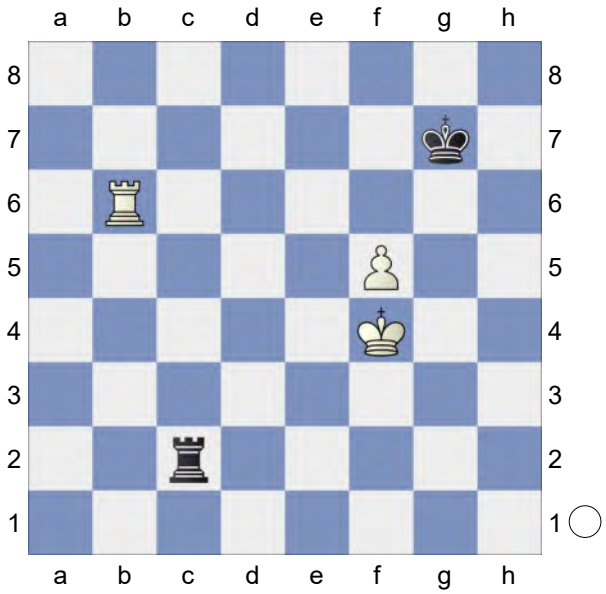


46.gxf5 Rxf3+ 47.Ke4 Rf4+ 48.Kxe5 Rxc4 49.h5 Rc5+ 50.Kf4 Kf6

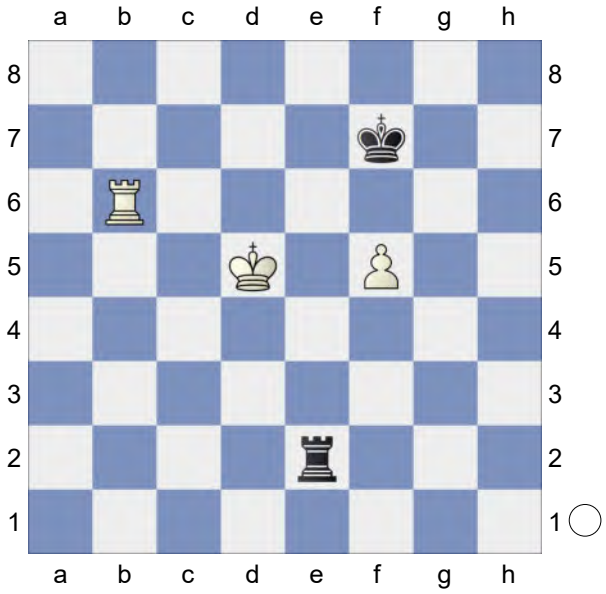


51.Rh6+ Kg7 52.Rd6 f6 53.h6+ Kxh6

54.Rxf6+ Kg7 55.Rb6 Rc2



56.Ke5 Re2+ 57.Kd5 Kf7



½-½

195 **B55**

□ **Grischuk,Alexander**

■ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime**

14. FIDE Grand Prix 2015

[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4

Nf6 5 f3

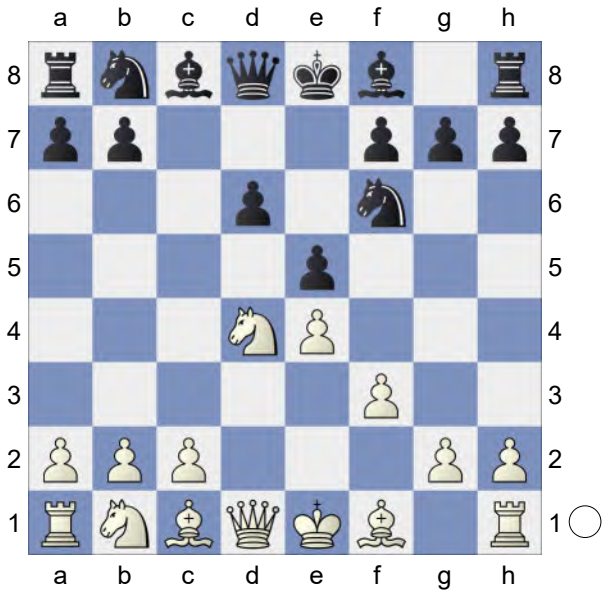
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

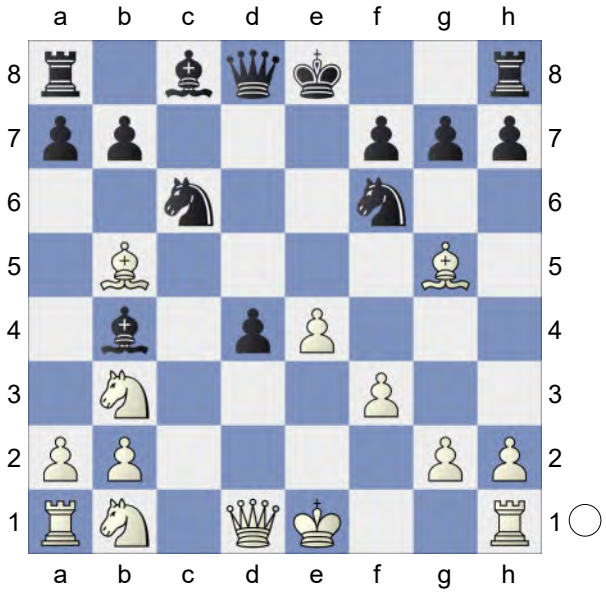
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

(Diagram)



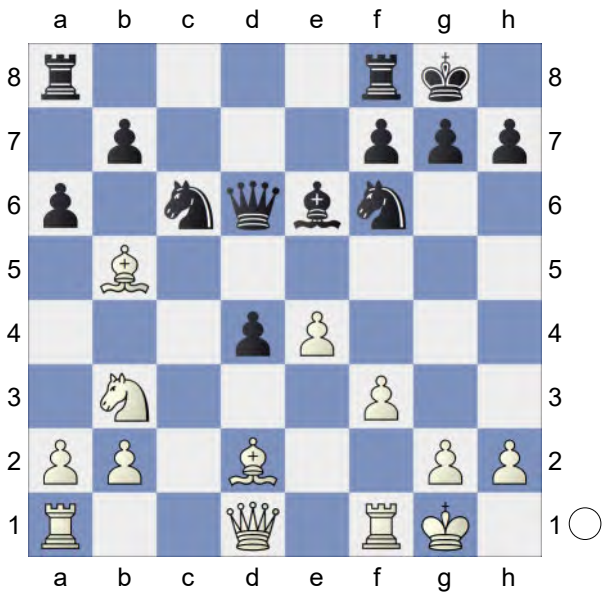
6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.cxd4 exd4 10.Bb5 Bb4+



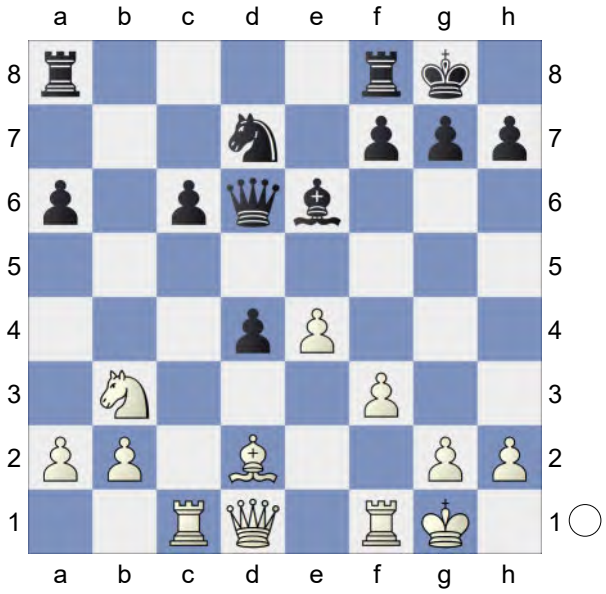
11.Bd2 And now Bxb4 would win.

11...Bd6 12.Na3 0-0 13.Nc4 Be6 14.Nxd6 Qxd6 15.0-0 a6

(Diagram)

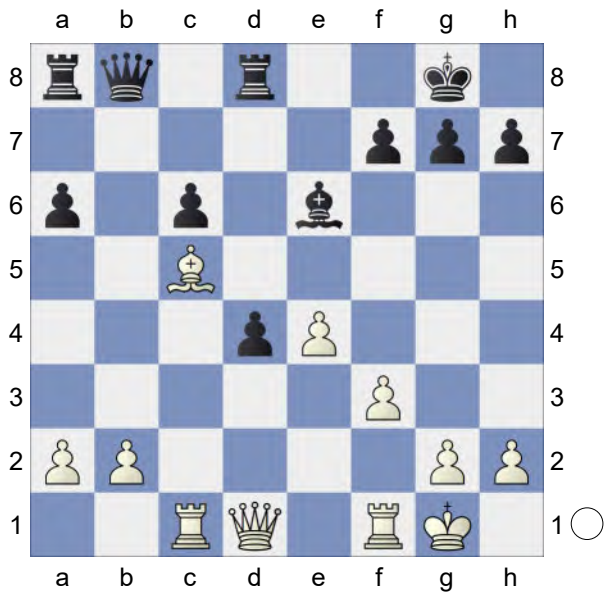


16.Bxc6 bxc6 17.Rc1 Nd7

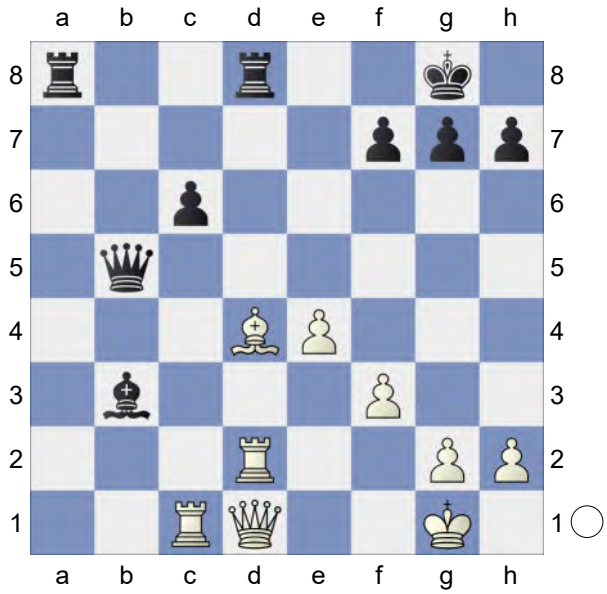


Against Nc5 **18.Nc5! Nxc5** 0.21/21
[⩲18...a5! -0.13/18 19.Qc2 Nxc5 20.Qxc5 Qxc5 21.Rxc5 Rfb8]
[18...Bxa2 19.Nxd7]
19.Bb4= Rfd8 20.Bxc5
[20.b3 is more complex. Qf4 21.Bxc5 Qe3+ 22.Rf2]
20...Qb8

(Diagram)

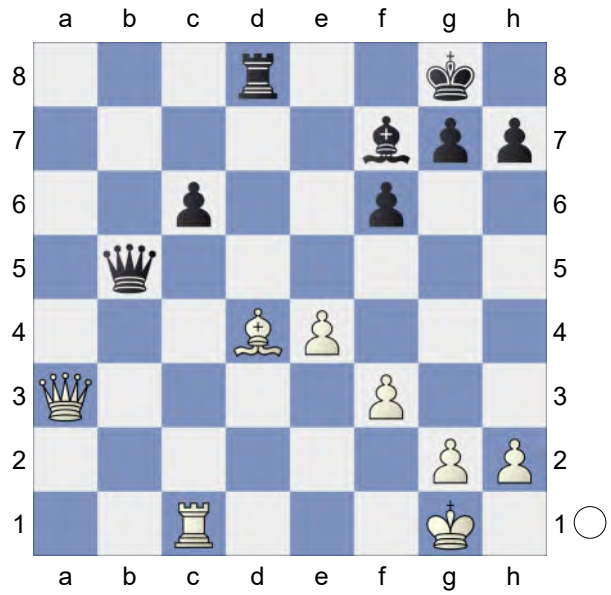


21.b3
[21.Bxd4? c5 22.Rxc5 Qb4-+]
21...a5 22.Rf2!
[Wrong is 22.Bxd4? Qb4 23.Rxc6 Rxd4-+]
22...Qb5! 23.Rd2
[Avoid the trap 23.Bxd4? c5 24.Qf1 *(24.a4? Qb4-+)* 24...Qxf1+ 25.Rcxf1 cxd4-+]
23...a4 24.Bxd4 axb3 25.axb3 Bxb3

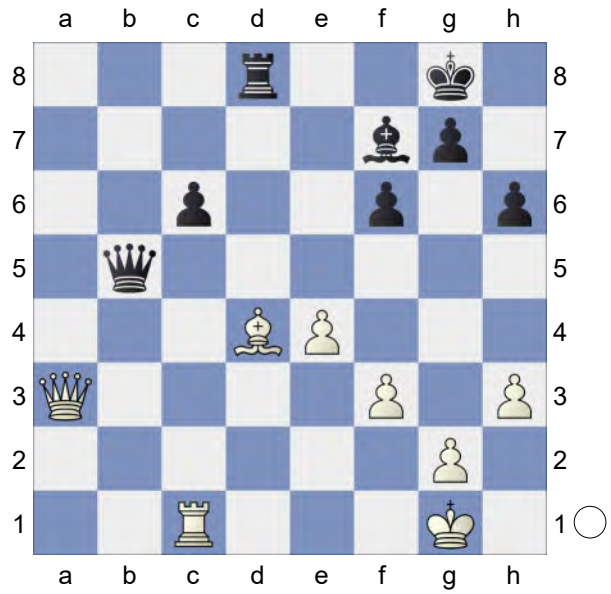


26.Qe1 f6 0.85/20
[26...Qb4± 0.54/18 27.Be3 Rxd2 28.Qxd2 Qxd2 29.Bxd2 Ba4]

27.Qe3 0.44/22
[27.h3± 0.85/20]
27...Ra2± 28.Rxa2 Bxa2 29.Qa3 Bf7

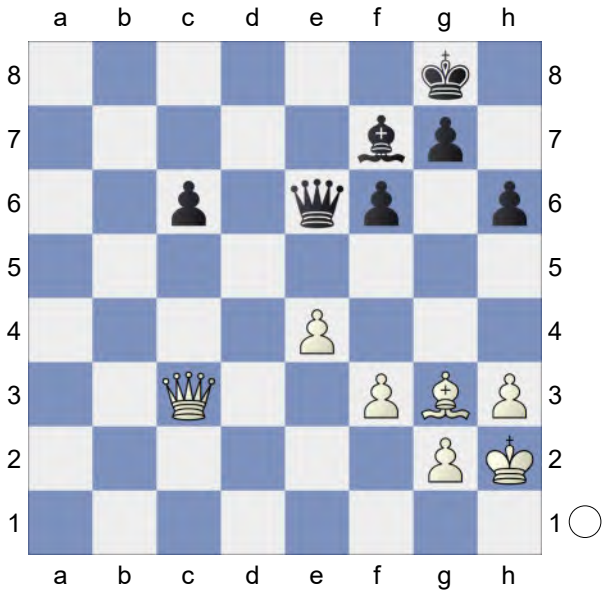


30.h3! h6

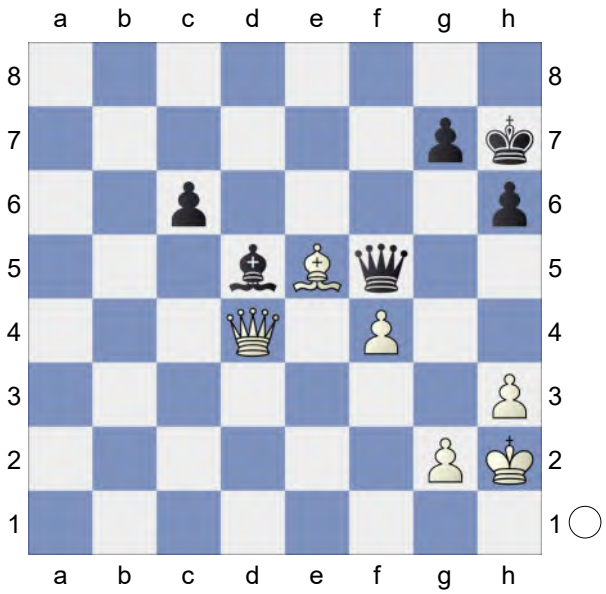


31.Qc3 Qa4 32.Bf2 Rd1+ 33.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 34.Kh2 Qd6+ 35.Bg3 Qe6

(Diagram)

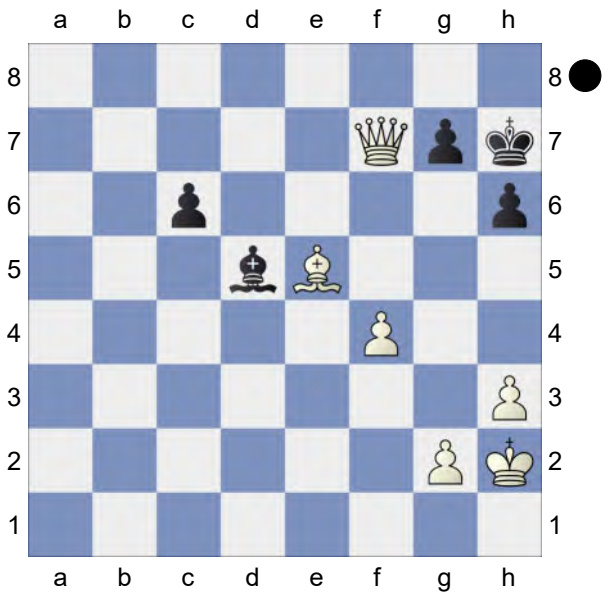


36.Qd4 Kh7 37.Bd6 Qd7 38.f4 0.01/21
[38.Qc5± 0.33/19]
38...f5 39.exf5 Qxf5 40.Be5 Bd5



41.Qa7
[Don't blunder 41.Bxg7? Qg6 42.Qb2 Qxg7-+]
41...Qf7 42.Qxf7

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)
½-½

196 **B55**
□ **Alekhine/Frank,H**
■ **Bogoljubow/Stolzyk**
Warsaw consultation 03.11.1941
[Kitty Kat]

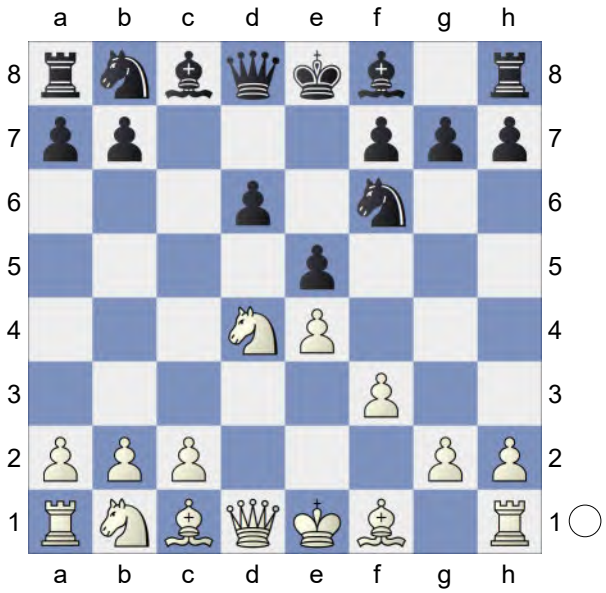
B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

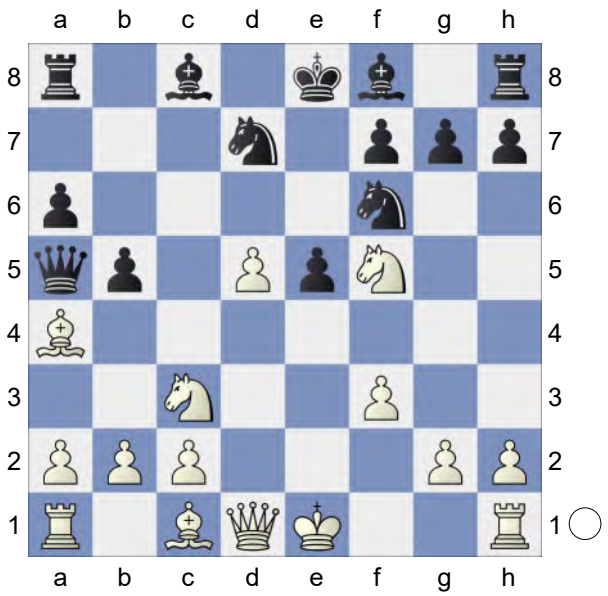
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

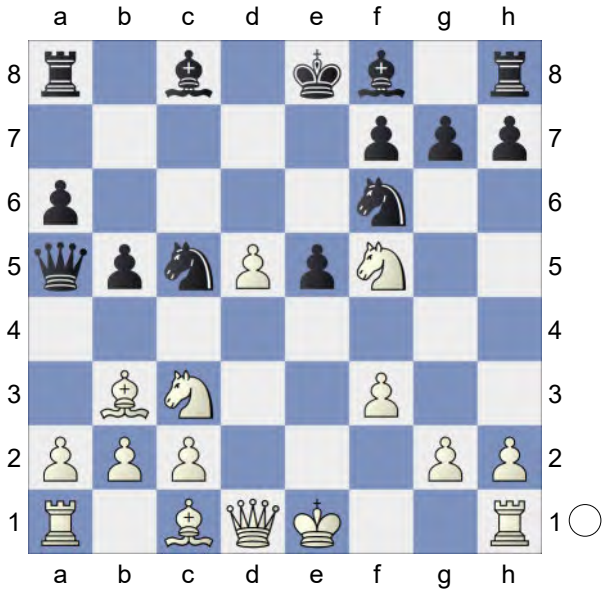
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Bb5+ Nbd7 7.Nf5 Qa5+ 0.70/19
[7...d5= 0.16/17]
8.Nc3± 0x0.00209a826646dp-1022s more active pieces. **8...d5 9.exd5 a6** White is slightly better. **10.Ba4 b5**
(Diagram)

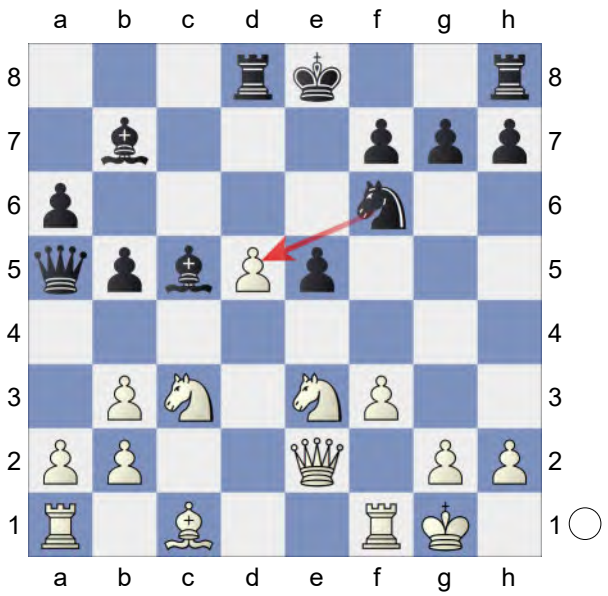


11.Bb3 Nc5

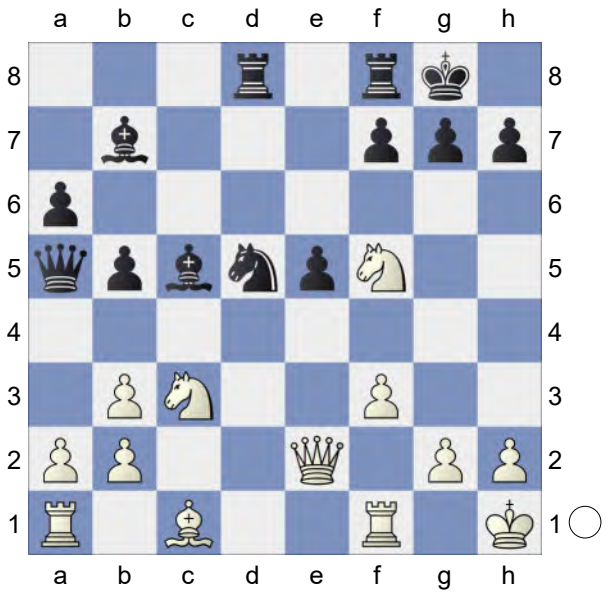


12.Ne3 -0.04/19
[12.Qe2!± 1.20/20 Nfd7 *(12...e4 13.Nd4)* 13.Bd2]
12...Nxb3= 13.cxb3 Bb7 0.41/19
[13...Bc5= 0.06/20]
14.0-0± Rd8 15.Qe2 Bc5

(Diagram)

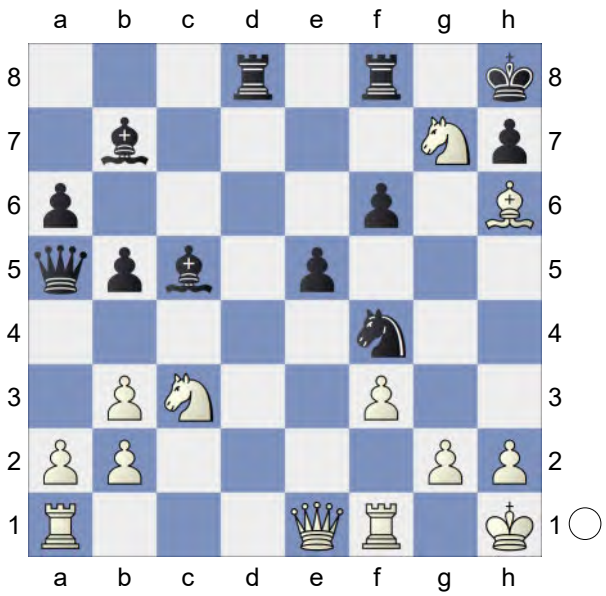


16.Kh1 0-0 17.Nf5 And now Bh6! would win. **17...Nxd5** 1.24/22
[17...Qb6± 0.40/18]

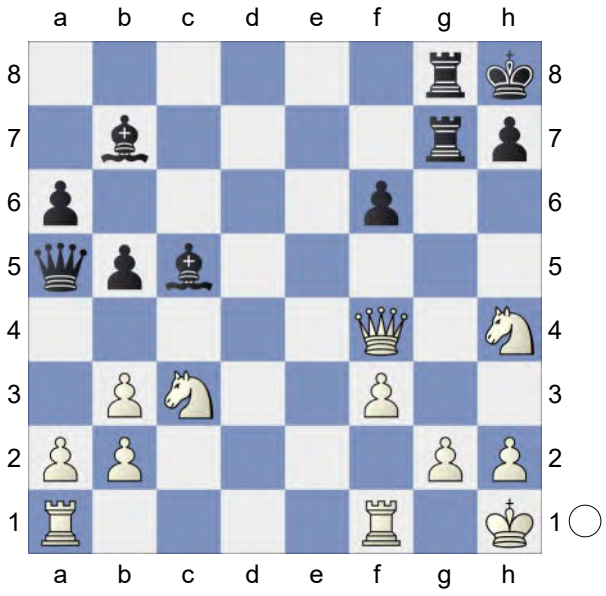


Black is on the road to losing. **18.Bh6!± f6**
[18...Nxc3? 19.Qxe5 f6 20.Qxc5+-]
[18...Qc7 19.Qe1]
19.Nxg7 Pair of Knights!
[19.Bxg7 Rf7±]
19...Nf4 Inhibits Ne6. **20.Qe1 Kh8**

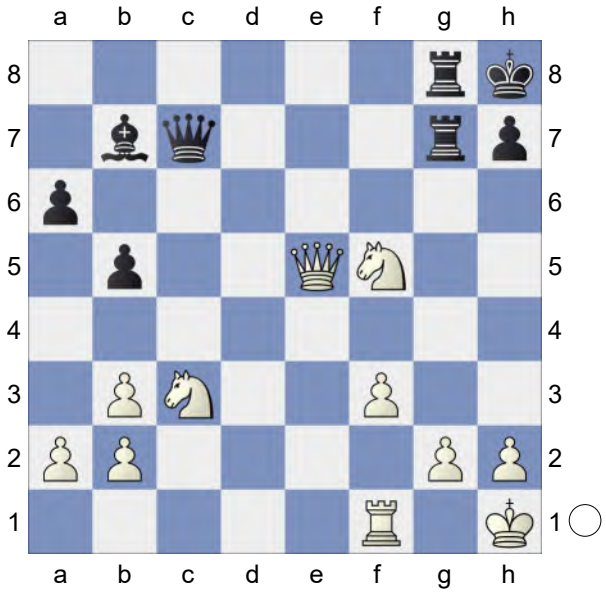
(Diagram)



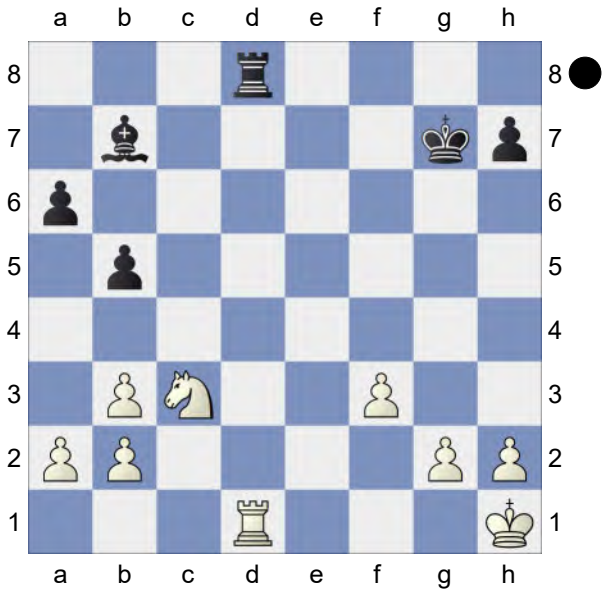
21.Nf5→ White goes for the king.
21...Rg8 2.22/21 Against Bg7+
[⌓21...Rf7 1.69/20 22.Bxf4 exf4]
22.Qh4+- Rg6 23.Bxf4 The board is on fire. **23...exf4 24.Qxf4 Rdg8 25.Nh4 R6g7**



26.Rae1
[Resist 26.Qxf6?! Be7 27.Qf4 Bg5±]
26...Qb6 2.34/19
[26...Qc7 1.73/20 keeps fighting. 27.Qxc7 *(27.Qxf6 Be7=)* 27...Rxc7]
27.Re2 Bd4 3.51/20
[⌓27...Qc7 2.01/20 28.Qxc7 *(28.Qxf6 Be7±)* 28...Rxc7]
28.Nf5 Be5 29.Rxe5 fxe5 30.Qxe5 Qc7



31.Qd4 Qd7 32.Qf6 Qd8 33.Qxd8 White is clearly winning. **33...Rxd8 34.Nxg7 Kxg7 35.Rd1**

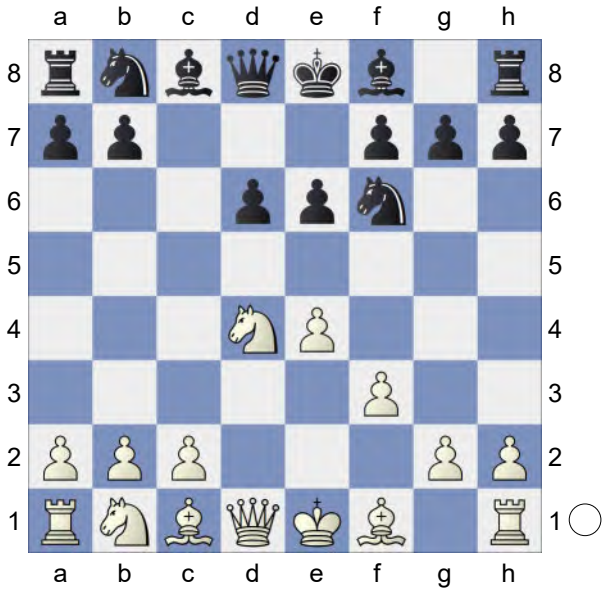


Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.29 (precise)
1-0

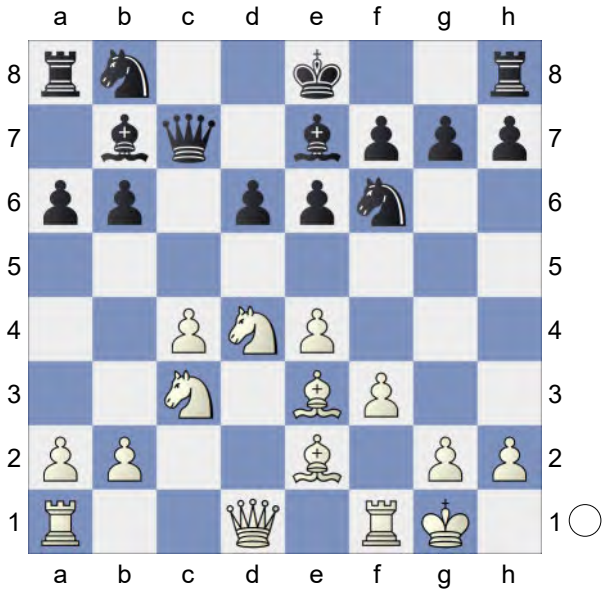
197 **A31**
□ **Kasparov,Sergey**
■ **Heiduczek,Josef**
65: Rasthofen 2012
[Sergey Kasparov]

A31: Symmetrical English: 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 d4

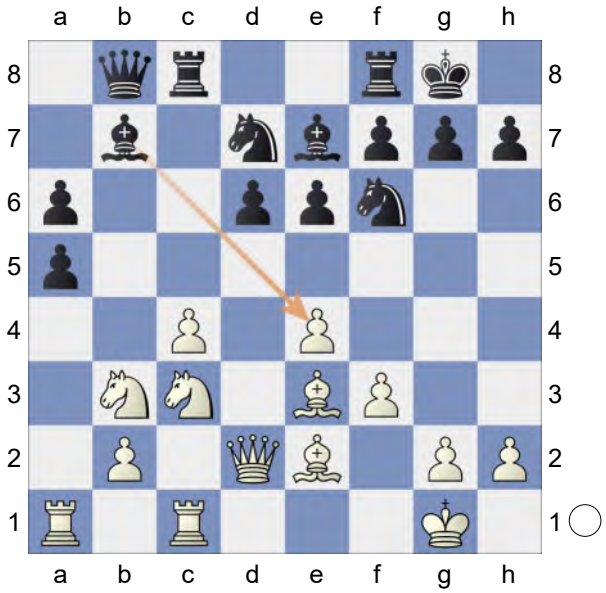
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e6



6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 a6 8.Be3 Qc7 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7



11.Qd2 0-0 12.Rfc1 Nbd7 13.a4 Rac8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Qb8

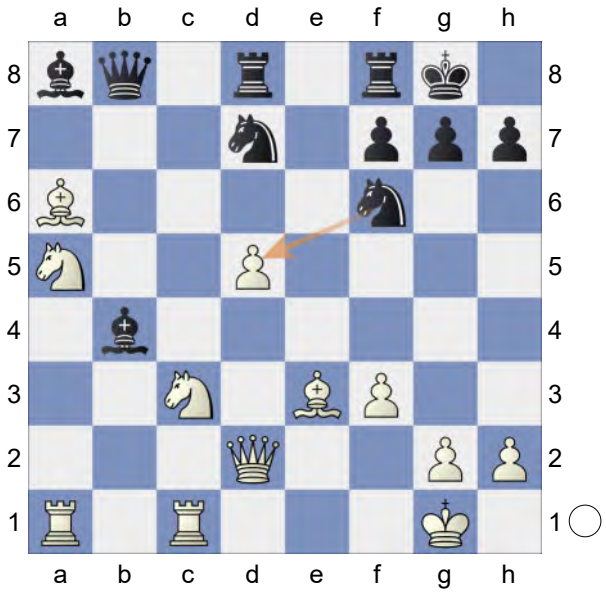


16.Nxa5 &Bianco is more active.
16...Ba8 Keeping the bishop alive. Black implies that this long-range piece can work effectively from the corner, whereas the knight on a5 will but passively stand on the edge of the board.
. White is slightly better. **17.b4 d5!**
[Of course, 17...Qxb4?? 3.73/20 17...d5 0.14 doesn't work as after 18.Rcb1 the queen perishes.]
[17...Qxb4? 18.Rcb1 d5 19.Rxb4+-]
18.cxd5N
[A curious option is 18.c5!? dxe4 19.Nxe4 Bxe4 *(19...Nxe4 20.Qxd7 Bg5 21.Bxg5 Nxg5 22.Qd2 Qe5 23.Nc4 Qf6 24.h4 Nh3+ 25.gxh3 Qxh4 26.Kg2 f5 27.Rxa6 Rf6 28.Ne5 Rh6 29.Qd6 Qg5+ 30.Kf2 Qxc1 31.Qd7 Rf8 32.Ra7 Qg5 33.Bc4 Qf6 34.Bxe6+ 3.c3 ♗g7 4.♗g5_30545 (2125)-7. ♗b3 ♘bd7 8.♗g5 Qa5_71 (2371) Astrakhan 2022 CBM 72 ext [John Watson] ½-½ (43))* 20.fxe4 . The pawn on a6 is half-dead, hence we have connected passed b-

and c-pawns here, supported by two bishops.]

18...exd5 19.Bxa6 Rcd8 20.exd5 Bxb4

[20...Ne5 0.50/19 20...Bxb4 -0.07 doesn't equalize either in view of 21.Qf2 0.15/21 *(21.b5± 0.50/19)* 21...Nxd5 22.Nxd5 Bxd5 23.Rab1 .]



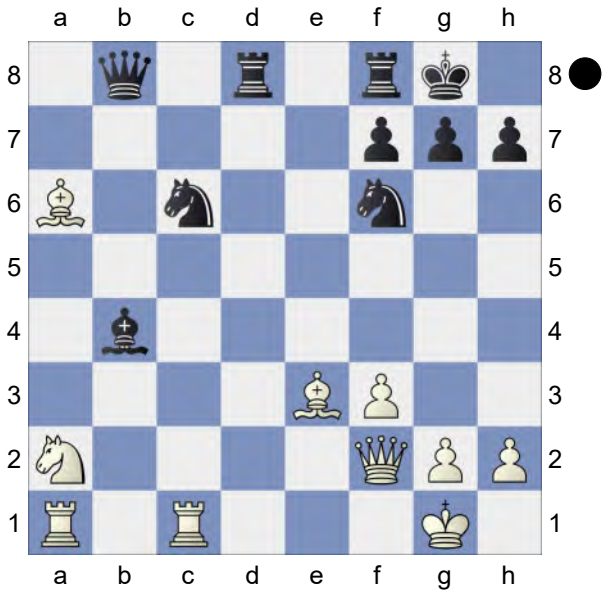
aiming for ...Nxd5! **21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.dxc6** A great deal depends on how White manages to protect the advance guard on c6. If it is destroyed, the situation will be level, as in the fight on one flank (the kingside), the two bishops are not too dangerous.

Black must now prevent Qf2. **22...Ne5**

[22...Nc5!? was better.]

23.Qf2↑ Threatens to win with Ba7. White is pushing. **23...Nxc6** The soldier has died, but also Black's pieces are a little loose and subject to attack. **24.Na2**

(Diagram)



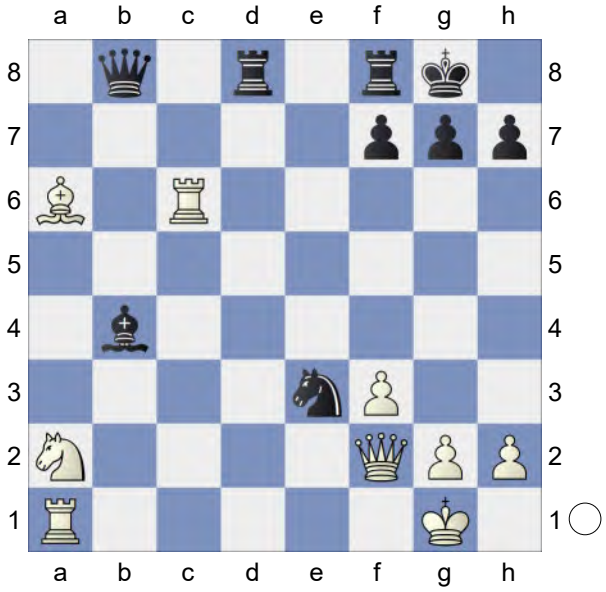
Nd5! 1.05/22 **25.Rxc6±**

[25.Nxb4 Ndxb4]

25...Nxe3? 1.87/22

[By now 25...Bd6! was essential.]

[25...Bd6± 1.00/24 is a better defense.]

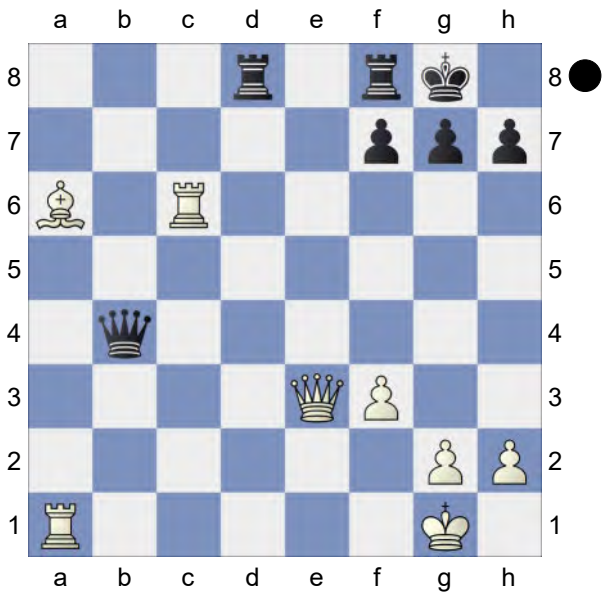


26.Nxb4+- Qxb4? 3.75/23

[26...Nxg2 1.74/21 27.Kxg2 Qxb4]

27.Qxe3

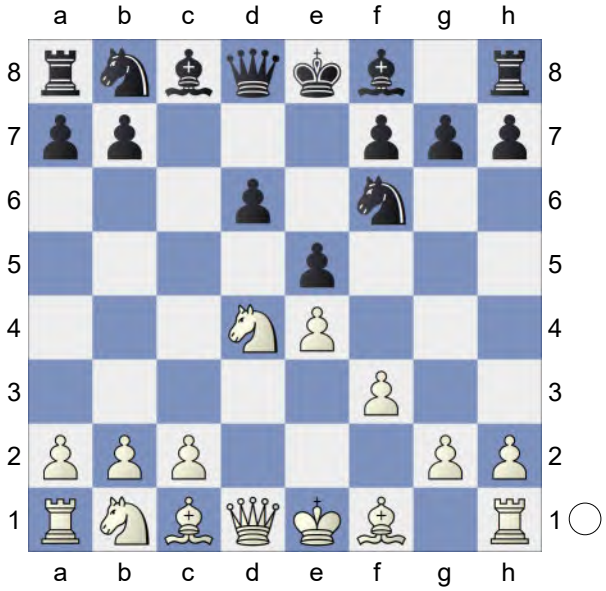
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.36
1-0

198 **B55**
□ **Ivanchuk,Vassily**
■ **Sebag,Marie**
20. Cap d'(rapid) 2012
[Jonas Hacker]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]

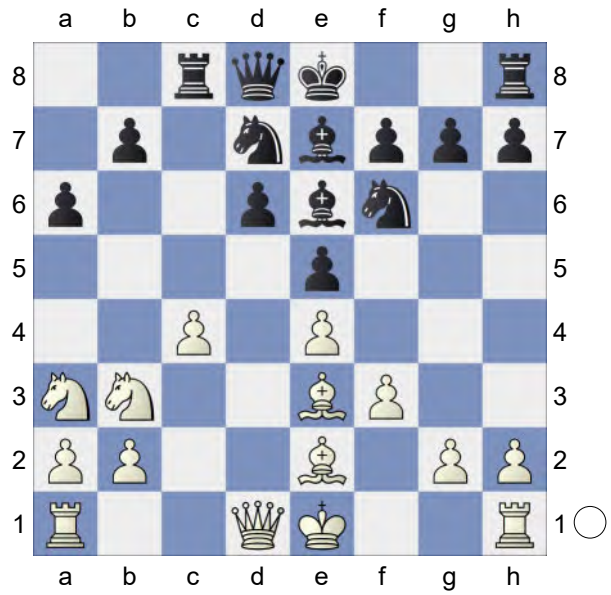


6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 Nbd7
[7...Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2±]
8.Be3 Rc8 9.Na3 Ivanchuk decides not to sacrifice the pawn. In my opinion this is a less critical option and Black should be fine afterwards. Nonetheless, White

gets a fully playable game as well, and if you do not like to sac a pawn early you can apply this approach.

9...a6 10.Be2 The position is equal.

10...Be7



11.0-0 0-0 So far, normal developing moves by both sides.

[Maybe you wondered whether the breakthrough with ...b7-b5 and ...d6-d5 was possible, but White's queenside pawns are much more dangerous after 11...b5 0.61/21 11...h5 0.06 12.cxb5 d5 2.01/20 (Black should try *12...axb5±* 0.56/20 *13.Nxb5 d5*) 13.bxa6+- dxe4 2.14/20 *(13...0-0* 1.72/19 was called for. *14.Nb5 dxe4*) 14.fxe4+- Nxe4 . Although the situation remains messy, the computers consider that White is winning here already.]

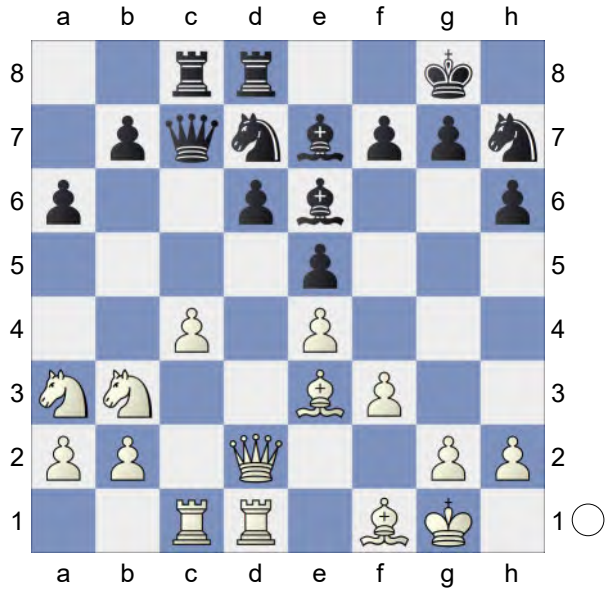
12.Qd2 h6 Preparing the exchange of dark-squared bishops. **13.Rfd1 Qc7 14.Rac1 Rfd8 15.Bf1** 0.21/17 A bit slow; it does not really matter if the bishop is on e2 or f1.

[White could instead improve his knight which is still standing on the rim: 15.Nb1!? (in order to bring it to d5!) Qb8 16.Nc3 Bxc4 17.Bxc4 Rxc4 18.Nd5! Rxc1 19.Nxe7+ Kf8 And now ...Rxd1+ would win. 20.Nxc1 Kxe7 21.Ne2 with good compensation for the pawn.]

[15.Na1± 0.52/20 deserves consideration.]

15...Nh7 0.55/19

[15...Qb8= 0.21/17]



16.Nc2 Nc5

[16...Bxc4? 17.Nb4+- *(17.Na3 b5+-)*]

17.Nb4 Nxb3 18.axb3

[18.Nxa6 with more complications. Nxd2 19.Nxc7 Nxf1 20.Bb6]

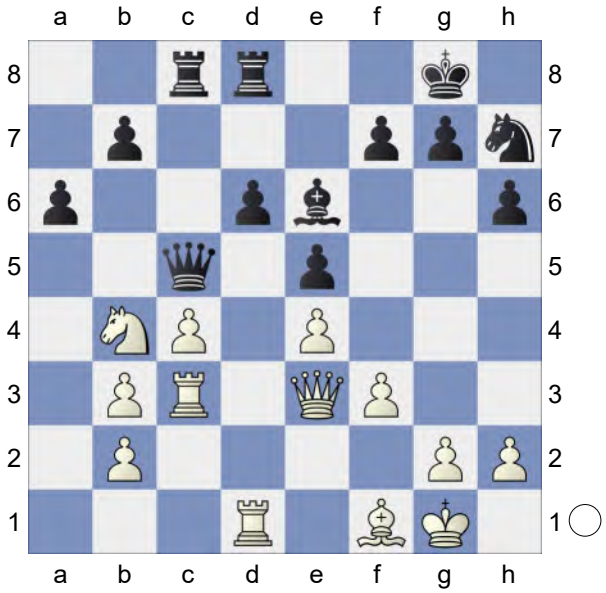
18...Bg5 19.Rc3 Bxe3+ 20.Qxe3 Qc5?

[though the alternatives also leave White on top:

a) 20...Qa5 21.Nc2 is slightly better for White. He can increase the pressure against the d6-pawn while maintaining his space advantage.]

[b) 20...Nf6 is more or less okay for Black, since he can cover his weakness on d6 without problems. Nonetheless, I still prefer White

because it is up to him what to do and when to do it. Black has almost no active plans.]



This is a tactical oversight; **21.Qxc5 dxc5** 0.96/21

[21...Rxc5 was necessary, allowing White's continued pressure against the d6-pawn.]

[21...Rxc5± 0.37/26 22.Rcd3 a5]

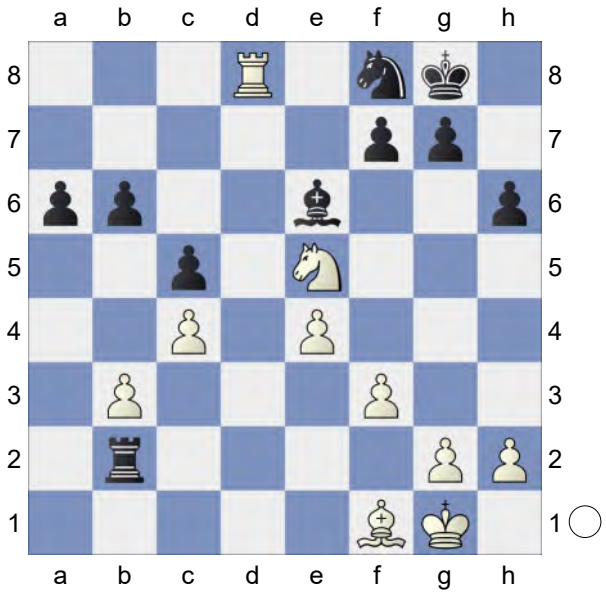
QUESTION: How can White win material?

ANSWER: **22.Rxd8+!±** White stays focused until the end. **22...Rxd8 23.Nd3** Forking the c- and e-pawns. White will pick up one of them.

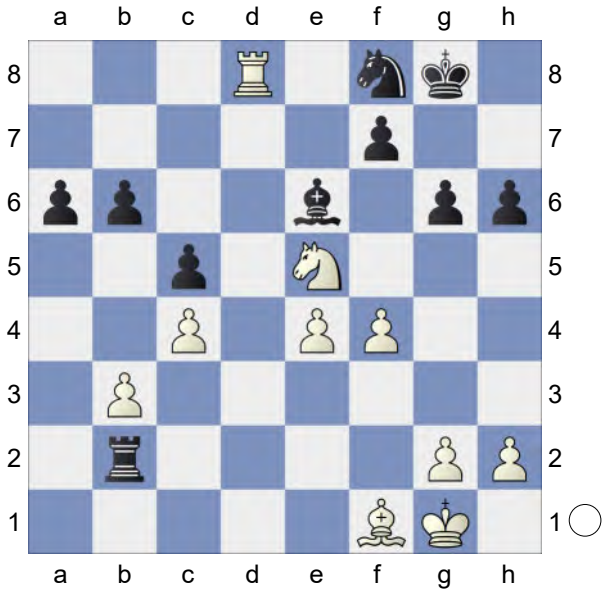
23...b6 24.Nxe5 Rd2 25.Rd3 Rxd3

[25...Rxb2 would be a more active defence. Unfortunately, it loses a piece after 26.Rd8+ Nf8

(Diagram)

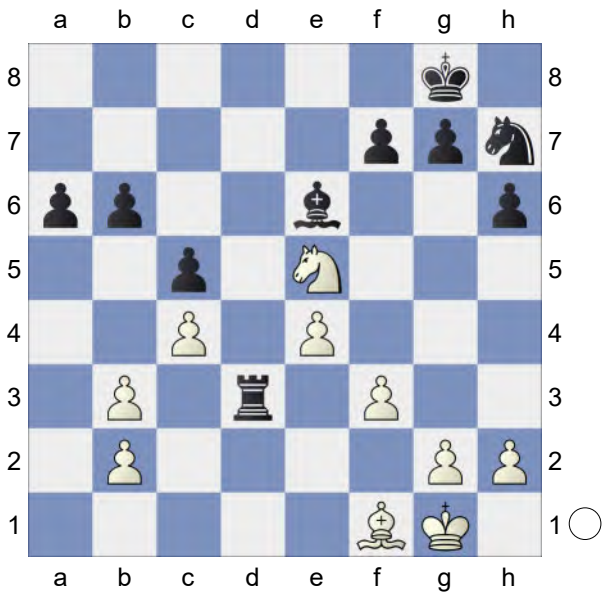


27.f4! ; e.g. g6 *(or 27...f6?* 4.81/23 27...g6 1.15 *28.Ng6)*

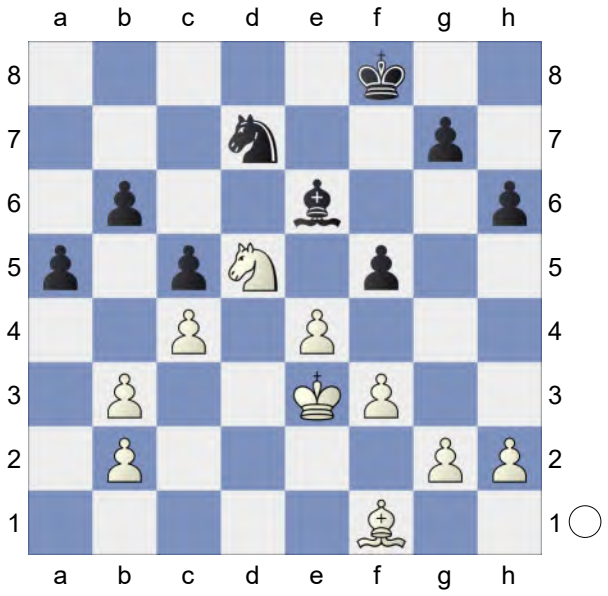


Prevents f5. 28.g4! Hoping for f5. Kg7 29.f5 gxf5 2.10/22 *(29...Kf6±* 1.34/21 *)* 30.exf5 .]

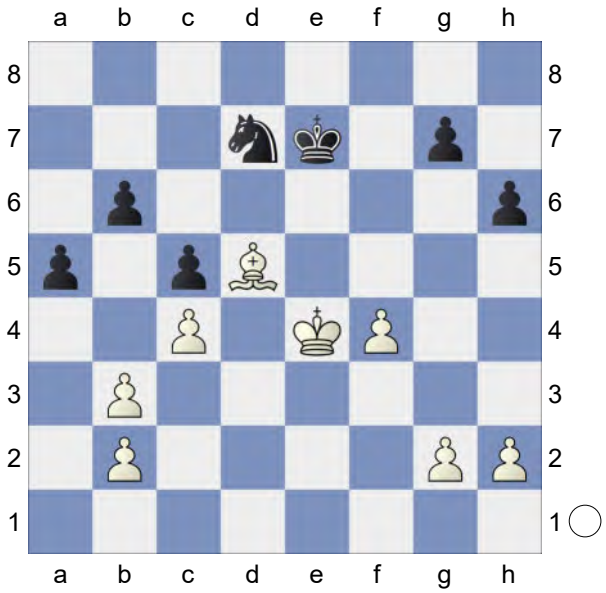
(Diagram)



26.Nxd3 Endgame White is winning - a healthy extra pawn in a minor piece ending should be enough with accurate play.
Threatens to win with b4. KBN-KBN
[But not 26.Bxd3 Nf8±]
26...a5 Prevents b4. **27.Nf4 Nf6 28.Kf2 Kf8 29.Ke3 Nd7 30.Nd5 f5** 2.28/23
[30...Ke8 1.77/21 keeps fighting. 31.h4 Kd8]

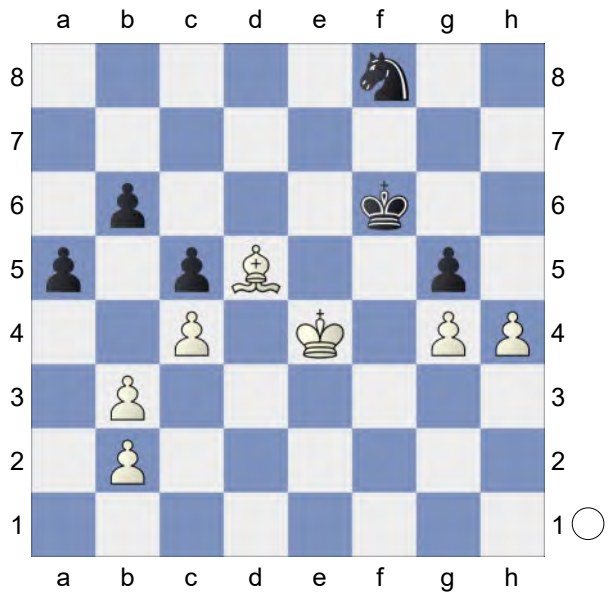


31.Bd3 Black must now prevent Nc7.
31...fxe4 32.Bxe4 Bxd5 2.01/25
[32...g5± 1.57/23 was necessary. 33.f4 Bg4]
33.Bxd5+- KB-KN
[Don't take 33.cxd5?! Ke7±]
33...Ke7 34.Ke4 Kf6 35.f4 Ke7 3.68/24
[⌓35...Nf8 2.27/25 36.g3 g6]

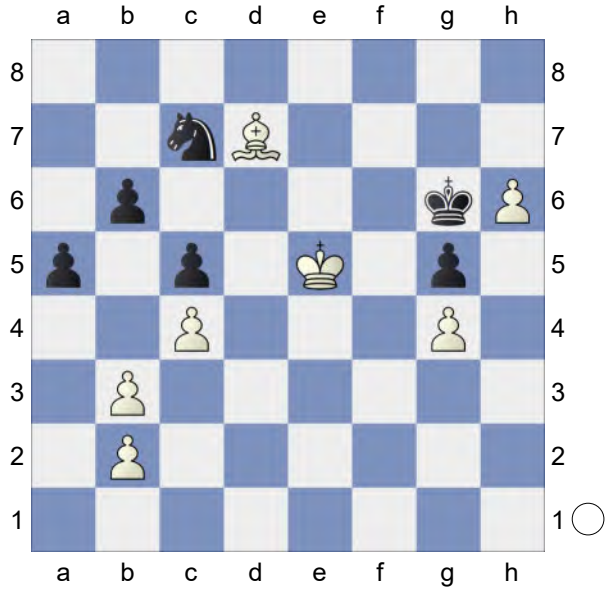


36.Kf5 Nf8 37.g4 g6+ 38.Ke4 Kf6? 6.22/28
[38...Nd7 3.61/24 39.g5 hxg5 40.fxg5 Kd6]
39.h4 White is clearly winning. **39...g5 40.fxg5+ hxg5**

(Diagram)

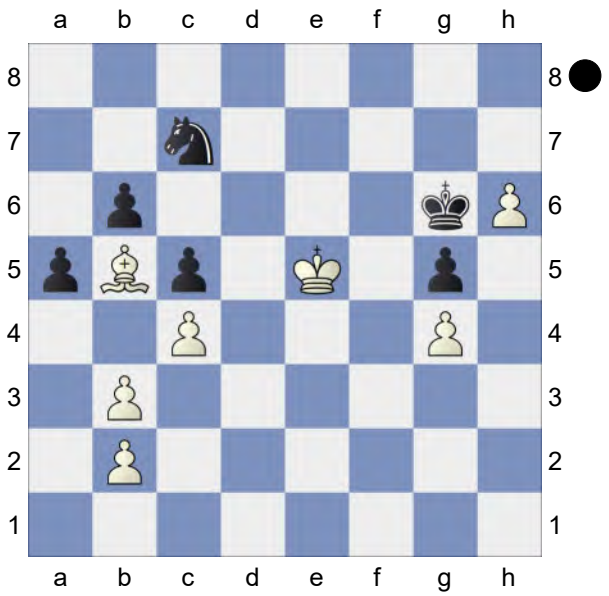


41.h5 Nd7 42.h6 Kg6 43.Be6 Nf6+
[Or 43...Nf8 44.Bf5+ Kxh6 45.Kd5 and wins, since the bishop dominates the knight.]
44.Ke5 Ne8 45.Bd7 Nc7



46.Bb5

(Diagram)



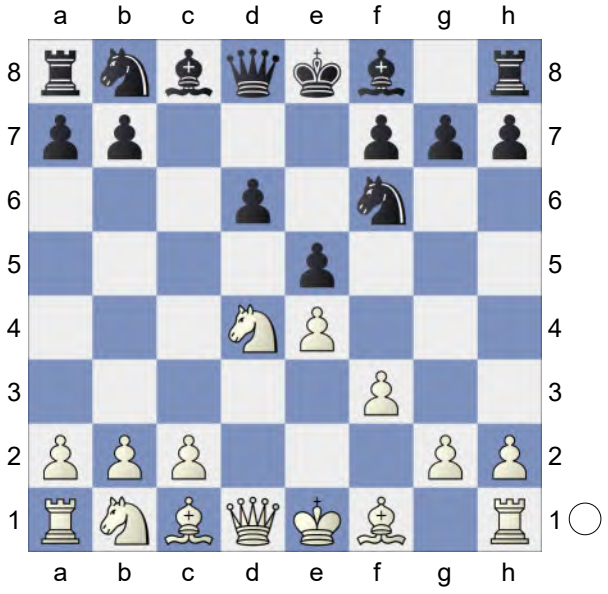
Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.25 (precise)
1-0

199 **B55**
□ **Czebe,Attila**
■ **Nayhebaver,Martin**
11 Bojnice 2016
[Jonas Hacker]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4*

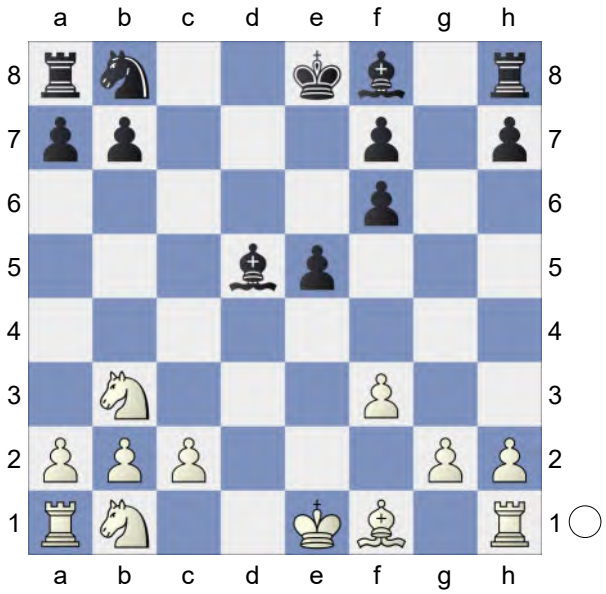
16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Bxd5

(Diagram)



11.Nc3 Be6 12.0-0-0 Nd7 This is the alternative to 12...Nc6 which we saw in the previous game. Although played more often, and the computer being happy with the move, my feeling is that Black is in an uncomfortable situation over the board after 12...Nd7. His pieces are not yet in play and it is not easy to decide how to free them. In addition, there are natural tries which go quite wrong.

13.Nb5! This prevents Black from castling without giving up the a7-pawn (which no one has ever tried).

[13.Nd5 -0.01/20 13.Nb5 0.40 is not seen often as then 0-0-0 leaves Black with no problems at all.]

13...Kd8 Prevents Nc7.

[Others:

a) 13...Rc8? 1.19/19 13...Kd8 0.33 is a mistake in view of 14.Nxa7 Ra8 15.Nb5 Hoping for Nc7+. Rxa2? 2.79/23 *(15...Kd8±* 1.21/19) 16.Kb1+- and White is winning because the rook has no good retreat square; e.g. Ra4 4.57/21 *(or 16...Bxb3 17.cxb3 Ra5 18.Nc7+ Kd8 19.Nd5 Kc8 20.g3 Rc5 21.Bh3*

and Black is lost because of the annoying pin; *16...Bxb3* 2.98/24 might work better. *17.cxb3 Ra5 18.Nc7+ Ke7 19.Nd5+ Ke6)* 17.Nc7++- Ke7 18.Nxe6 Kxe6 19.Rxd7! and White won a piece in D. Bisby-T.O'Gorman, London 2017.]

[b) 13...Ke7 should be answered by 14.Nc7! Rd8 *(*or *14...Rc8* ; inserting ...Bh6+ at any point makes no difference*)* 15.Nd5+ , forcing Black to give up the light-squared bishop with Bxd5 16.Rxd5 , when White has all the chances due to the superior structure, even if Black would still expect to draw.]

14.Na5 White is slightly better. **14...Rb8**

[14...Kc8 is an alternative but then the a8-rook will be stuck for a long time. White continues with the same plan of 15.Bc4 . This kind of situation is very good for White in a practical sense. Black can harm his position with many moves and so must defend really accurately. If he fails, White has an easy and big advantage. That such thing can happen quickly can be seen by the following line: a6 1.31/21 (this looks quite normal but brings Black into a difficult situation) *(*while after *15...Nb6 16.Nd6+ Bxd6 17.Bxe6+ fxe6 18.Rxd6 Re8 19.Rd3* Black struggles to bring the a8-rook into the game*; 15...b6±* 0.34/22 *16.Bxe6 fxe6)* 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Nd6+ Bxd6 18.Rxd6 Kc7 19.Rhd1 Nf8 20.R6d3 with a huge initiative for White.]

15.Bc4 a6? 1.31/22

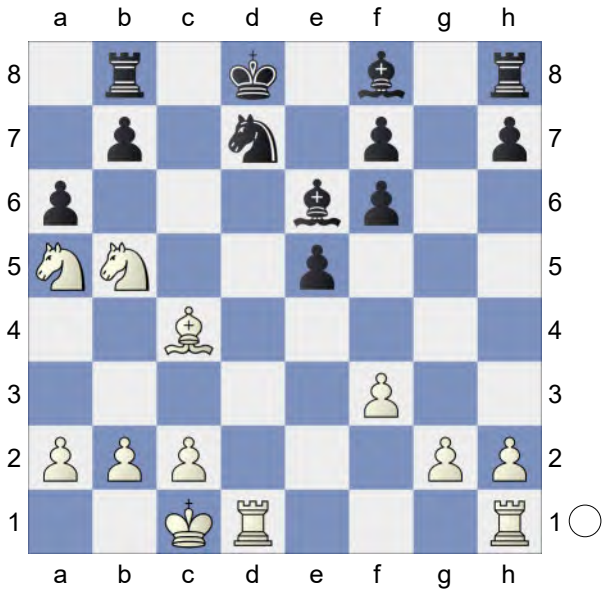
[Instead:

a) 15...Bxc4? 1.45/21 15...Bb4 0.10 is simply bad because the knights will invade and the light squares offer great outposts; e.g. 16.Nxc4 Bc5 17.Ncd6 Rf8 2.15/23 *(17...Bxd6±* 1.45/20 was necessary. *18.Nxd6 Rg8)* 18.Nf5! .]

[b) 15...Bh6+ 16.Kb1 Ke7 is a viable option, though Black must still be careful; for example, 17.Rd6! a6? 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.Rhd1 Nc5 20.b4 also gives White a huge plus.]

[c) 15...Bb4! is the correct plan. Black should be happy to see White exchange on e6 as then ...f7xe6 covers a lot of important light squares. Nevertheless, White is still more active and can try for a plus; e.g. 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Nb3 next Rd3 is good for White. a6! 18.a3 Be7 19.Rd3! b6! 20.Rhd1 Rb7 Inhibits Nc7. 21.Nd6 with only slight pressure.]

[15...Bb4= 0.10/23 16.Bxe6 fxe6]

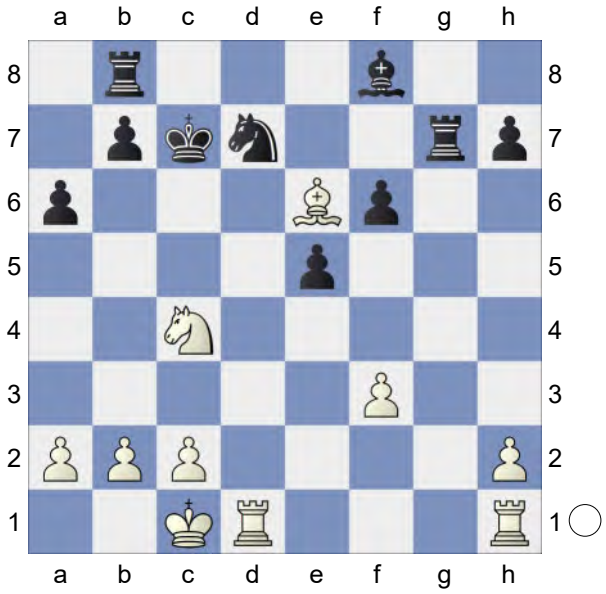


16.Nd6± Now Black has real problems keeping the position and material balanced. &Bianco is much more active.

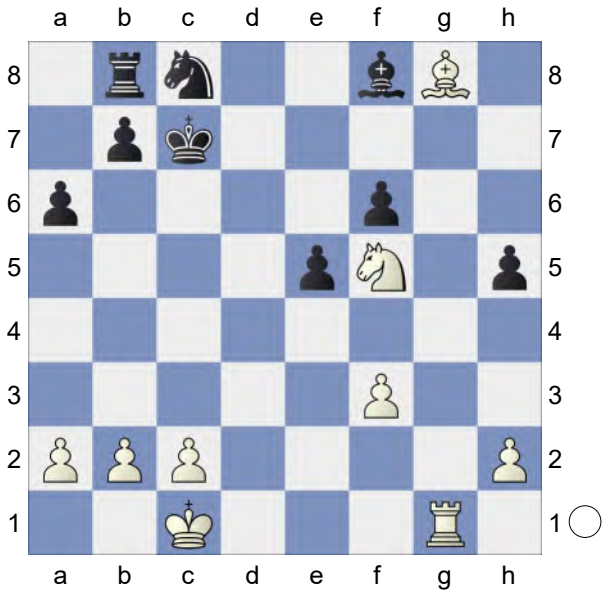
16...Rg8

[16...Bxd6 17.Rxd6 Kc7 18.Rhd1 is also promising for White.]

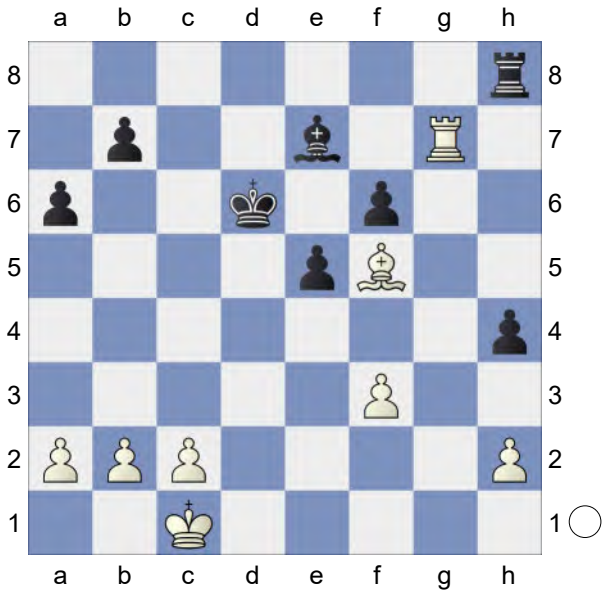
17.Nxf7+?! 0.55/21
[Here 17.Ndxb7+! was stronger. Possibly White was afraid of not being able to move either of his knights after Kc7 White must now prevent ...Bxc4. 18.Bxe6 fxe6 , but 19.Rd3! solves all the problems.]
[Much weaker is 17.Naxb7+?! Kc7 18.Bxe6 *(18.Bxa6?! Bxa2 19.b3 Nc5=)* 18...fxe6=]
[17.Ndxb7+± 1.45/24 Kc7 18.Bxe6 *(18.Bxa6 Bb4∓)* 18...fxe6 19.Rd3]
17...Bxf7± 18.Bxf7 Rxg2 19.Be6 Rg7 20.Nc4 0.46/21
[White should play 20.Bf5± 0.79/20]
20...Kc7



21.Ne3 And now Nf5 would win.
21...Nb6! 22.Nf5 Inhibits Re7. **22...Rg2 23.Rhg1 Rxg1** 0.98/22
[After 23...Rxh2 24.Rd3 -0.13/20 Black remains under pressure. White's control of the light squares easily makes up for the missing pawn. *(24.Rh1± 0.57/21 Rxh1 25.Rxh1)*]
[23...Rf2= 0.29/23]
24.Rxg1± Nc8 25.Bg8 0.74/21
[⌓25.c3 1.08/19]
25...h5

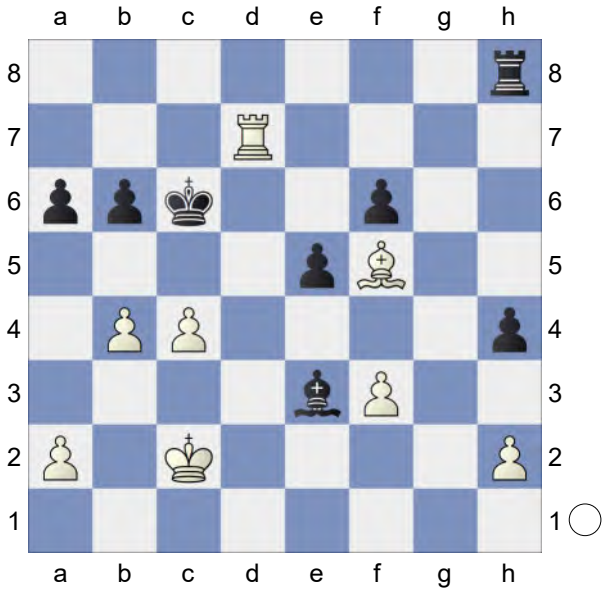


26.Bf7 Ne7 27.Nxe7 Bxe7 Endgame KRB-KRB **28.Rg7** In this opposite-coloured bishop endgame White has a small advantage, but the way he converts it is excellent.
28...h4 29.Bg6 Kd6 30.Bf5 Rh8? 1.46/22
[⌓30...a5 0.78/21]



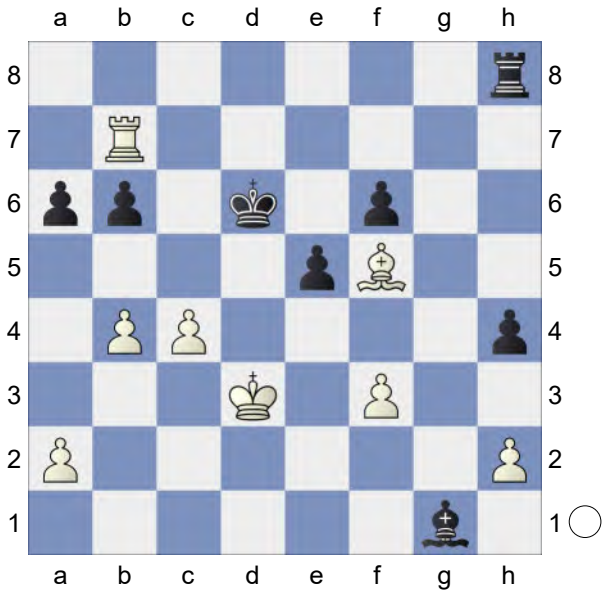
31.c4! Maybe Black missed this tactical idea. White is now threatening to win a piece.

31...b6 32.b4! Bf8
[32...Re8 2.07/20 32...Bf8 1.62 is too passive. White can slowly improve his king before thinking about concrete measures. Note that a subsequent ... Kc7 would always fail to Bg6, so Black is basically running out of moves.]
33.Rb7 Bh6+ 2.48/24
[33...e4± 1.28/21]
34.Kc2+- Be3 35.Kd3
[Or 35.Rd7+ Kc6

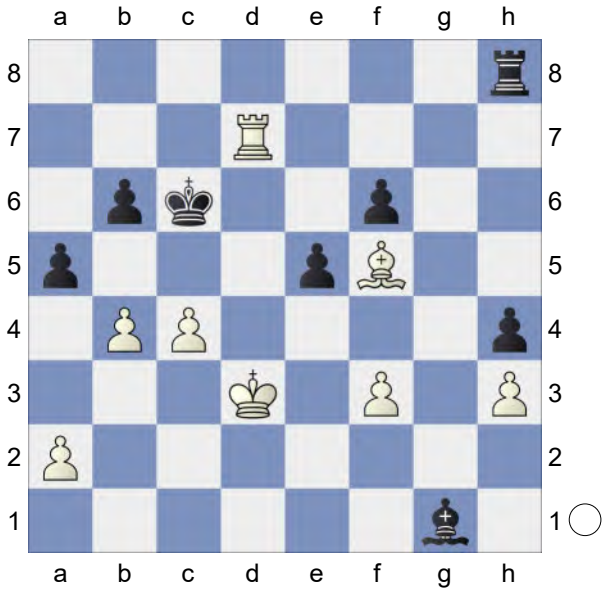


36.a4! b5 *(36...Rg8?* #5/12 36...b5 2.60 *37.b5+ Kc5 38.Kb3* leads to mate*)* 37.axb5+ axb5 38.c5 and White has great winning chances.]
35...Bg1

(Diagram)

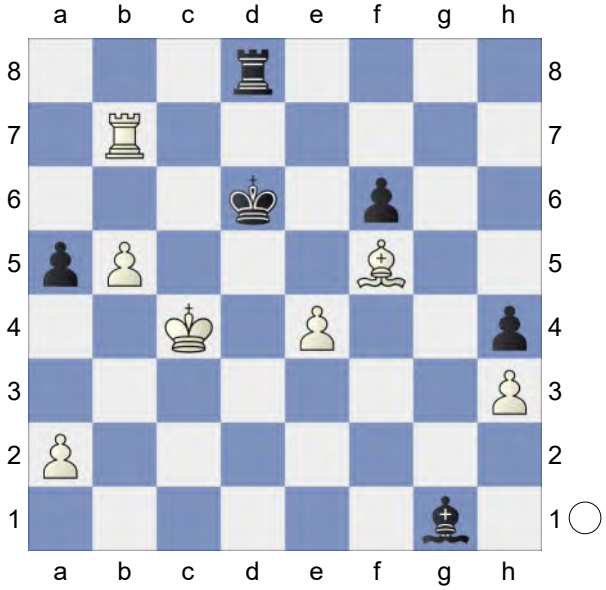


36.h3 0.90/20
[⌓36.Rd7+ 1.30/22 Kc6 37.h3]
36...a5? #6/14 QUESTION: Can you find a way to mate Black immediately?
[36...Rg8± 0.90/20]
37.c5+?! 1.76/22 In the game White let the opportunity slip and gave Black a fighting chance.
[ANSWER: 37.Rd7+! Kc6



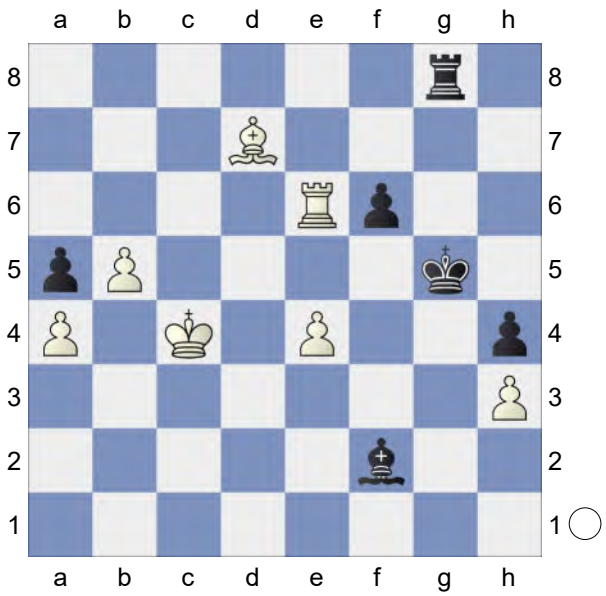
38.b5+! Kc5 39.a3! and the game is over due to the threat of 40 Rd5 mate. *(*Not *39.Kc3?* -0.58/25 39.a3 #4 because *Bd4+ 40.Kb3*

a4+! solves all Black's problems. *)*]
[37.Rd7+ #6/14 mates Kc6 38.b5+ Kc5 39.a3 e4+ 40.fxe4 Rd8 41.Rxd8 Bh2 42.Rd5#]
37...bxc5 38.b5 e4+ Black has to return pawns since mate in one move was the threat.
39.fxe4 c4+ 1.82/25
[39...Rd8± 1.49/19 40.Kc4 a4]
40.Kxc4 aiming for Rd7+. **40...Rd8**

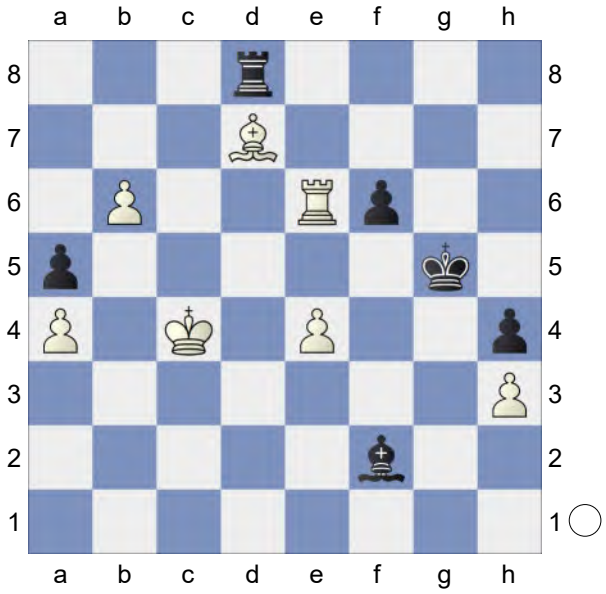


41.Rh7 Bf2 42.a4 1.31/25
[42.a3+- 1.74/20]
42...Ke5± 43.Re7+ Kf4? 3.28/21
Now Black cannot stop the b-pawn.
[43...Kd6! was necessary, and if 44.Re6+ 1.52/21 *(⌓44.Rb7* 1.19/23 *)* 44...Kc7± 45.Rxf6 Rd4+ 46.Kb3 e5 is the strong threat. Rb4+ 47.Ka3 Kb7 Black would keep some drawing chances because of the opposite-coloured bishops.]
[43...Kd6± 1.33/23 44.Re6+ Kc7]
44.Bd7!+- Rg8 45.Re6 Kg5
[45...Rd8 5.96/20 45...Bg3 3.97 46.Rxf6+ Ke3 47.Rf7 does not help Black either.]

(Diagram)

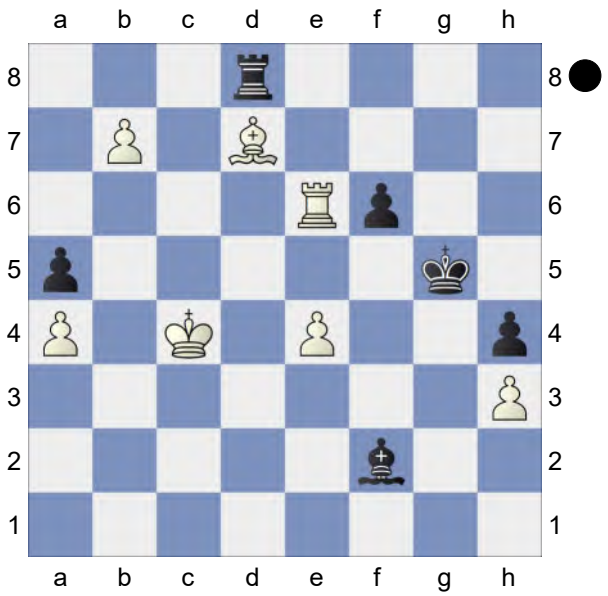


46.b6 Rd8



47.b7!

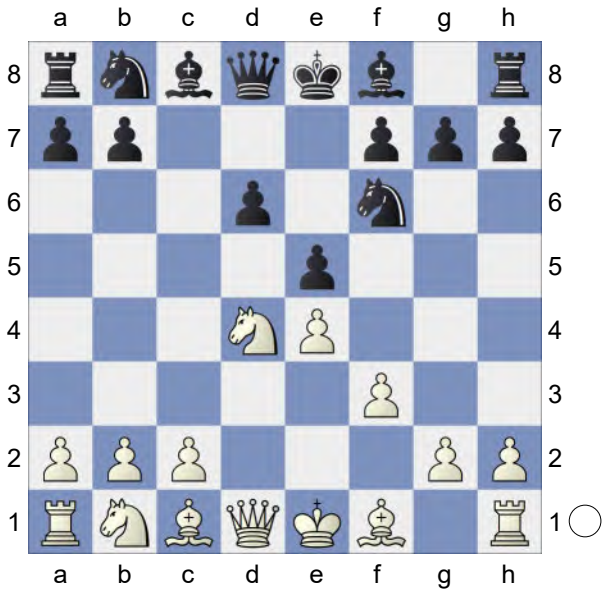
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.50
1-0

200 **B56**
□ **Kryakvin,Dmitry**
■ **Khismatullin,Denis Rimovich**
21. Kolomna 2016
[Jonas Hacker]

B56: Classical Sicilian: Unusual Lines
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*
A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);
B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060 [Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 a5!? Black is setting up a trap in case we carelessly play 7 c4.
7.Bb5+
[REMEMBER: 7.c4? is a mistake due to Nxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2 a4 and Black regains the piece with interest, as explained in the

theoretical section.]

7...Nc6

[Here 7...Bd7 is a significant alternative. Although the exchange of light-squared bishops would make it easier for White to install a knight on d5, Black can pre-empt this by following up with a quick ...d6-d5 break: 8.a4 Bxb5 *(or 8...d5 9.exd5 Bxb5 10.axb5* transposing*;* whereas after something like *8...Be7 9.Nc3* White has a pleasant position*)* 9.axb5 d5 *(*better than *9...a4? 10.Nc3 d5 11.Nxa4 dxe4 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8 13.fxe4 Nxe4 14.Be3 Nd7 15.Ke2 Kc7 16.Rhd1* with a great initiative *)*

A) instead, 10.Bg5 dxe4?! *(*but simply *10...Nbd7* is equal *)* 11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 12.Bxf6+ gxf6 13.fxe4 gives White a small plus;

B) 10.exd5 Nbd7 *(*not *10...Qxd5? 11.Qxd5 Nxd5 12.c4 Nf6 13.Nxa5* and White regains the pawn, D. Mastrovasilis-R.Gajek, Krakow 2012*;* while after *10...Nxd5 11.0-0 a4 12.Re1 f6 13.f4* White is already taking action in the centre*)* 11.Nc3 Bb4 12.0-0 Qb6+ *(* or *12...0-0 13.Na4)* 13.Kh1 and I prefer White; e.g. Bxc3? *(*while *13...0-0 14.Qd3 Bxc3 15.bxc3* keeps the extra pawn*)* 14.bxc3 Qxb5 15.Ba3! lands Black in trouble, who suddenly cannot castle.]

8.Nc3 Be7 9.Be3 0-0 10.Na4!

So far, we should be familiar with the position. If you do not remember the details, you can have a look at the theoretical analysis at the beginning of the chapter. In this game Black allows the white knight to enter his position, planning to free himself with a later ...d6-d5.

[Instead, after 10.0-0 Black can complete his development more easily. Also, the idea of Na7 is quite annoying, as after 11.Bd3 Nc6 it is not so easy for White to avoid the repetition here. For example,

A) while 12.Na4 allows d5 , since 13.Nb6?! -0.52/21 can be met by *(*White should play *13.c3=* 0.08/19 *)* 13...d4! .;

B) 12.a4 gives Black the b4-square;]

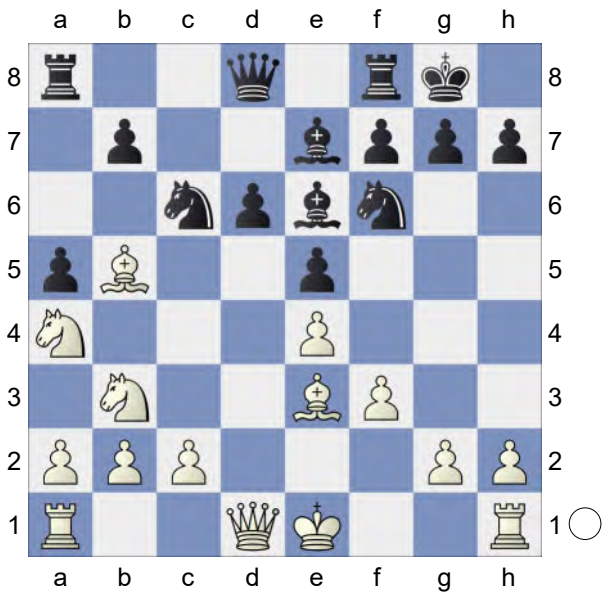
10...Be6

[Other moves are worse:

a) 10...Nd7 0.52/19 10...Be6 0.10 covers b6 but is too passive as discussed before.]

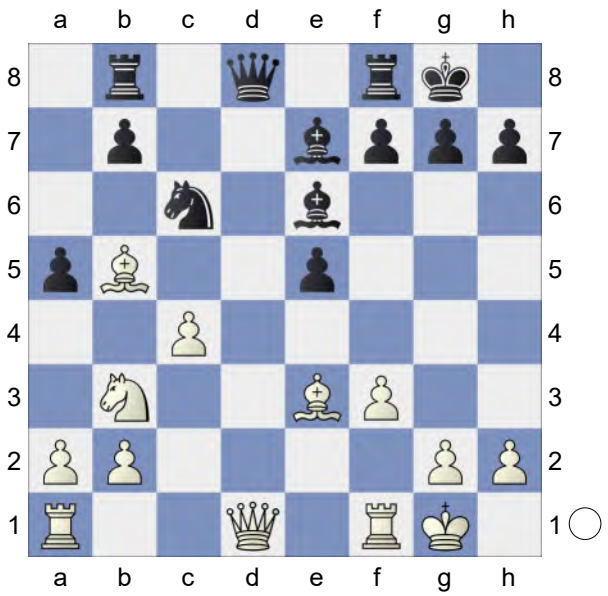
[b) 10...d5 seems premature, as after 11.Nb6 Rb8 0.62/23 *(* not now *11...d4?* because of *12.Nxa8* Hoping for Bxc6. *dxe3 13.Qxd8! Bxd8 14.0-0-0* and White is winning, as the knight on a8 cannot be trapped*; 11...a4=* 0.29/23 *12.Nxa8 axb3 13.axb3 d4)* 12.exd5± Nb4 13.c4 And now a3 would win. Bf5 Strongly threatening ...Nc2+. 14.0-0 Nc2 15.Qd2! Nxa1 16.Rxa1 White has excellent chances thanks to his strong pawns.]

(Diagram)



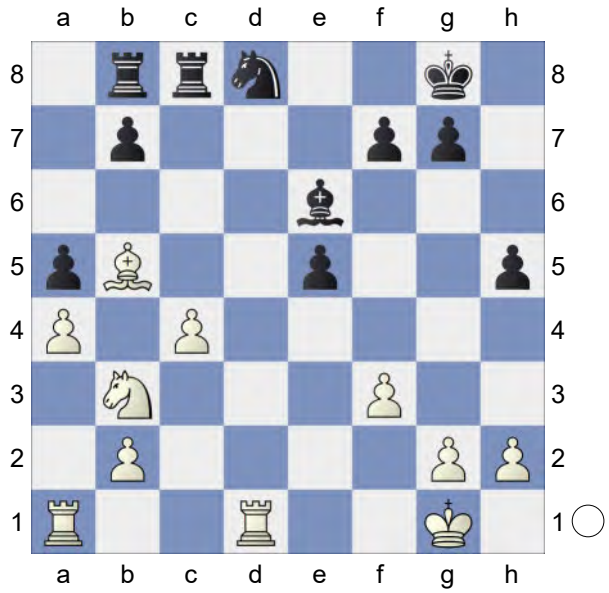
11.Nb6 Rb8 The position is equal.
12.0-0 d5 This is a critical position because Black changes the nature of the battle drastically. Now we must make a choice how to react to the central breakthrough.
13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Bxd5 15.c4! Well played. Now White forces the transition into an endgame where he has a queenside majority, plus a lot of chances to exploit the weak squares in the enemy camp. Although Black may be close to equality in objective terms, White soon starts to create some problems.
15...Be6

(Diagram)



16.Qxd8 Rfxd8 17.Bb6 Rdc8 18.Rfd1 0.01/19
[18.a4± 0.33/22]
18...h5 0.32/19
[In the case of 18...a4 White secures the pair of bishops and a slight edge with 19.Nc5 Bxc5+ 20.Bxc5 .]
[18...a4= 0.01/19 19.Nc5 Bxc5+ 20.Bxc5 Na5]
19.a4± Sooner or later White tries to win the a5-pawn; for instance, with 20 Rc1 and then simply 21 Nxa5 as the c4-pawn is protected.
19...Bd8? 1.13/23 Obviously the bishop on b6 is annoying, but this is quite a big mistake. White was not threatening to capture the a5-pawn yet. Black is on the road to losing.
[Black should have played 19...f6 , luring White into 20.Nxa5?! 0.01/20 *(20.Rac1± 0.52/19)* 20...Nxa5= 21.Bxa5 Bc5+ 0.41/21 *(21...b6=* 0.01/21 *22.Be1 Bxc4)* 22.Kf1!± Bd4 with counterplay.]
[19...h4± 0.38/20]
20.Bxd8± &Bianco is more active.
20...Nxd8
[20...Rxd8 1.70/25 20...Nxd8 1.18

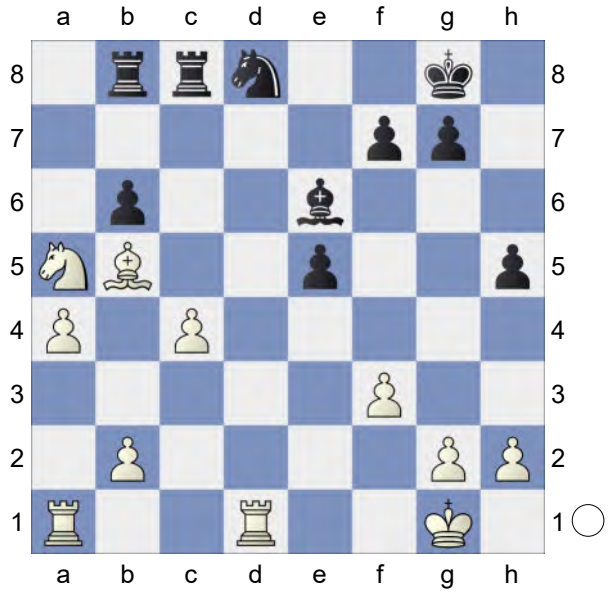
does not solve the problems because White wins a pawn after 21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 2.53/21 *(21...Nxd8 22.Nxa5* is similar to the game; *21...Nxd8±* 1.31/25 was necessary. *22.Nxa5 b6)* 22.Bxc6+- bxc6 23.Nxa5 and White's passed queenside pawns should be enough to win.]



21.Nxa5 Threatens to win with b4.

21...Nc6

[QUESTION: How would you meet the idea of 21...b6 2.55/22 21...Nc6 1.19



, intending to capture on c4 afterwards?

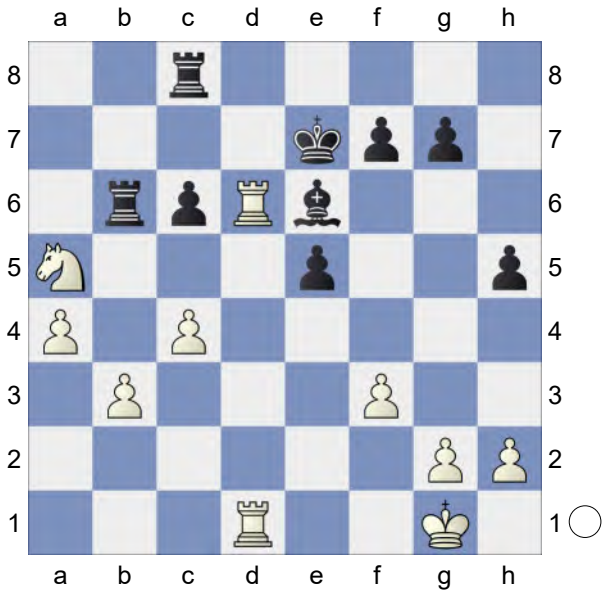
ANSWER: With just 22.Nb3! 0.80/20 , since *(22.Rxd8+!+-* 2.55/22 and the rest is easy. *Rxd8 23.Nc6)* 22...Bxc4 1.92/23 fails to *(22...Nc6±* 0.80/20 *)* 23.Rxd8+!+- Rxd8 24.Bxc4 , picking up two minor pieces for a rook.]

22.Bxc6 bxc6 23.b3 aiming for Rd6.

23...Rb6 2.26/23

[23...Kh7± 1.14/21]

24.Rd6+- Kf8 25.Rad1 Ke7

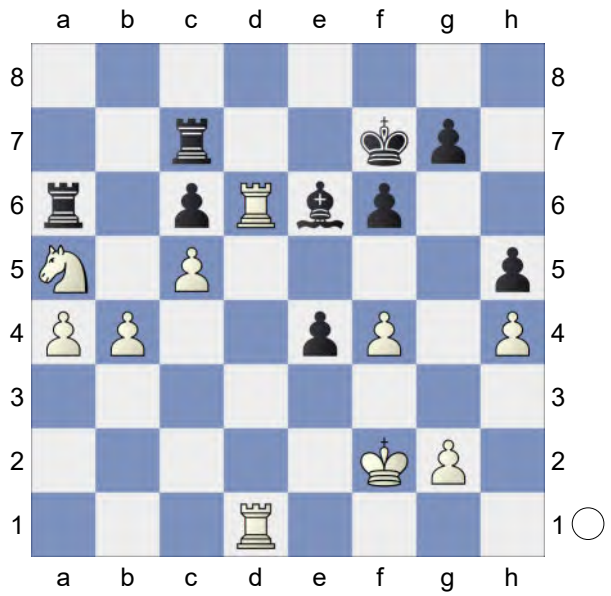


26.b4 Ra6 27.c5 Rc7 28.h4 f6 29.f4 Re1 is the strong threat. **29...e4**

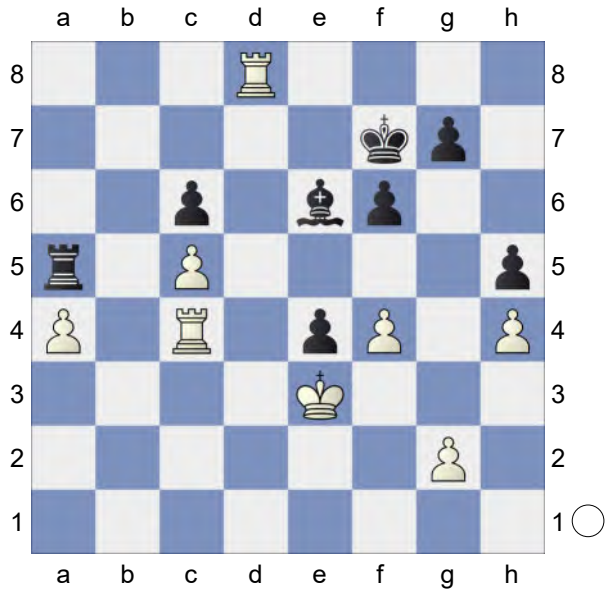
[After 29...exf4?? 9.10/21 29...e4 2.55 30.Re1 White wins a whole piece.]

30.Kf2 Kf7

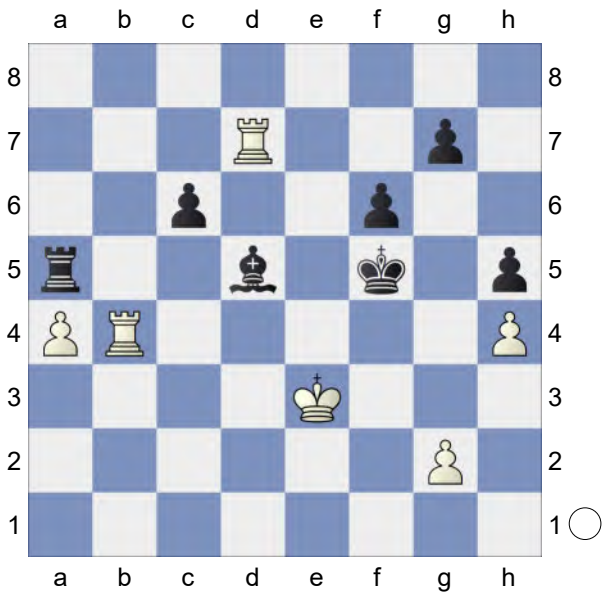
(Diagram)



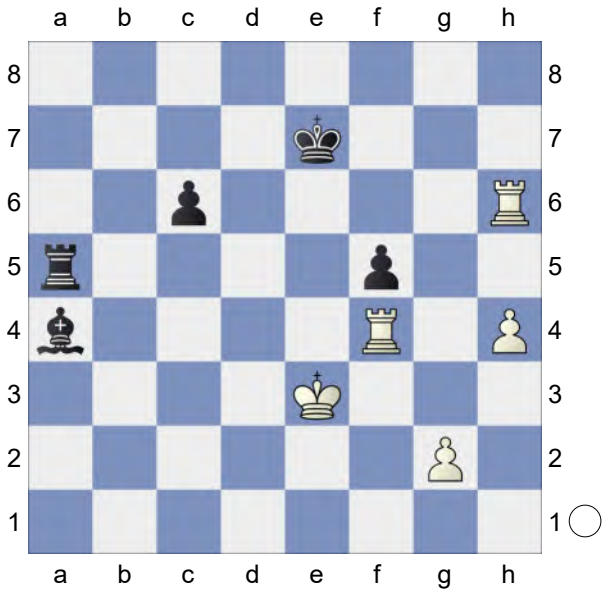
31.Ke3 Bf5 3.70/22
[⌓31...f5 2.24/22 32.g3 g6]
32.Rd8 Rca7 33.R1d4 White has consolidated his extra pawn. Black tries to obtain counterplay with an exchange sacrifice but it turns out to be insufficient.
33...Rxa5 34.bxa5 Rxa5 Endgame KRR-KRB **35.Rc4 Be6**



36.Rxe4 Rxc5 37.Rb4 Ra5 2.75/24
[37...Kg6 1.69/22 was worth a try. 38.g3 Kf5]
38.Rd6 Bd5 39.Rd7+ Kg6 40.f5+ Kxf5

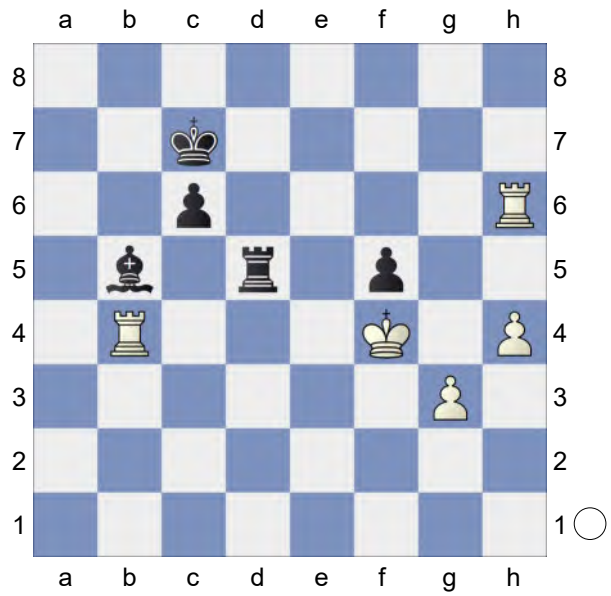


41.Rxg7 Black must now prevent g4+.
41...Ke6 42.Rf4 f5? 4.31/22
[42...Rc5 2.65/23 43.g3 Rc3+ 44.Kd2 Ra3]
43.Rg5 Bb3 44.Rxh5 Bxa4 45.Rh6+ Ke7

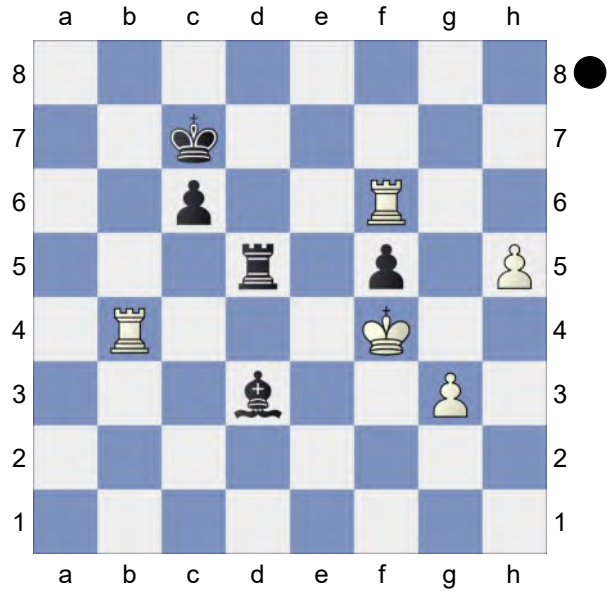


46.g3 Re5+ 47.Kf2 Bb5 48.Rb4 White is clearly winning. **48...Kd7 49.Kf3 Kc7 50.Kf4 Rd5**

(Diagram)



51.Rf6 Bd3 52.h5



Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.37

1-0

201 **B55**

□ **Kasparov,Sergey**

■ **Richter,Goetz**

15 Berlin 2015

[Jonas Hacker]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3

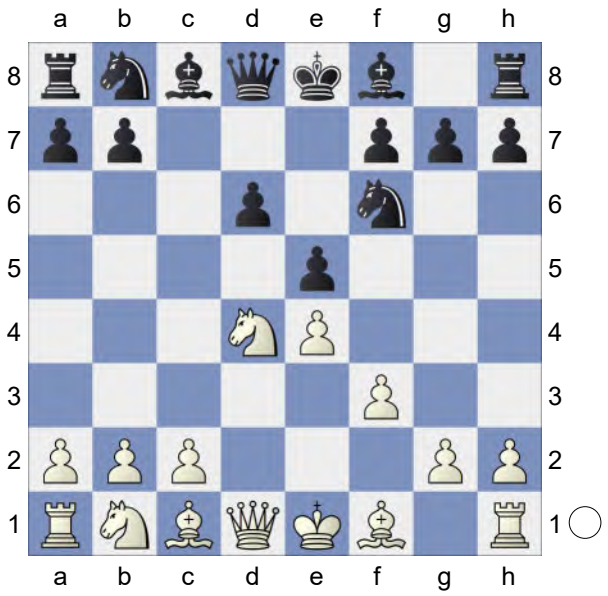
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N

[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nbd7 *(11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2* Santos Filho,T (2018)-Von Buelow,G (2361) Rio de Janeiro 2022 0-1 (53) *)*

A) 12.a4 Qc7 *(12...Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3* Adams,M (2706)-Conquest,S (2523) Great Britain 2010 CI1-130 [Cabrilo,Goran]*)* 13.Rfc1 Rfe8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rac8 16.Nxa5 Ba8 17.Nb3 Qb8 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bf2 Bd8 20.b4 Ne5 21.Na4 Bc7 22.b5 Nfd7 23.bxa6 Bxa6 24.Rcb1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Nc5 26.Ndb5 Bb8 Landenbergue,C (2650)-Hannesson,G (2600) corr 20/304 1998 OR: Fianchetto System [Ewaldt,Michael] 1-0 (39);

B) 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Qf2 Bd8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Qg1 Kh8 18.b4 Bc7 19.Nb3 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2565)-Hoffman,A (2480) Villa Martelli 1997 CBM 060

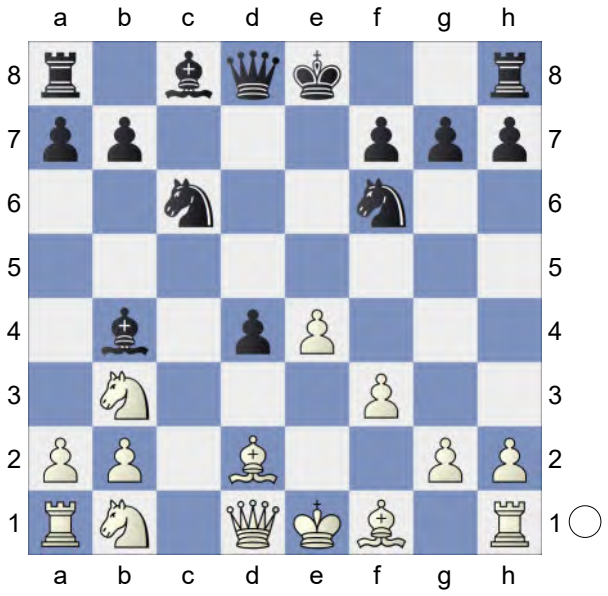
[Gofshtein,Leonid D] 1-0 (36)]



6.Nb3 d5 7.Bg5 d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.cxd4 The position is equal. **9...Bb4+!** Black starts with the strongest move. **10.Bd2 exd4?!**

[He should have played 10...Nxe4! as in the next two games.]

[10...Nxe4!? 11.Bxb4 Qh4+ 12.g3 Nxg3! 13.hxg3 Qxh1±]



But doesn't follow it up correctly. **11.Bb5** This transposes to the 9...exd4 10 Bb5 Bb4+ 11 Bd2 line. Hoping for Bxb4.

[Another option was 11.Bxb4 Nxb4 12.Qd2 a5 *(or 12...Nc6 13.Bb5)* 13.Bb5+! Bd7 14.Nxd4 and the onus appears to be on Black to prove compensation for the pawn.]

11...Be7 0.69/21

[11...Bd6 was preferable, keeping the queens on, as in the previous game.]

[11...Bd6= 0.22/21 should be considered.]

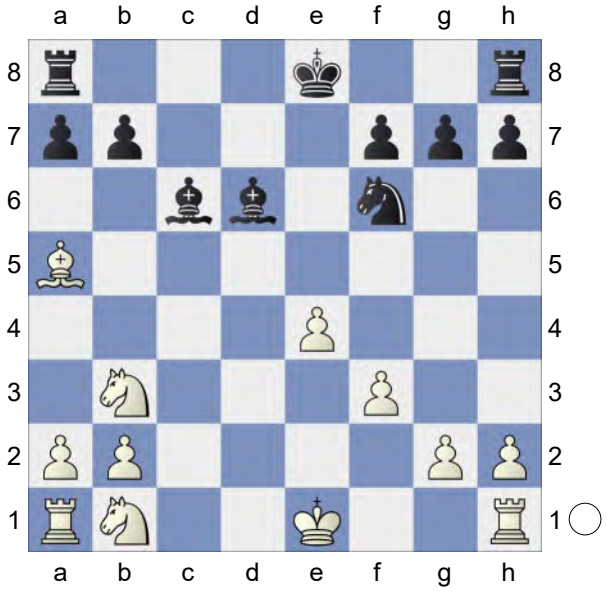
12.Ba5!± An uncommon but strong idea, uncovering an attack on the d4-pawn. The bishop is clearly untouchable.

12...Qd6 13.Qxd4 Black has absolutely no compensation, especially when the queens come off the board.

13...Bd7 1.06/21

[⌓13...Qf4 0.74/19]

14.Qxd6± Bxd6 15.Bxc6 Bxc6



16.Bc3 And now e5 would win. **16...0-0**

17.N1d2 b6 1.05/18

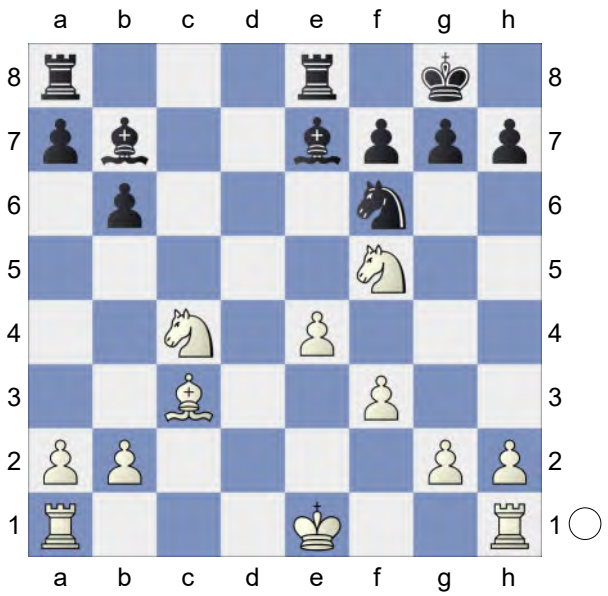
[Black should play 17...Bc7± 0.70/18]

18.Nc4 Be7 19.Nd4 Bb7 1.91/19

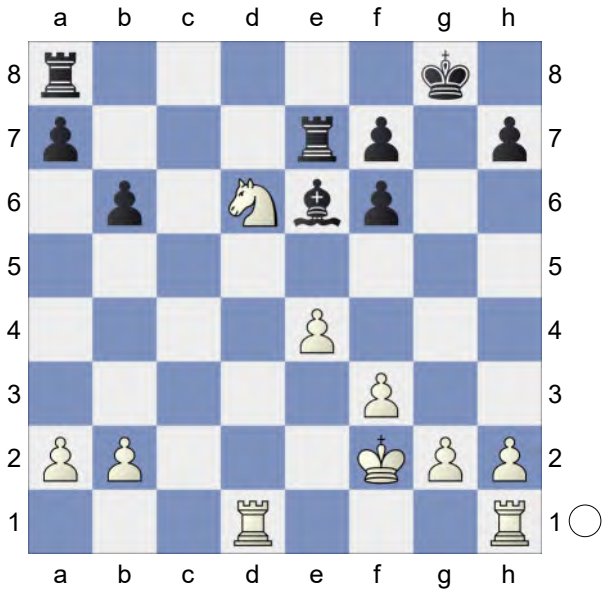
[19...Bd7± 1.22/18]

20.Nf5+- Pair of Knights! **20...Rfe8**

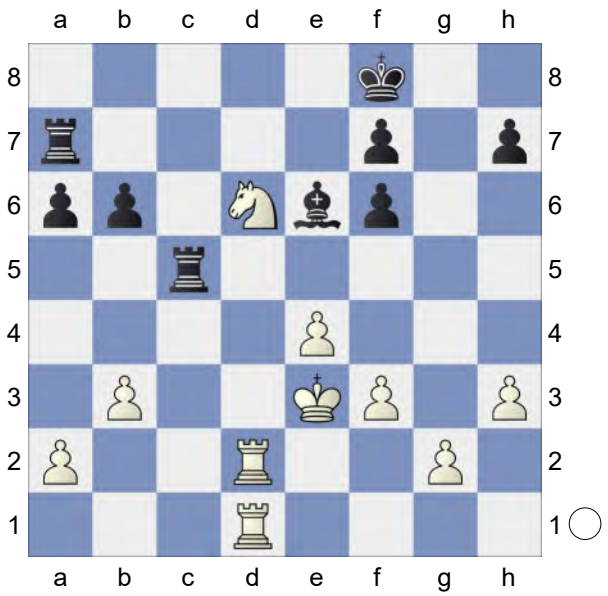
(Diagram)



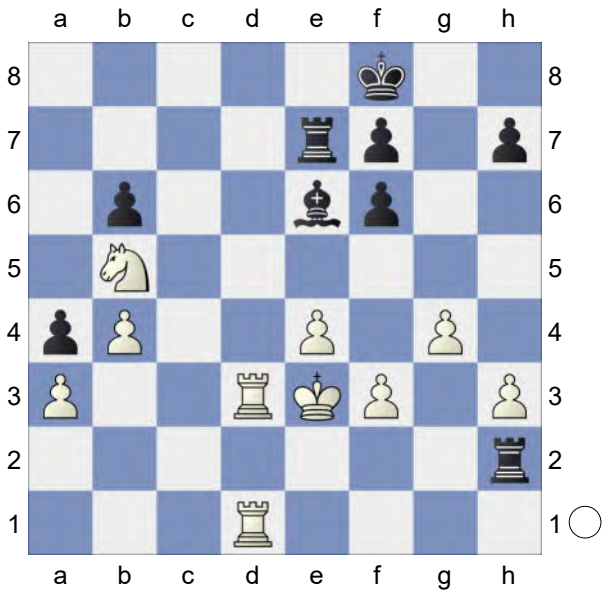
21.Ncd6 Bxd6 22.Nxd6 Re7 23.Bxf6 gxf6 White is already winning: the extra pawn in combination with Black's damaged pawn structure and a possible outpost on f5 are enough to win the game.
24.Rd1 Bc8 25.Kf2 &Bianco is more active. **25...Be6**



26.b3 Rc7 27.Rd2 Against Rc2 **27...a6** 1.84/19
[27...a5± 1.50/19 28.Kg3 Kf8]
28.Rhd1 Kf8 29.Ke3 Raa7 30.h3 Rc5 (Diagram)

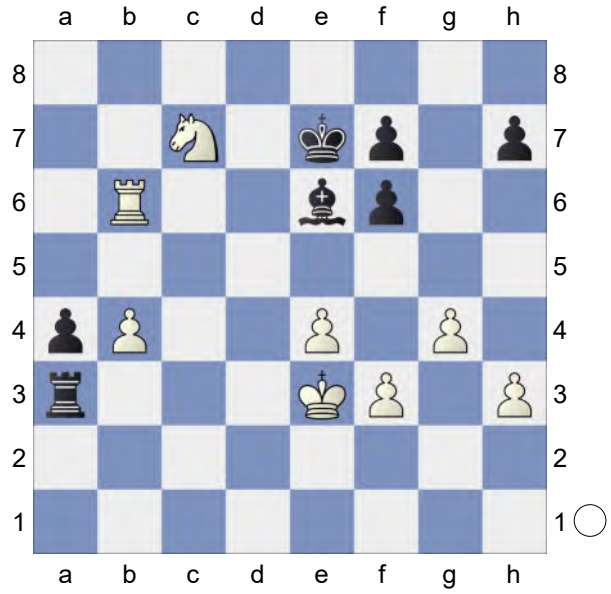


31.g4 a5 2.05/20
[31...Rd7± 1.46/20 32.h4 Ke7]
32.Rd3 a4 33.b4 Rc2 34.a3 Rh2 35.Nb5 Prevents Rc7. **35...Re7**

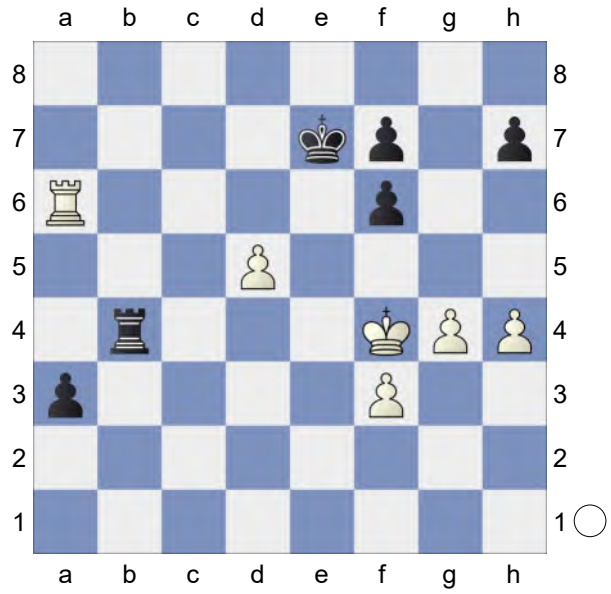


36.Rd8+ Re8 37.Nc7?! Likely both players were in time trouble by this stage.
[37.Rxe8+ Kxe8 38.Rd6 was a simpler way to attack b6 and win.]
37...Rxd8 38.Rxd8+ Endgame KRB-KRN **38...Ke7 39.Rb8** 1.30/23
[39.Ra8+- 2.18/25]

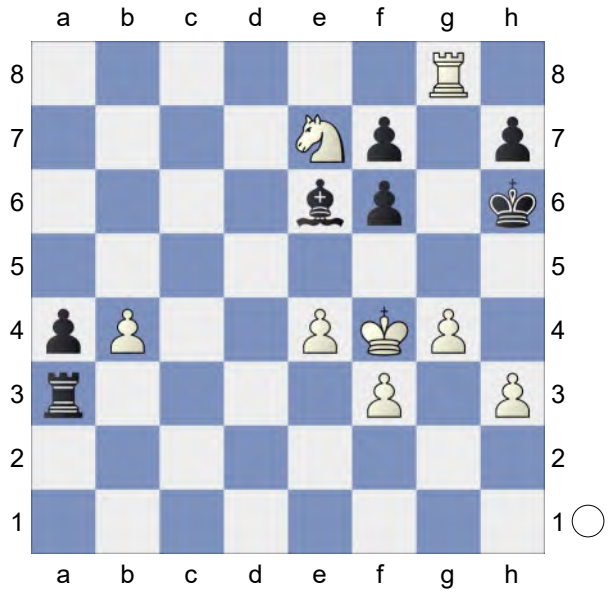
39...Ra2± **40.Rxb6** aiming for Kf4.
40...Rxa3+



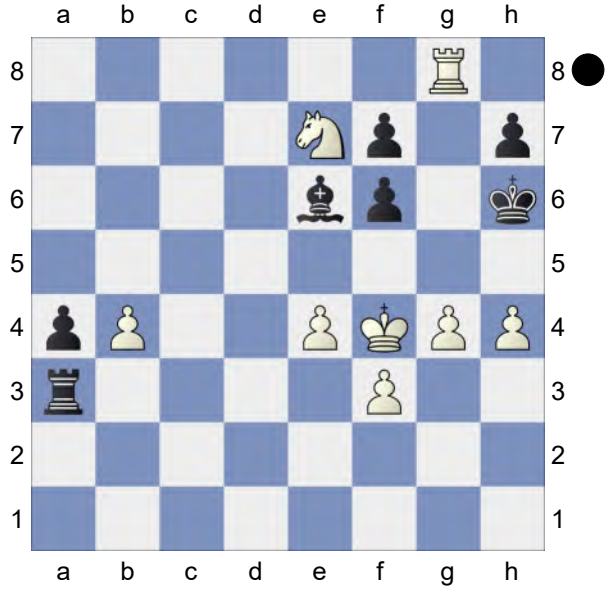
41.Kf4 Black must now prevent Ra6.
41...Bc4 Inhibits Ra6. **42.Nd5+** **Kf8?** 4.30/23 A mistake that costs the game.
[Black's last hope was in the rook endgame after 42...Bxd5 43.exd5 Rb3 ; e.g. 44.h4 a3 45.Ra6 Rxb4+



46.Kf5! Rd4 47.Ra7+ Kf8 48.Rxa3 0.75/24 *(White should try 48.Kxf6 1.08/24 Rf4+ 49.Kg5 Rxf3 50.Kh6)*
48...Rxd5+± 49.Kxf6 Intending Ra8+ and mate. Rd6+ 50.Ke5 Rb6
with chances to draw.]
[42...Bxd5± 1.53/23 43.exd5 Rb3]
43.Rb8+ 2.06/5
[⌓43.Nxf6 4.30/23 Ke7 44.Ke5]
43...Kg7+- **44.Ne7** Threatening mate with Nf5+. **44...Be6** 15.94/23
[⌓44...h6 2.84/23 45.Nf5+ Kh7]
45.Rg8+ **Kh6**



46.h4



. Since mate is coming soon.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.26 (precise)
1-0